

Programme Specification (Postgraduate) Date amended: May 2018, for students entering in 2018/19

No students registered on the Museum Studies pathway in this AY.

1. Programme Title(s):

MSc in Social Science Research
Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science Research*
Postgraduate Certificate in Social Science Research*

*available as an exit award only

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full Time or Part Time

b) Type of study

On campus

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is one year full-time/ two years part-time

The maximum period of registration is two years full-time/ four years part-time

5. Typical entry requirements:

Students undertaking the programme as part of a 1+3 ESRC award must be accepted by one of the pathway Schools/Departments as a PhD Student and have been successful in the funding selection process for the Midlands Graduate School ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

Students applying for the Master's as a stand-alone programme should normally have at least an upper second-class honours degree in a relevant Social Science discipline from a British university or its equivalent. Professional qualifications and experience may be considered. Non-typical applicants may be required to submit examples of written work to demonstrate their aptitude for Master's level study. Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate competence in English to the appropriate standard (a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent).

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

Exemptions may be granted for specific modules of the programme. The decision to grant any exemptions will be based on the evidence of prior achievement of the learning outcomes associated with the relevant module(s) from which exemption is sought. Normally the prior learning must have been achieved within the last five years. The maximum amount of APL permitted is half of the taught components of a degree programme.

Applications for APL will be assessed by the Programme Director and the relevant Academic Pathway Lead. Applicants should provide documented evidence of prior learning together with a covering statement of the module(s) for which they seek exemption and a rationale. No mark will be awarded for module(s) covered by APL; the candidates overall result (Pass, Merit, Distinction) will be decided on the basis of marks awarded in non-APL modules taken on the programme.

7. Programme aims:

The programme is designed to meet the ESRC's compulsory core training requirements for all ESRC-funded students and to produce graduates with rigorous research and analytical skills, appropriate to progression to PhD research or as high-level researchers in their chosen field of employment (e.g. as researchers within public service, marketing or non-governmental organisations).

The programme aims to enable graduates to:

- gain a developed understanding of the epistemological and ontological debates that frame and motivate social science research and its methodology;
- an advanced understanding of the diverse methods and practices of social science research;
- develop the ability to provide critical reflection on established research and to apply these criticisms reflexively to their own research practice;
- develop as creative and rigorous researchers;
- be sensitive to ethical questions in research that informs their research practice;
- apply these insights both to general questions in social science research and in relation to their pathway discipline.

For ESRC (1+3) students, the programmes will fulfil a condition of the University's membership of the Midlands Graduate School ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- University of Leicester and College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Learning and Teaching Strategies, and University Codes of Practice.
- The Economic and Social Research Council's requirements for Doctoral Training Pathways (see http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/call-for-doctoral-training-partnerships-dtps/).
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, April 2012 (Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards).
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)
- QAA Benchmark statements for sociology http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-sociology.pdf
- University of Leicester Learning Strategy http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Development Review Report (February 2013)
- External Examiners' Reports
- First Destination Survey
- Previously accredited postgraduate programmes in Sociology at the University of Leicester (e.g. MA Contemporary Society, MA in Civil Society).

