

# Study sociology in the UK

## Where can I study sociology in the UK?

You can take your pick from almost 1,700 sociology courses in the UK, with 138 universities offering the course across the country.<sup>1</sup> This includes three of the top ten universities for sociology in the world, the University of Oxford (second), The London School of Economics and Political Science (fourth) and the University of Cambridge (sixth).<sup>2</sup>

## 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 is the course structure?

UK sociology degrees are modular, giving you the chance to build a broad foundation in your first year before specialising in areas of interest. Throughout your degree, you will be assessed through essays, presentations, independent research and a final dissertation.

## What will I study?

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<sup>1</sup> [UCAS, 2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

You'll study classical and contemporary sociological theory, including the work of key thinkers like Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Topics may include social inequality, race and ethnicity, gender, crime and deviance, media, globalisation, and social movements. Some courses allow you to combine sociology with subjects like economics, psychology, or international relations. You'll also develop core research and data analysis skills essential for social inquiry.

## Why is the UK a good choice to study 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 study in a setting with a long and influential tradition in sociological research and teaching.

## Are there any scholarships for studying sociology?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study sociology in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding) and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

## What are my work options after I graduate?

Sociology graduates go on to work in education, media, social research, public policy, local government, NGOs, and community organisations. Others pursue careers in counselling, criminology, or politics.

With an average starting salary of £26,000, UK graduates are well prepared for socially focused roles.<sup>3</sup>

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate, master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

To find out more about studying sociology in the UK and to find a course, visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/)

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<sup>3</sup> [Prospects, 2024](#)