



## Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2021/22

Date created: December 2020

Last amended: 10/12/2020

Version no. 2

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### 1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

MSc in Social Research

PG Diploma/PG certificate in MSc in Social Research \*

#### Notes

\* An award marked with an asterisk is only available as an exit award and is not available for students to register onto.

#### [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100505	100

### 2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

### 3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

#### b) Type of study

Campus-based

### 4. Registration periods

The normal period of registration for the MSc in Social Research is 12 months

The maximum period of registration for the MSc in Social Research is 24 months

### 5. Typical entry requirements

Candidates should normally have at least an upper second-class honours degree in Sociology or another relevant Social Science discipline from a British university or its equivalent. Professional qualifications and experience may be taken into account. Special entries will be required to submit examples of written work in order to demonstrate their aptitude for MSc level study. For those candidates, whose first language is not English, they will be asked to demonstrate competency in English to the appropriate standard. Our requirement is an IELTS score of 6.5 or above. PGDip/PGCert.

### 6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

N/A

### 7. Programme aims

The course aims to provide an expert grounding in the practice of social inquiry, thus enabling students to design and carry out independent research. To achieve this aim the course will provide the necessary academic skills to develop, implement and evaluate social research, providing an excellent basis for career development and a foundation for doctoral research and an academic career as well as careers in social research generally. Students taking the course will

be offered thorough, critical knowledge of the theoretical positions that guide research traditions, the research process, including both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis; of the political problems and ethical considerations arising in conducting research, including sensitivity to issues of ethnicity, gender, age and sexuality; of the range of data sources available to social scientists along with their strengths and limitations and tuition in a range of practical skills including use of relevant software packages, writing and presentation.

The MSc in Social Research equips students with the research skills for employment within research organisations, as well as with the transferable skills valued by many other employers (including public services, marketing institutes or Non-Governmental Organisations). It is also a strong foundation for going on to doctoral study in sociology or the other social sciences.

## 8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

## 9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

### a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

#### i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Advanced knowledge of research methods and their application to a substantive area of sociology.	Seminars, independent study	Research proposal, Research critique, Essays, dissertation

#### ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Enhanced knowledge of sociological concepts and their relation to research	Seminars, independent study	Research critique, Essays, dissertation

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Competence in quantitative and qualitative data collection and data analysis. Knowledge of the techniques of data collection and analysis used in different employment sectors.</p> <p><i>Conduct applied research using the appropriate research methods).</i></p> <p><i>Ability to deal with ethical issues inherent in the research.</i></p> <p><i>Ability to relate the applied research done during the MSc with a potential PhD project.</i></p>	Seminars, independent study	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to recognise the limitations of research approaches and to apply concepts and techniques critically.</p> <p>Ability to reflect critically on the use of research methods in different employment sectors.</p>	Seminars, independent study	Research critique, research proposal, essays and dissertation

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to organise and present research material appropriate to the medium of assessment and the research question addressed.</p> <p>Ability to explain complex ideas in a clear and concise way.</p>	Seminars	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to analyse and assess the adequacy of data in the context of specific research questions.</p> <p>Ability to analyse and assess the adequacy of data used in different professional contexts.</p> <p><i>Ability to use a large amount of data .</i></p> <p><i>Ability to reflect on the limitations of the research conducted.</i></p>	Seminars, independent study	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.

**b) Transferable skills**

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Knowledge of theoretical, practical and ethical dimensions of research.</p> <p>Ability to locate, organise and analyse complex data and construct critical arguments.</p> <p>Ability to identify and analyse the research methods used in different professional environments.</p> <p><i>Ability to use research methods that could be the basis for a PhD project.</i></p>	Seminars, research supervision, independent study	Research proposal, research critique, Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to communicate effectively in seminars and supervision sessions and to write clearly and in an appropriate style.</p> <p>Ability to understand how different communication skills can be used in different professional environments.</p>	Seminar, research supervision...	Written assignments.

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to present research clearly and effectively in appropriate forms. <i>Ability to structure in a coherent way a large amount of data</i>	Seminars, essays feedback, research supervision, oral presentations feedback	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports and dissertation.

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to use information technology appropriately research and correctly in support of sociological study.	Seminars, essays feedback, assignments, dissertation	Written supervision

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to locate, organize and analyse complex arguments and data to construct critical accounts. <i>Ability to deal with ethical issues</i>	Seminars, dissertation supervision and independent study	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports and dissertation.

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Knowing when and how to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others, ability to contribute and comment appropriately on ideas in seminars	Seminars, independent study, dissertation, research supervision	Seminar contributions, dissertation.

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to use different types of knowledge and learning methods in order to deal with different research questions.</p> <p>Ability to understand how different types of knowledge and learning methods are used in different professional contexts. <i>Ability to identify, timetable and complete a credible research project and reflect upon the results and process</i></p>	Seminars, independent study and research supervision	Written assignments

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?

## 10. Special features

The contributing academic staff within the programme incorporates their research specialisms into the teaching. The programme includes an Advanced Research Methods module, which represents an opportunity to explore the most recent developments in the discipline.

## 11. Indicators of programme quality

Staff with strong record in epistemology and methods of social sciences.

The quality of the MSc in Social Research and MA in Contemporary Sociology has been recognised by the external examiner and by students.

## 12. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

## 13. Progression points

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate/exit award where appropriate.

## 14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

**15. External Examiners reports**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at [exampapers@Leicester](mailto:exampapers@Leicester) [log-in required]

**16. Additional features** (e.g. timetable for admissions)

n/a

## Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2021/22

Date created: December 2020 Last amended: 23/03/2021 Version no. 2

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### Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Social Research

#### Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	Choose an item.	60 credits	60 credits	Choose an item.
Optional	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Dissertation/project	60 credits	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

180 credits in total

#### Level 7/Year 1 2021/22

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	SY7006	Philosophy of Social Sciences	15 credits
Semester 1	SY7013	Collecting and Analysing Numeric Data	15 credits



Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	SY7049	Research Questions to Research Design	30 credits
Semester 2	SY7014	Multivariate Analysis and Statistical Modelling	15 credits
Semester 2	SY7035	Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis	15 credits
Semester 2	SY7036	Advanced Research Methods	30 credits
Term 3	SY7005	Dissertation	60 credits

#### Notes

n/a

#### Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

#### Updates to the programme

Academic year affected	Module Code(s)	Update
2021/22		

## Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate [module specification database](#) (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).