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?	
(a) Subject and Professional skills			
	Knowledge		
Certificate Knowledge of generic and advanced social science research methods and principles of social science research design.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate In-seminar discussion; assessed essays; a group poster project (Research Design, Practice, and Ethics).	
Diploma In addition to the above, knowledge of disciplinespecific research methods.		Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations	
MSc In addition to the above, the ability to design, execute and report on a piece of social science research in the pathway discipline.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision of dissertation research.	MSc In addition to the above, a research proposal (an assessment element in pathway modules) and the dissertation.	
	Concepts		
Certificate An advanced and critical understanding of key concepts in social science methodology. Familiarity with ideas and debates in the epistemological and ontological assumptions of research practice.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate In-seminar discussion; assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research).	
Diploma and MSc In addition to the above, advanced knowledge of concepts from the relevant pathway discipline and their application in research.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision of dissertation research.	Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations MSc In addition to the above, a research proposal (an assessment element in all pathway modules) and the dissertation.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?	
Techniques			
Certificate	Certificate and Diploma	Certificate	
Demonstrate knowledge of	Lectures, seminars, directed	In-seminar discussion; assessed	
key theories and concepts;	reading, independent study,	essays; a group poster project	
select relevant material	formative and summative	(Foundations in Qualitative	
from academic readings and	assignment feedback.	Research).	
demonstrate familiarity with			
the conventions of academic			
writing and associated referencing systems.			
referencing systems.			
Knowledge of, and the			
ability to describe and			
evaluate, a variety of			
qualitative and quantitative			
social science research			
techniques.			
Awareness of the ethics of			
social research and their implications for social			
science research design and			
research practice.			
researen praemee.			
Diploma and MSc	MSc	Diploma	
In addition to the above,	In addition to the above,	In addition to the above, in	
familiarity with research	individual supervision of	Media & Communication,	
techniques in the pathway	dissertation research.	History, and Health Sciences	
discipline.		pathways: oral presentations	
		MSc	
		In addition to the above, a research proposal (an	
		assessment element in all	
		pathway modules) and the	
		dissertation.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
	Critical analysis	
Certificate Ability to analyse critically a variety of social science research methods and their application. An awareness of the relationship between theory and method. Ability to recognise the limitations of research approaches and to apply concepts and techniques critically.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate In-seminar discussion; assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research).
Diploma and MSc Familiarity with key debates in methodology in the pathway discipline.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision of dissertation research.	Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations MSc In addition to the above, a research proposal (an assessment element in all pathway modules) and the dissertation.
	Presentation	dissertation.
Certificate and Diploma Ability to differentiate between relevant and non- relevant material; to present written work to a professional academic standard.	Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate In-seminar discussion; assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research).
MSc In addition to the above, ability to organize research material in a manner appropriate to the medium that is to be assessed (i.e. the research proposal and dissertation)		Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations MSc In addition to the above, a research proposal (an assessment element in all pathway modules) and the dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?	
Appraisal of evidence			
Ability to analyse and assess the adequacy of data to answer specific research questions. Ability to draw reasonable	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate and Diploma In-seminar discussion; assessed essays.	
conclusions based on evidence. Ability to evaluate the reliability and validity of data collection methods and analyses.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision and conduct of dissertation research.	MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation.	
	(b) Transferable skills		
	Research skills		
Ability to apply knowledge of theoretical, practical and ethical dimensions of research to research practice.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate and Diploma In-seminar discussion; assessed essays.	
Ability to locate, collect, organise and analyse data sets of varying complexity and develop appropriate critical interpretation skills in relation to a range of data types.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision and conduct of dissertation research	MSc In addition to the above, a research proposal (an assessment element in all pathway modules) and the dissertation.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?	
Communication skills			
Certificate Effective writing and presentation style in dealing with complex data sets and methodological questions in a manner appropriate to the audience.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate and Diploma In-seminar discussion; assessed essays.	
Ability to work collaboratively and responsibly in a group.			
Diploma and MSc In addition to the above, ability to demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of discipline- relevant issues and debates.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision for the dissertation.	MSc In addition to the above, a research proposal (an assessment element in all pathway modules) and the dissertation.	
	Data presentation		
Certificate and Diploma Ability to present research clearly and effectively in appropriate forms including data visualisation and written accounts of data and data analysis.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate Assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research). Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations	
MSc Ability to manage and organise data. Ability to use graphical and statistical methods to summarise data when appropriate to do so.	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision and conduct of dissertation research.	MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?	
Information technology			
Certificate and Diploma Ability to use appropriate computer software to present written work and support of academic study. Ability to use on-line resources to locate and access data. MSc In addition to the above, ability to construct and present quantitative and qualitative data clearly, using relevant statistical and data analysis software as appropriate.	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback. MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision and conduct of dissertation research.	Certificate Assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research). Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation.	
	Problem solving		
Ability to identify	Certificate and Diploma	Certificate	
appropriate quantitative and qualitative approaches to the analysis of data and solve problems in the selection and refinement of interpretations of complex data.	Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback. MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision and conduct of dissertation research.	Assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research). Diploma In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation.	
	Working relationships	dissertation.	
Ability to know how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others.	Certificate and Diploma Seminars and group work.	Certificate and Diploma Seminars; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research).	
Ability to contribute to and comment on ideas in group discussions.	MSc In addition to the above, establishing an effective working relationship with the dissertation supervisor and relevant academic colleagues (e.g. personal tutor, module and programme leaders); the conduct of dissertation research	MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
	Managing learning	
Certificate and Diploma Ability to plan and construct	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed	Certificate Assessed essays; a group poster
responses to a brief, drawing upon a range of	reading, independent study, formative and summative	project (Foundations in Qualitative Research).
appropriate sources, and meet submission deadlines.	assignment feedback.	Diploma
Ability to manage self- guided learning.	MSc	In addition to the above, in Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences
Ability to make use of a	In addition to the above, individual supervision and	pathways: oral presentations
variety of learning methods to deal with different research questions and data analysis methods.	conduct of dissertation research.	MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation.
Ability to reflect upon behaviour and skills with a view to personal and professional development.		
MSc In addition to the above: ability to identify a suitable research topic; construct a viable research design and a feasible research timetable; carry out independent research and reflect upon the research findings and the research process.		
	Career management	
Certificate and Diploma Ability to relate the knowledge and expertise acquired in the programme with a current or future	Certificate and Diploma Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent study, formative and summative assignment feedback.	Certificate Assessed essays; a group poster project (Foundations in Qualitative Research).
personal career plan.		Diploma In addition to the above, in
MSc Ability to use the MSc research project as a basis for the design and	MSc In addition to the above, individual supervision of the dissertation.	Media & Communication, History, and Health Sciences pathways: oral presentations
realisation of a PhD project.		MSc In addition to the above, the dissertation

