

Sociology
at Edinburgh

Study **Sociology** at a world-leading university.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Social and
Political Science

Welcome to the School of Social and Political Science

The School of Social and Political Science is one of the leading schools of social science in the UK and we pride ourselves on our innovative teaching, lively community of staff and students, and pursuit of academic excellence.

Our research is world class and it informs and shapes our teaching. As one of our students, you will enjoy a challenging, rich and rewarding learning environment, as well as the opportunity to engage in the most current debates from the start of your studies.

The School of Social and Political Science brings together specialists in a wide range of disciplines and is also home to many research centres and groups.

Our school is vibrant and intellectually stimulating place to study, which will provide you with an education enriched with insights from across the social and political sciences and beyond.

Why Edinburgh?

World-class reputation

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently ranked amongst the 50 best universities in the world, which allows us to attract some of the brightest academics and students. This means that you will learn from and amongst the very best in teaching and research.

Invest in your future

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you'll be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We support students to develop a broad range of skills, grow in confidence and learn more about themselves.

As a result, employers regard Edinburgh as an excellent training ground for high-flyers and value our graduates for their intellectual ability and the attributes they're able to develop while studying with us.

Learn at the forefront of Sociology

Joining one of the UK's leading Sociology research departments, you'll have the opportunity to draw upon the expertise of our staff. Our lecturers are all active researchers who bring cutting-edge ideas and knowledge to class. This means you will be empowered to engage with the most current sociological debates from the start of your degree.

Flexibility and choice

The study of Sociology at Edinburgh allows for multi-disciplinary learning and is offered in a wide variety of flexible degree options to reflect your interests. We place a strong emphasis on doing rather than just reading about Sociology. Study with us and you'll acquire research skills and conduct your own research.

A supportive environment

Student support is embedded within the School and you will have a named contact to guide you through university life. There are also a number of student peer-learning opportunities in place to ensure you always feel supported.

What is Sociology and who is it for?

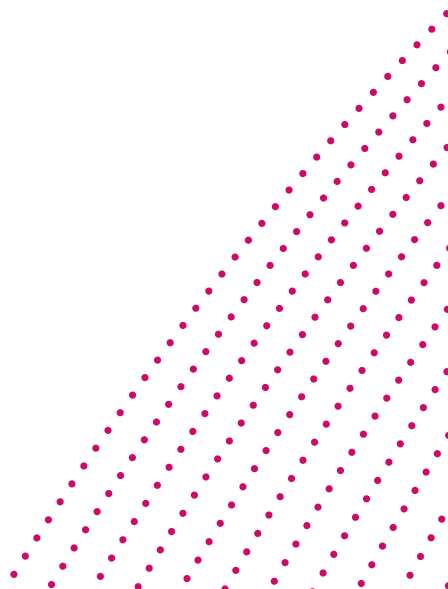
Sociology is the study of how society works. From personal relationships to institutions, cultures and political systems, Sociology investigates how these structures influence individual lives and public issues. Sociology examines how individual choices are affected by wider social forces and questions the taken-for-granted nature of social arrangements.

