

Study sociology in the UK

Where can I study sociology in the UK?

You can take your pick from almost 1700 sociology courses in the UK , with 143 universities offering the course across the country. This includes two of the best universities for sociology in the world , the London School of Economics and Political Science (third) and the University of Cambridge (sixth).

What is the application process?

Most sociology degrees in the UK will require at least two A-levels or equivalent, with many of the most popular courses expecting ABB or higher.

Typical requirements for International Baccalaureate will be 32 points, with an IELTS of 6.0 overall, and no lower than 5.5 in any one component.

How long does it take to graduate?

Sociology undergraduate degrees typically take around three years to complete in the UK. Many offer opportunities to extend your studies with a year's work experience placement or study abroad.

Postgraduate degrees are usually between one and two years, with many universities offering integrated master's courses which allow you to complete both elements in just four years of full time study.

What will I learn?

We've been teaching sociology in the UK since 1904, helping students understand the social sciences and the origins of society. Throughout your courses you'll learn the ways that sociology applies empirical investigation and analysis to further our understanding of social activity. Modules will cover the works of key thinkers such as Karl Marx and Emile Durkheim, as well as theories of social policy, social change, and crime. You can also choose to combine your degree with a related subject, such as finance or economics.

However you specialise, you will acquire the kind of logical thinking, critical evaluation, literacy and problem solving skills that employers around the world are looking for.

Why is the UK a good choice for sociology?

The UK has been at the forefront of sociological thinking since the late 19th century and was home to some of the earliest Sociological Societies and the first Sociological Professorship at London School of Economics in 1907.

As well as helping to drive and develop social theory and research, the UK has embraced the application of those findings in every aspect of social life, from public sector policies to private health. So you'll have one of the best possible environments to learn about sociology and the ways it can be used to shape a better society.

Are there any scholarships for sociology?

There are more than 1000 sociology scholarships in the UK, from country specific scholarships such as the Postgraduate India Scholarship at University of Stirling to those open to all nationalities.

You can also choose to apply for one of the more high profile opportunities such as Chevening Scholarships or Commonwealth Scholarships, which are both open to residents of any country.

What are my work options after I graduate?

A degree in sociology opens up all kinds of interesting career options, in a wide range of areas. Sociology graduates go on to work in everything from education to the media, local government, counselling, criminology and politics.

Large numbers of UK sociology graduates also go on to work in the third sector for charities and non-governmental organisations. The average starting salary for a sociology graduate is around £20,000.

International students who have completed an undergraduate or master's degree can apply to stay and work in the UK for two years upon graduation, through the Graduate Route.

To find out more about studying sociology in the UK and to find a course, visit Study UK study-uk.britishcouncil.org/