10. Special features:

The programme follows the requirements of the ESRC for Masters as the first year of a 1+3 award. The core modules will be delivered by the School of Media, Communication and Sociology and pathway modules by the relevant schools. The complexity of the programme requires collaboration and administrative support across a range of stakeholders which are outlined in the supporting document on programme administration.

This programme has been developed primarily as a vehicle for students in receipt of an ESRC award for PGR studies at the University of Leicester and under the auspices of the Midlands Graduate School, ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership led by Warwick University. Students with a 1+3 award from the ESRC will be registered as PGR students in the relevant School/Department and for the MSc in Social Science Research. The programme will be led by the School of Media, Communication and Sociology with pathways provided by partner schools/departments. The pathway titles follow those assigned to them in the DTP, and these are not necessarily the same as the Leicester department/school where they are based, see table below

Pathway Title	Host Department/School
Communication and Media	Media, Communication and Sociology
Economic and Social History	History, Politics and International Relations
Health and Well Being	Health Sciences
Human Geography	Geography, Geology and Environment
Museum Studies	Museum Studies

The programme complements the existing MSc in Social Research currently offered by MCS. An advantage of hosting the programme in MCS is that the existing teaching team delivering this cognate Masters programme in Social Science will contribute to the Masters in Social Science Research. Two of the core modules in Social Research will be core on the Masters in Social Science Research. In addition, an optional advanced Quantitative Methods module on the Masters in Social Research will also be core on the Masters in Social Science Research. This represents 60 credits of overlap between the two programmes. The fourth core module (20 credits), the pathway options (40 credits) and the dissertation module (60 credits) on the proposed Masters in Social Science Research are non-overlapping with the existing provision in the Masters in Social Research.

The contributing academic staff within the programme incorporate their research specialisms into the teaching and relevant high-level research and teaching skills appropriate to a research intensive master's programme.

11. Indications of programme quality:

The core modules of the programme draws on the established quality of the teaching team in Media, Communication and Sociology and specifically on those involved in the delivery of the Masters in Social Research. The quality of the MSc in Social Research has been recognised by the external examiner and by students. Pathway modules are drawn from existing provision, their quality has been recognised by external examiners and by students, including those who have continued to doctoral study.

12. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, <u>Senate Regulations</u>).

- (i) be awarded the degree of MSc; or
- (ii) be permitted to re-sit part or all of the assessment as required by the examiners; or

- (iii) be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science Research; or
- (iv) be deemed to have failed to satisfy the examiners for the degree of MSc or the Postgraduate Diploma.