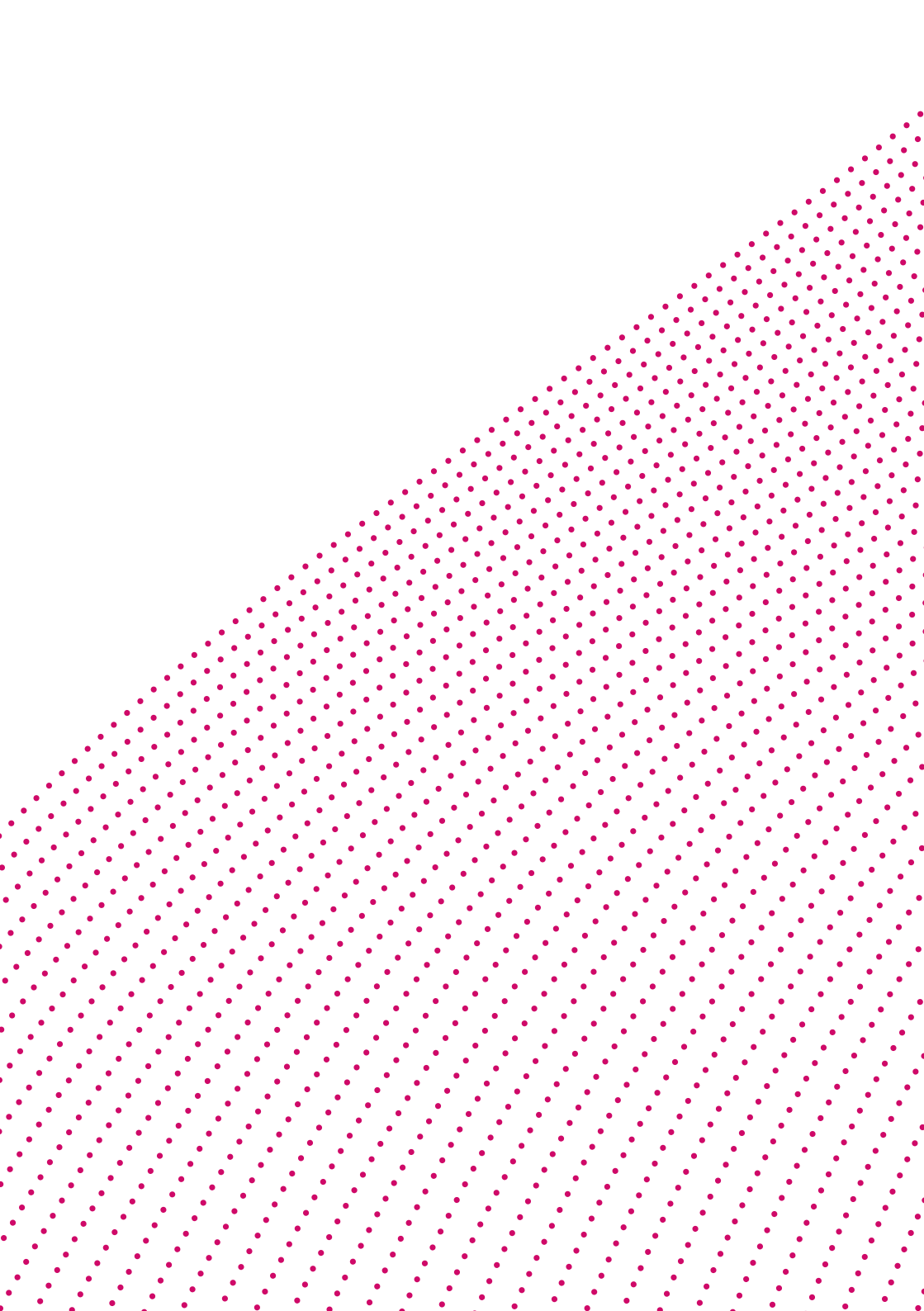
Our degrees appeal to students who are interested in understanding why things are the way they are; studying the relationship between individuals and groups, issues of belonging and identity, the social causes of cooperation and conflict, and the way societies and social institutions are formed and change over time.

Sociology can be studied on its own as a single honours degree or combined with the following subjects as part of a joint honours degree:

Politics, Psychology, Quantitative Methods
and **Social Anthropology**.

Economics and **Social Policy**
also offer joint degrees with Sociology.





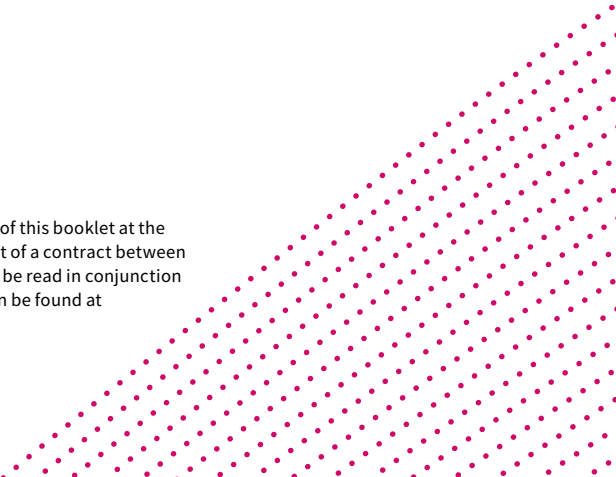
What you'll typically study

The study of Sociology explores questions such as: How do people organise collectively around common goals? How do societies and social groups distribute and manage power among their members?

