



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: 18.07.2022

Last amended: 23/04/2026

Version no. 3

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

- BA Journalism and Sociology
- BA Journalism and Sociology with a Year Abroad^
- Diploma in Journalism and Sociology*
- Certificate in Journalism and Sociology*

Notes

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

^ Students may only enter this programme by approved transfer at the end of Year 1

a) [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100442	50%
100505	50%

b) UCAS Code (where required)

P5L3

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

BA Journalism and Sociology

The normal period of registration is 3 years

The maximum period of registration 5 years

BA Journalism and Sociology (with a Year Abroad)

The normal period of registration is 4 years

The maximum period of registration is 6 years

5. Typical entry requirements

A/AS-levels: BBB in relevant subjects, e.g. Media, English, History, Politics etc.

GCSE: B in English Language

Access to HE Diploma: Pass relevant diploma with some credits at distinction.

European Baccalaureate: Pass with 77% overall.

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 30 points

Cambridge Pre-U: D3/M2/M2 in Principal Subjects.

Leicestershire Progression Accord: BBB plus full Accord Credits

BTEC Nationals: Full Diploma with DDM.
Other Qualifications: Other national and international qualifications welcomed. Mature students welcomed
Alternative qualifications considered.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

N/A

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to help students 'Think Like a Journalist'.

Starting off with key and core Journalism skills, this programme will help students learn to be journalists whilst also exploring the wider societal and sociological context in which journalism operates.

Students will learn to deploy their skills across a range of media and also learn how to research the media and sociological environment to produce interesting and useful academic work.

In addition, for the 'with a Year abroad' variants

Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA)

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA) please see <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad>

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- [Subject Benchmark Statement: Sociology \(qaa.ac.uk\)](https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad)
- [Subject Benchmark Statement: Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies \(qaa.ac.uk\)](https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Education Strategy](https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad)
- [University Assessment Strategy](https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad) [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data
- Broad aims of industry accreditation bodies, especially the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) www.nctj.com and the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC) www.bjtc.org.uk
- Aims, objectives and standards laid down by various professional regulatory bodies, especially the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) <https://www.ipso.co.uk/editors-code-of-practice/>
- And the Professional Code of the Office of the Communications Regulator Ofcom <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/broadcast-codes/broadcast-code>

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) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>The mastery of an appropriate body of sociological knowledge</p> <p>Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice</p> <p>Develop and demonstrate the acquisition of the professional skills and attributes needed to produce original journalistic material to a standard acceptable for publication</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future 	<p>Lectures, seminars, workshops, resource-based learning, problem-solving exercises, consultations with staff, and private study</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Comprehension of key concepts used in sociological analysis and the nature of social evidence</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, computer practical classes, team problem-solving exercises, consultations with staff, and private study</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>A grasp of the main research methods used in sociological investigation</p> <p>Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice</p> <p>Critically reflect on the place of digital and social media in the 21st century media ecosystem, and apply this knowledge to a professional standard in practice</p> <p>Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design</p> <p>Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism</p> <p>Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise</p>	<p>Seminars, computer practical classes, team problems solving exercises, consultations with staff</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to analyse key theoretical issues in sociology</p> <p>Ability to analyse key substantive issues in the study of societies, their development and processes of social change</p> <p>Ability to analyse key issues in the use of sociological methods</p> <p>Ability to reflect critically on the nature of sociology as a discipline</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, directed reading, team problem-solving exercises, consultations with staff</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>
<p>Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future <p>Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism</p> <p>Use journalism to explore sustainability issues.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning</p>	<p>Portfolio, essays</p>

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to present sociological knowledge and argument in a clear and concise way in a variety of written and oral formats	Feedback on oral and written contributions to seminars, problem-solving exercises, consultations with staff	Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework
<p>Recognise, describe, produce and write a variety of news formats to professional standard</p> <p>Develop and demonstrate the acquisition of the professional skills and attributes needed to produce original journalistic material to a standard acceptable for publication</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future <p>Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism</p> <p>Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation</p>	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essay

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to assess the appropriateness of the evidence and the methods used in sociological studies, their value and their limitations	Seminars, directed reading, team problem-solving exercises,	Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon sociological texts</p> <p>Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice</p> <p>Critically reflect on the place of digital and social media in the 21st century media ecosystem, and apply this knowledge to a professional standard in practice</p> <p>Describe and evaluate recent research on news and journalism</p>	<p>Seminars, directed reading, team problem-solving exercises,</p> <p>Workshops, seminars</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of sociological work</p>	<p>Supervised independent research</p>	<p>Research Project</p>
<p>Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design</p> <p>Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism</p> <p>Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise</p>	<p>Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning</p>	<p>Portfolios, essays, group presentations.</p>

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstration of clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression effective participation as sociologists in group discussions	Seminars, team problem- solving exercises	Single and group seminar presentations, contributions to discussions
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism Develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations		

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to develop and sustain sociological arguments in a variety of written forms Ability to demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of sociological ideas	Seminars and Workshops	Essays, examinations, portfolios, and research projects

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Recognise, describe, produce and write a variety of news formats to professional standard</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future <p>Demonstrate skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines) <p>Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation</p>		

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Capacity to: use IT to support effectively their sociological studies; use IT in word processing; use the internet; use data bases, spreadsheets, specialist packages for data analysis, and presentation</p>	<p>class task programme, computer practical classes, lectures, seminars</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Critically reflect on the place of digital and social media in the 21st century media ecosystem, and apply this knowledge to a professional standard in practice</p> <p>Demonstrate skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines) 		

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to analyse interpret, and present relevant data using statistical and graphical techniques</p>	<p>Class task programme, computer practical classes, lectures, seminars</p>	<p>Computer practical classes, computer- based exercises, problem - based exercises, examinations, essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>
<p>Demonstrate skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines) <p>Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise</p>		

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to form teams and work collaboratively in groups to explore sociological problems and to recognize the value of working closely with others	Seminars, team problem solving exercises	Problem - based exercises, group presentations in seminars
Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise Develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to address and analyse theoretical, methodological, and empirical problems posed by sociological literature and practice	Seminars, team problem solving exercises	Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design</p> <p>Describe and evaluate recent research on news and journalism</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future <p>Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism</p> <p>Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise</p> <p>Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation</p>		

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Ability to identify, comprehend, analyse and handle sociological information</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, team problem-solving exercises, directed reading, computer practical classes, team problems solving exercises</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Recognise, describe, produce and write a variety of news formats to professional standard</p> <p>Develop and demonstrate the acquisition of the professional skills and attributes needed to produce original journalistic material to a standard acceptable for publication</p> <p>Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise</p> <p>Develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations</p> <p>Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation</p>	<p>Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning</p>	<p>Portfolio, essays</p>

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Intellectual independence in the setting of research tasks and the analysing of sociological questions</p> <p>Capacity for time management and self-organisation</p>	<p>Fostering independent learning and self-evaluation through consultations and feedback sessions</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, problem-solving exercises, research projects and assessed coursework</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice</p> <p>Demonstrate skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines) 	<p>Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning</p>	<p>Portfolio, essays</p>

Year Abroad

Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA)

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA) please see <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad>

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes relevant to the 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

a) Course transfers

Not usually permitted.

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

12. Special Features

This programme blends theory, practice and context in an innovative and academically inspiring way, by allowing students to learn the societal context of their professional practice at the same time as they are developing their skills in these areas.

Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA)

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA) please see <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad>

13. Indications of Programme Quality

Oversight by MCS Education Committee and CSSAH Education Committee.
External examiner involvement and reports

14. External Examiner(s) 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 [exam-papers](#) [log-in required]

Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: 18.07.2022

Last amended: 23/04/2026

Version no. 3

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.

BA Journalism and Sociology

Level 4/Year 1 2024/25

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	JO1000	News Basics	15 credits
Sem 1	SY1004	Sociology in Practice	30 credits
Sem 1	MS1011	Media Origins	15 credits
Sem 2	JO1003	Features Journalism	15 credits
Sem 2	JO1002	Journalism Ethics and Regulation	15 credits
Sem 2	SY1002	Society in Transformation	30 credits

Level 5/Year 2 2025/26

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	JO2006	Digital and Social Media Journalism	30 credits
Sem 1	JO2001	Podcasting and Radio Journalism	15 credits
Sem 1	SY2091	Live Sociology	15 credits
Sem 1	MS2013	Professionalism and Employability in the Media	n/a
Sem 2	MS2016	Media Research in Practice	30 credits

Notes

[n/a]

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	SY2098	Sociology through Literature and Film	15 credits
Semester 2	SY2102	Environmental Sociologies	15 credits
Semester 2	SY2078	Sociology Theory Explored	15 credits

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.

Level 6/Year 3 2026/27

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	45 credits	15 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	30 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	JO3010	Journalism Joints Dissertation	45 credits
Sem 1	JO3001	Multi-Media Journalism Project 1	15 credits
Sem 2	JO3002	Multi-Media Journalism Project 2	15 credits

Notes

[n/a]

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	JO3003	Sports Journalism	15 credits
Sem 1	JO3006	Journalism Placement	15 credits
Sem 1	SY3100	Social Psychology	15 credits
Sem 1	SY3094	Selfie Society	15 credits
Sem 2	JO3004	Data Journalism	15 credits
Sem 1	JO3007	Political Journalism	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	JO3011	TV News Production	15 credits
Sem 2	MS3027	Writing for PR	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3057	Football and Society	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3095	Sociology of Health and Illness	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3097	International Migration	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3090	Drugs and Society	15 credits
Sem 2	JO3008	Investigative Journalism	15 credits

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.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See undergraduate [module specification database](#) [Login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).