No candidate may be awarded more than one qualification from the list above.

13. Progression points

The programme follows Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, <u>Senate Regulations</u>).

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 award where appropriate.

The progress of each student shall be considered by a Panel of Examiners at the end of the taught component of the programme in June/July. The Panel of Examiners shall determine whether a student is permitted to progress to the dissertation or research project.

Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

The programme will follow Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, <u>Senate Regulations</u>).

Where a student fails to achieve the 50% pass mark in a module s/he shall, subject to the details will be entitled to re-sit or re-submit any of the failed components of assessment associated with the module in which they scored less than 50%, on one occasion only. A student will not be re-assessed in a module or module component where the 50% pass mark has already been obtained, except where a module mark of 50% or more has been obtained but a pass in the failed component is a requirement for a pass in the module as a whole. In such cases, the student shall be entitled to re-sit the failed component for the purposes of passing the module but the original module mark will not be amended.

The maximum mark awarded for a re-assessed component of assessment will be 50%. Where a student completes a reassessment in a component, the higher of the original mark or the capped reassessment mark will be used to calculate the module outcome.

The number of credits of taught modules that a student shall be entitled to re-sit or re-submit is half of the credit value of the taught component of the programme, up to a maximum value of 60 credits. One resubmission of the dissertation will normally be allowed.

14. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

The timetable for admissions is the beginning of the academic year.

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

MSc Social Science Research

The MSc in Social Science Research consists of four core 20 credit modules and 40 credits of pathway specific modules in one of Communication and Media, Economic and Social History, Human Geography, Museum Studies and Health and Wellbeing. A supervised research based dissertation worth 60 credits will be supervised in the appropriate pathway school/department.

	Semester 1		
Module Code	Module Name		Credits
SY7044	Research Design, Practice and Ethics		20
SY7045	Philosophy of Social Science		20
	Pathway Specific Module		20
		Semester Total	60
	Semester 2		
SY7046	Quantitative Research Methods		20
SY7047	Foundations in Qualitative Research		20
	Pathway Specific Module		20
	Dissertation		60
		Semester Total	120

Museum Studies Pathway Structure

	Semester 1	
Module Code	Module Name	Credits
SY7044	Research Design, Practice and Ethics	20
SY7045	Philosophy of Social Science	20
	Pathway Specific Module	30
	Semester Total	70
	Semester 2	
SY7046	Quantitative Research Methods	20
SY7047	Foundations in Qualitative Research	20
	Placement Module	10
	Dissertation	60

Semester Total 110

Pathway specific modules:

MSc Social Science Research (Communication and Media)

Candidates take MS7002 in semester one, select one option in semester two and complete a dissertation

	Semester 1	
Module Code	Module Name	Credits
MS7202	Mass Communication Theory	20
	Semester 2	
Students Select	one option module and the dissertation	
MS7228	Technology and Social Change: Global Perspectives	(20)

MS7230	Critical Approaches to Consumer Culture	(20)
MS7242	Research Methods for the Online World	(20)
MS7231	The Cultural Industries: Theory, Policy and Practice	(20)
MS7234	Gender Politics in Contemporary Media	(20)
MS7241	Media Solidarities and Human Rights	(20)
MS7012	Dissertation	60

MSc Social Science Research (Economic and Social History)

Students complete HS7004 in semester one, select one option in semester two and complete a dissertation

Semester	1
Semesier	

Module Code	Module Name	Credits
HS7004	Historical Research Methods	20
	Semester 2	
Students Select o	ne option module and the dissertation	
HS7050	History and Social Theory	(20)
HS7051	Patients and Practitioners	(20)
HS7052	Heritage in the Workplace	(20)
HS7053	After the Holocaust- History and memory in post-war Germany	(20)
HS7055	Conservation, Heritage and the Urban Environment	(20)
HS7057	Understanding English and Welsh communities and cultures, 1700-	(20)
	2000	
HS7059	Global Cities: the View from Asia	(20)
HS7060	Directed Reading	(20)
HS7061	American Freedoms	(20)
HS7000	Dissertation	60

MSc Social Science Research (Human Geography)