Your undergraduate degree in Sociology will cover a comprehensive range of subjects, giving you a broad introduction to the subject and the flexibility to study topics within and outside it.

Our programmes equip you to compare different national contexts and understand contemporary social issues from a global perspective.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this booklet at the time of going to press. However, it will not form part of a contract between the University and a student or applicant and must be read in conjunction with the individual degree specifications, which can be found at www.drps.ed.ac.uk



MA (Hons) Sociology

YEAR 1

- Sociology 1a: The Sociological Imagination
- Sociology 1b: Individuals and Society
- Four further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 2

- Sociology 2a: Thinking Sociologically
- Sociology 2b: Researching Social Life
- Four further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 3

- Sociology Project Preparation
- Designing and Doing Social Research
- Social Theory
- Doing Survey Research
- Three further semester-long courses from a list of Sociology courses - one outside option is permitted.
- Students have the option of studying abroad in third year.

YEAR 4

- The Sociology Project
- Four further semester-long courses from a list of Sociology courses and one outside option.

MA (Hons) Sociology and Politics

YEAR 1

- Sociology 1a: The Sociological Imagination
- Sociology 1b: Individuals and Society
- Politics and International Relations 1A
- Politics and International Relations 1B
- Political Thinkers
- One option choice

YEAR 2

- Sociology 2a: Thinking Sociologically
- Sociology 2b: Researching Social Life
- Comparative Politics in a Globalized World
- Three further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 3

- Sociology Project Preparation
- Designing and Doing Social Research
- Social Theory
- Doing Survey Research
- One further semester-long course from a list of Sociology courses
- One further semester-long course from a list of Politics courses

YEAR 4

- Sociology Project OR Politics Dissertation
- Two further semester-long courses in Sociology
- Two further semester-long courses in Politics

MA (Hons) Sociology and Psychology

YEAR 1

- Sociology 1a: The Sociological Imagination
- Sociology 1b: Individuals and Society
- Psychology 1a
- Psychology 1b
- Two further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 2

- Sociology 2a: Thinking Sociologically
- Sociology 2b: Researching Social Life
- Data Analysis for Psychology in R2
- Psychology 2A
- Psychology 2B
- Two further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 3

- Sociology Project Preparation
- Social Theory
- Designing and Doing Social Research
- Data Analysis for Psychology in R3
- Qualitative Methods in Psychology
- A further 20 credits of Sociology courses and 40 credits of Psychology

YEAR 4

- Sociology Project or Psychology Dissertation - *NB: Students who want to be eligible for the British Psychological Society's Graduate Basis for Registration MUST take the Dissertation in Psychology.*
- Two semester-long courses from a list of Sociology courses
- Two further semester-long courses from a list of Psychology courses

MA (Hons) Sociology and Social Anthropology

YEAR 1

- Sociology 1a: The Sociological Imagination
- Sociology 1b: Individuals and Society
- Social Anthropology 1a: The Life Course
- Social Anthropology 1b: Anthropology Matters
- Two further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 2

- Sociology 2a: Thinking Sociologically
- Sociology 2b: Researching Social Life
- Social Anthropology 2: Key Concepts
- Ethnography: Theory and Practice
- Two further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 3

- Sociology Project Preparation
- Two semester-long Social Anthropology courses
- Social Theory
- Imagining Anthropological Research (A Dissertation preparation course)
- Three further semester-long courses in Social Anthropology and Development-related courses

YEAR 4

- Sociology Project or Social Anthropology Dissertation
- Two semester-long courses from a list of Sociology courses
- Two further semester-long courses from a list of Social Anthropology courses

MAMA (Hons) Sociology with Quantitative Methods

YEAR 1

- Sociology 1a: The Sociological Imagination
- Sociology 1b: Individuals and Society
- Mathematics for Social Science
- Introduction to Statistics for Social Science
- Two further semester-long courses in outside subjects of your choice

YEAR 2

- Sociology 2a: Thinking Sociologically
- Sociology 2b: Researching Social Life
- Doing Social Research with Statistics
- Three further semester-long courses from a list of Sociology and advanced quantitative courses

YEAR 3

- Sociology Project Preparation
- Designing and Doing Social Research
- Social Theory
- Statistical Modelling
- Three further semester-long courses from a list of Sociology courses

YEAR 4

- Sociology Project
- One semester-long course from a list of Quantitative Methods courses
- Sociology Project, and 4 further semester-long courses from a list of Sociology and Quantitative Methods courses

Summary of Sociology courses

Sociology 1a, The Sociological Imagination:

introduces some of the key ideas of the discipline by examining the relationship between 'individuals' and 'societies'. Among the topics will be the social nature of the self, the influence of groups, inequality, digital sociology and globalisation.

Sociology 1b, Individuals and Society:

explores sociological thinking with regard to a number of issues of contemporary concern. Topics include power, intimate relations, sociology of the body, capitalism and social change.

Sociology 2a: Thinking Sociologically:

introduces students to some of the core theoretical debates that frame sociological investigation and develops knowledge of key substantive areas within sociology in a theoretically-informed way. It is important for students to gain an understanding of theoretical debates because much sociological research and thinking is contextualised in a theoretical way.

Sociology 2b: Researching Social Life

introduces the various ways that sociologists do the research that lies behind most sociological ideas, looking critically at the multitude of ways in which sociological evidence can be produced.

Designing and Doing Social Research

opens the world of social research to students. They learn about the necessary steps for successful research and are introduced to a range of methods. Through practical assignments they can apply these methods to develop experience in their application.

Doing Survey Research develops knowledge of survey methods, introductory statistics and quantitative data analysis. Students are equipped to work with large-scale quantitative datasets to analyse information from surveys of any unit, ranging from people to countries and firms. Using real-life data, students learn skills useful for many career paths.

Social Theory provides a broad introduction to key concepts in social theory, such as action, structure and culture. These concepts will be presented and discussed starting from the examination of a number of key classical and contemporary texts.

The Sociology Project allows students to bring together what they have learned about methods and theory in a sociological research project based on their own interests, under the guidance of a supervisor.

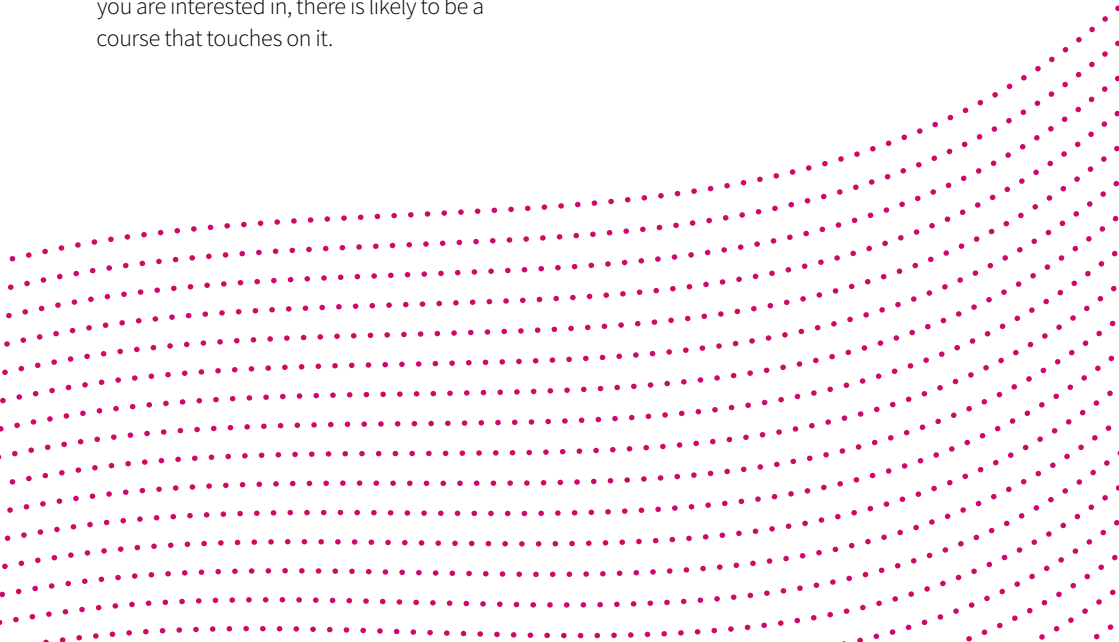


Additional year 3 and 4 options in Sociology

Our Honours options vary from year to year but are likely to include the following options:

- Contemporary Feminist Debates
- Digital Culture
- Nations and Nationalism
- Gender, Marginality and Change
- Globalization
- Sociology of Emotions
- Popular Music, Technology and Society
- Race and Ethnicity
- Social and Political Movements
- Sociology of the Environment and Risk
- Sociology of Scotland
- The Social Life of Food
- Sociology of Illicit Markets and Criminal Organisations
- Sociology of Freedom, and Modern Self and Art

The courses reflect the breadth of research interests in the subject area. No matter what you are interested in, there is likely to be a course that touches on it.



Teaching

We use a variety of teaching methods including lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars and online activities.

Most of the teaching in years 1 and 2 will take the form of lectures and tutorial groups. Year 3 and 4 courses are often taught as seminars and individual supervision is provided for students writing a dissertation. Tutorial groups contain 10-12 students, whilst most year 3 and 4 courses contain 15-50 students.

Year 1 and 2 courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and written examinations, taken in December and April/May. Assessment at year 3 and 4 comprises a mixture of coursework essays, written examinations and a dissertation or project report.

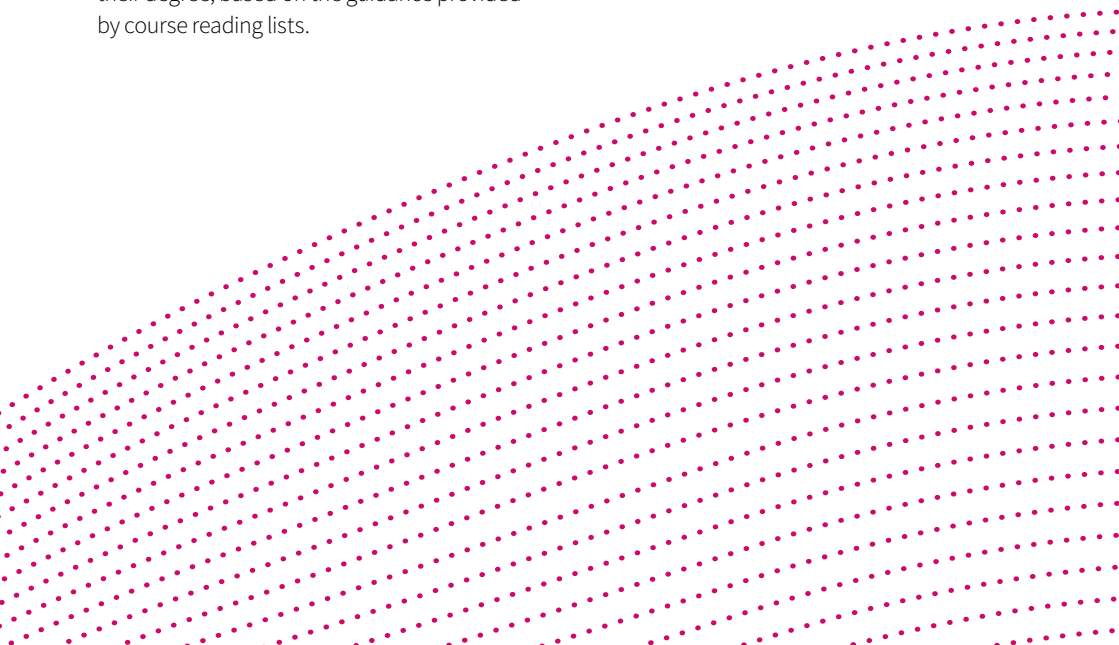
It is expected that students will engage in independent study and learning throughout their degree, based on the guidance provided by course reading lists.

Study Abroad

We offer students an extensive range of opportunities to study abroad as part of their degree. Our exchange partners include a wide range of institutions across the world, including universities in the US, Canada and China.

International study allows you to immerse yourself in different cultures. You will have the opportunity to try new things, take on new challenges and to make the most of your time at University.

Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject as well as, perhaps, the opportunity to learn a new language.

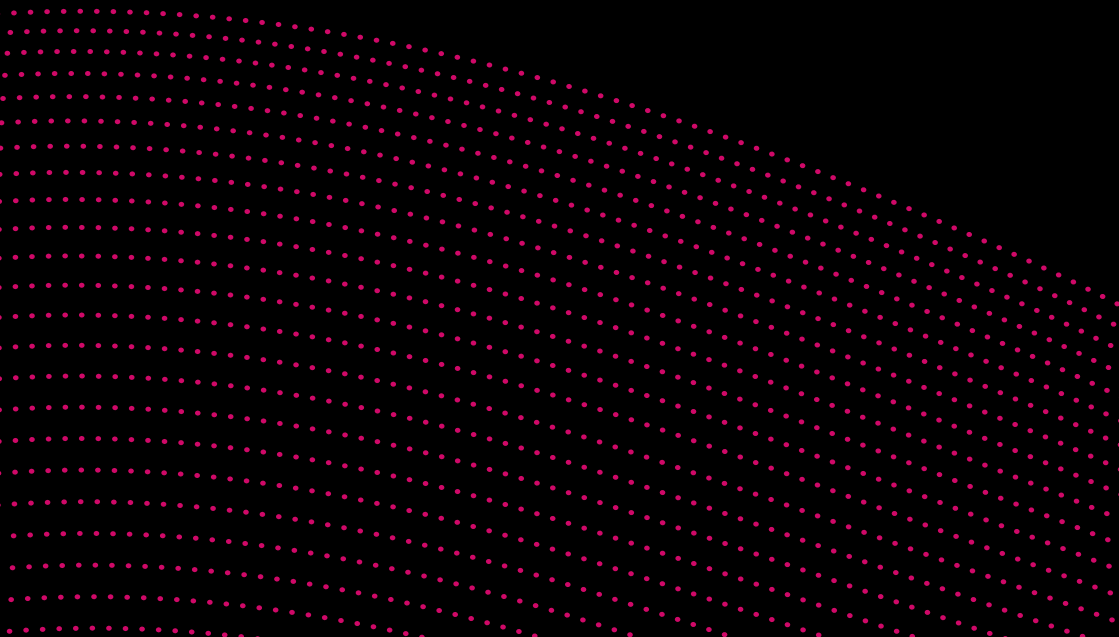


Careers

A degree in the social sciences provides the knowledge, analytical and communication skills that employers require. Our Careers Service will help you plan for the future and provide advice and guidance with the job application process.

Six months after graduating over 95% of our students are in employment or postgraduate study.

Graduates in Sociology follow diverse and interesting careers. Some enter jobs in local and central government, industry, journalism and the media, voluntary associations, and market research. There are other jobs that call upon specialist knowledge and further education and training. Sociology also offers preparation for entry into postgraduate courses in teaching, social work and urban planning. Some of our students also go on to an academic career teaching and researching Sociology in universities.



Getting ready for Edinburgh

If you'd like to get ahead with some background reading, we recommend the following books.

Ralph Fevre and Angus Bancroft, (2010), *Dead White Men and Other Important People: Sociology's Big Ideas*, Palgrave Macmillan. (Innovatively written as a novel about a new student grappling with Sociology and student life).

Allan G. Johnson, (2008), *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life Practice and Promise*, Temple University Press. (Particularly accessible for those who have no familiarity with Sociology, aimed at a wide audience).

Bendelow, G. and Williams, S. (1998) *The Lived Body: Sociological themes, embodied issues*. London: Routledge.

Bruce S., (1999), *Sociology: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press. (Like all the books in this Oxford series--'very short').

C. Wright Mills, (1959), *The Sociological Imagination*, Oxford University Press. (A classic text still in print, written with verve and passion).



Undergraduate degrees in **Sociology**

- Sociology (MA Hons)
- Sociology and Politics (MA Hons)
- Sociology and Psychology (MA Hons)
- Sociology and Social Anthropology (MA Hons)
- Sociology with Quantitative Methods (MA Hons)

For further information on entry requirements visit: [edin.ac/entry](https://www.ed.ac.uk/entry)

Read more about our programmes at: [edin.ac/ourdegrees](https://www.ed.ac.uk/ourdegrees)

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