Students complete one module in each semester and complete a dissertation

Semester 1

Module Code	Module Name	Credits		
GY7411	Contemporary Critical Geographies	(20)		
Semester 2 Students complete one option module and the dissertation				
GY7412	Creative Geographies in Practice	(20)		
GY7029	Dissertation	60		

MSc Social Science Research (Museum Studies) (no students registered for 2018/19 on this pathway)

In semester 1 candidates select one 30 credit module. All distance learning modules will be available to take during semester 1. In semester 2 and during the summer period students complete the dissertation and take MU7499. Distance Learning modules are offered to campus based students as part of a blended learning approach available on this pathway. Students may 'audit' additional 30 credit modules as part of their advanced training during the +3 part of their doctoral programme.

Semester 1

MU7001	Developing Expertise	(30)	CB

MU7018	Specialisms	(15)	CB
MU7545	Exploring Socially-Engaged Practice	(30)	DL
MU7521	Locating Heritage	(30)	DL
MU7550	The Museum and Change	(15)	DL
MU7547	Research and evaluation for socially-engaged museum and gallery practice	(30)	DL
MU7507	Engaging Visitors and Audiences	(30)	DL
MU7530	Interpreting Heritage	(30)	DL
Semester 2			
MU7499	Practice (professional or research)	10	Placement
MU7008	Research	60	Dissertation

MSc Social Science Research (Health and Wellbeing)

In semester 1 students select MD7463 Fundamentals Applied Health Research. In semester 2 students select 1 optional module and complete a dissertation.

	Semester 1	
Module Code	Module Name	Credits
MD7463	Fundamentals Applied Health Research	(20)
	Semester 2	
Students Sele	ct one option module and the dissertation	
MD7464	Qualitative Research Methods QSH	(20)
MD7465	Human Factors and Ergonomics for Patient Safety	(20)
MD7466	Measuring and Monitoring in Healthcare	(20)
MD7460	Dissertation	60

Part-time Structure

The provision of a part-time route within the DTP was a key element of the DTP commitment to widening participation in the initial funding bid. The ESRC expects DTPs to facilitate part-time study and to judge part-time applications on an equal basis as those for full-time study. In the Midland Graduate School DTP part-time awards are offered on all pathways and in all institutions. ESRC guidelines stipulate that part-time award holders cannot hold a full-time job, giving them more flexibility to attend timetabled teaching sessions than is usually assumed for part-time students.

For all pathways apart from Museum Studies the part-time programme will be

Year 1

	Semester 1		
Module Code	Module Name		Credits
SY7044	Research Design, Practice and Ethics		20
	Pathway Specific Module		20
		Semester Total	40
	Semester 2		
Students select	only one of the modules below:		
SY7046	Quantitative Research Methods		(20)
SY7047	Foundations in Qualitative Research		(20)
		Semester Total	20

Semester 1

Credits

60

Semester Total 90

SY7045	Philosophy of Social Science	Semester Total	20 20
	Semester 2		
Students select o	nly one of the SY coded modules below:		
SY7046	Quantitative Research Methods		(20)
SY7047	Foundations in Qualitative Research		(20)
	Pathway Specific Module		20
	Dissertation		60
		Semester Total	100
For Museum Studi	es the part-time programme will be		
Year 1	es the part time programme will be		
	Semester 1		
Module Code	Module Name		Credits
SY7044	Research Design, Practice and Ethics		20
SY7045	Philosophy of Social Science		20
		Semester Total	40
	Semester 2		
Students select o	nly one of the modules below:		
SY7046	Quantitative Research Methods		(20)
SY7047	Foundations in Qualitative Research		(20)
		Semester Total	20
Year 2			
Madula Cada	Semester 1		Cua dita
Module Code SY7044	Module Name Museum Studies Module		Credits 30
317044	ividseum studies iviodule	Semester Total	30
		Jemester rotar	30
	Semester 2		
	nly one of the SY coded modules below:		
SY7046	Quantitative Research Methods		(20)
SY7047	Foundations in Qualitative Research		(20)
MU7499	Practice		10

Students will begin preparation for their dissertation during year 1.

Dissertation

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

MU7008

Module Code

Module Name

See module specification database http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation