

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION KEY FACTS

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| Programme name | Data, Policy and Society |
| Award | MSc |
| Exit Awards | <i>PG Dip</i> |
| Exit Awards | <i>PG Cert</i> |
| School | School of Policy and Global Affairs |
| Schools | School of Science and Technology |
| (Only if this is a cross-School module) | |
| Department or equivalent | Department of Sociology & Criminology |
| Programme code | TBC... |
| Type of study | Part Time / Full-time |
| Total UK credits | 180 |
| Total ECTS | 90 |

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The social and technological are merging in arguably unprecedented ways. Computational and data-centric systems are pervasive in contemporary life, just as the technological capacities for enumeration, modelling and prediction are now entangled with virtually everything from people's daily interactions to political and democratic structures. Not only is computation playing a greater role in online, social interaction, it is shaping how publics, industries, practitioners, researchers, politicians, make sense of and act in the world.

The MSc Data, Policy and Society invites a new kind of professional. One both trained in the technicalities of data-centric systems and skilled in the application of social research and critical scholarship. Knowing how to design fairer and more equitable digital technologies and flourishing societies, demands both an understanding of how the data and digital operate and the ways that such technologies remediate or enact the social.

The MSc Data, Policy and Society is taught by specialists from across social and data science. You will be equipped with a richer critical and ethical understanding of today's computing industry, the social, political, and economic relations it increasingly helps scaffold. This is significant, given the growing interest tech companies or government bodies, for instance, have in understanding the social impact of their products or policies, and, therefore, employing individuals who understand and can draw on a range of data analysis and research methods that are rooted in sociological knowledge, human-computer interaction, politics and ethics. This innovative and forward-facing programme will provide you with a range of methodological skills and theoretical insights that can be applied in positions in industry or government such as social policy advisers and qualitative/quantitative data researchers in government, data-focused think-

tanks and NGOs, user experience analyst, data policy adviser, data and reporting analyst, data insight manager, data strategy and performance officer.

The part time route of academic study is intended to provide those of you who have pressing family or work commitments, with more time to reach the required level of study. While the content of the course is the same as the full-time route, the duration is different. You will deliver your dissertation in December not September.

Part-time study occurs over two years. You receive support through the personal tutor and seminar system. Guided reading and study skills help is provided. You are encouraged to participate fully in the staff seminar and public lecture programme and, of course, in Departmental and School Social Events.

Aims

The programme aims:

1. To provide you with comprehensive training in both the technical foundations of data-centric systems and the application of critical scholarship.
2. To equip you with a critical understanding of how computation shapes publics, industries, practitioners, researchers, and politicians, enabling you to navigate and engage within this setting.
3. To furnish you with knowledge about the functioning of data and digital technologies, as well as the diverse ways in which these technologies impact and shape the social landscape.
4. To empower you with a critical and ethical understanding of today's technology industries and governance
5. To provide you with a range of theoretical insights and methodological skills from across the social sciences that can be applied in multiple areas such as technology, government, health, finance, digital rights, and civil society.
6. To enhance your analytical capacities and develop your ability to critically evaluate complex issues and debates within the field of digital and computational social science.
7. To deliver an advanced specialist education in the intersection of technology and digital data while highlighting the ethical, social, political, legal, and technical implications.
8. To provide you with forward-facing skillsets that are highly desirable and transferable to a multitude of industries.

Content

The MSc Data, Policy and Society is taught by specialists from across social science and data science. The content will equip you with a rich critical and ethical understanding of today's technology industries.

Registration Period

12 Months (minimum) / 24 Months (maximum)

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge

- Critically evaluate data-centric systems.
- Explain the various ways in which computation now influences diverse aspects of everyday life, encompassing publics, industries, practitioners, theorists, and politicians.
- Organise an extensive body of knowledge on contemporary technology industries and the sociological issues arising from them.
- Compare and contrast policy solutions that shape the structure of computational systems and the societal impact of data in both public and private contexts. Construct policy ideas building on this knowledge.
- Demonstrate an ability to engage effectively with and manage the ethical, social, political, legal, and technical implications that arise at the intersection of technology and digital data.
- Critically assessing and applying research approaches grounded in digital and computational sociology and construct appropriate research methodologies for applied research projects.

Skills

- Develop an advanced understanding of current issues in digital and computational sociology and assess a diverse range of approaches to address them.
- Generate precise explanations and critically analyse research findings and complex texts across multiple contexts.
- Evaluate intricate arguments, their factual basis, and determine the value and relevance of these ideas through reasoned judgments.
- Analyse and interpret various types of research evidence with a critical perspective.
- Collect relevant information to address inquiries related to digital and computational sociology.
- Challenge prevailing explanations surrounding topics and controversies in digital and computational sociology.
- Undertake independent and original research in the field of digital and computational sociology and present findings effectively.
- Strategize and evaluate criminal justice interventions in various contexts.
- Analyse and evaluate the methodologies employed by digital sociologists to investigate emerging technologies and data-centric systems within the context of everyday life.
- Construct coherent arguments and provide policy recommendations when appropriate.
- Identify and evaluate empirical research findings in the realm of digital and computational sociology.

Values and attitudes

- Respect your peers, value their work and be conscious of the need to avoid plagiarism.
- Adhere to the rules and regulations of City.

- Show consideration for the ethical and political implications of criminological perspectives.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will take 4x15 credit core modules, 2 x 15 credit core-electives (one social science and one computer science module) and 2 x 15 credit elective modules. Core modules are compulsory. You can choose the 2 x 15 credit core elective and elective modules from the below list of module options.

Taught modules

| Module Title | SITS Code | Module Credits | Core/ Elective | Compensation Yes/No | Level |
|---|-----------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|
| Digital Data Politics | SGM315 | 15 | C | N | 7 |
| Digitalisation of Everyday Life | SGM316 | 15 | C | N | 7 |
| Inclusive Design | INM313 | 15 | C | | 7 |
| Research Design, Methods and Methodology | SAM001 | 15 | C | N | 7 |
| Networked Democracy and Society | SGM311 | 15 | CE | N | 7 |
| Multivariate Data Analysis | SAM009 | 15 | CE | Y | 7 |
| Qualitative Research Methods | SAM004 | 15 | CE | Y | 7 |
| Design Justice | INM317 | 15 | CE | Y | 7 |
| Data Visualization | INM402 | 15 | CE | Y | 7 |
| Creativity in Design | INM391 | 15 | CE | Y | 7 |
| Human Rights and the Transformation of World Politics | IPM130 | 15 | E | Y | 7 |
| Global Ethics: Principles, Power, and Politics | IPM129 | 15 | E | Y | 7 |
| Economics of Regulation and Competition | ECM159 | 15 | E | Y | 7 |
| Theories of Global Political Economy | IPM128 | 15 | E | Y | 7 |

Dissertation module

| Module Title | SITS Code | Module Credits | Core | Compensation Yes/No | Level |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|------|---------------------|-------|
| Dissertation | SAM010 | 60 | C | N | 7 |

**Please note that this is an indicative list. These modules are subject to change depending on staff availability, student demand and some are offered on a biennial basis. There is no guarantee that every elective module listed above will run.*

You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The educational aims are achieved through a combination of lectures, interactive sessions, practical workshops, and small group classes. You will have access to online resources—ranging from digital and digitised readings to class recordings, guided exercises in critical reading designed to facilitate self-directed learning and chat fora for interacting with staff and peers—through Moodle, the online virtual learning environment at City. You are encouraged to undertake extensive reading to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject.

The Department of Sociology and Criminology also runs a personal tutorial system that provides you with additional support for your learning. Your personal tutor is your first point of contact should you encounter any problems affecting your studies.

The part time route of academic study is intended to provide you with more time to reach the required level of study should you be unable to commit to full-time study. The content of the part-time route is the same as the full-time route, but the duration is different. Taught modules are spread out over two academic years (one academic year for full-time study), and you will be given an extra term at the end of the two academic years to submit your dissertation. You will receive support through the personal tutor system. Guided reading and study skills help is provided. You will be encouraged to participate fully in the staff seminar and public lecture programme and, of course, in Departmental and School Social Events.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment is within each module, including the dissertation. Assessment methods vary according to the nature of the material. A combination of individual written assignments, and unseen written examination are standard across the programme. However, some modules may use other methods, including individual practical exercises and group work projects. Many assessments have an element of choice, allowing students to focus on aspects of interest to them.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge, or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully. Grade-related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge, or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at: [Assessment | City, University of London](#)

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

The pass mark for each module is 50%. *Please insert a statement saying whether some or all modules require students to achieve a minimum qualifying mark in the different assessment components within those modules and, if so, what the rule is/whether the details will be found in the module specification.*

If you fail an assessment component or module or if compensation applies to your programme specific details of this will be provided in your programme handbook

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: [Senate-Regulation-19-Assessment-Regulations-2022-23-v2.5.pdf \(city.ac.uk\)](#)

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Please note that any exception to the credit framework or degree classification structure will require approval via Student & Academic Services. If a module from a lower HE level is offered e.g. level 6 modules offered as electives, please include a comment here such as ‘*up to 15 of these credits may be chosen from modules at HE Level 6.’

Master's Degree

Following successful completion of the MSc Data, Policy and Society you will have the ability to plan and evaluate all aspects of digital and computational sociology and apply these to your

discipline specific context. You will have demonstrated the capacity to undertake and present an independent and original piece of research.

Programme credits and weighting

| Programme Stage | HE Level | Credits | Weighting (%) |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Taught | 7 | 120 | |
| Dissertation | 7 | 60 | |

Class requirements

| Class | % required |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| With Distinction | 70 |
| With Merit | 60 |
| Without classification | 50 |

Postgraduate Diploma

Following successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Sociology and Data Governance, in addition to the above, you will gain a more advanced knowledge and in-depth understanding of these subject areas, from a variety of different perspectives and in order for you to broaden your expertise, research and technical skills. You will have developed a sophisticated appreciation of current issues relating to the production, use and governance of digital data together with the ability to evaluate a range of different approaches to them. You will also be able to evaluate critically complex arguments and their factual support, assess the value and relevance of the ideas of others and make reasoned judgements. You will have developed the ability to challenge received explanation of topics and controversies at the intersection of social and computer science, data research, ethics, politics and policy. You will have the capacity to analyse and evaluate the approaches used across this range of disciplines, to investigate contemporary trends, to construct clear arguments and present policy recommendations where appropriate and to understand and evaluate empirical research findings.

Programme credits and weighting

| Programme Stage | HE Level | Credits | Weighting (%) |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Taught | 7 | 120 | 100% |

Class requirements

| Class | % required |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| With Distinction | 70 |
| With Merit | 60 |
| Without classification | 50 |

Postgraduate Certificate:

Following successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Digital Sociology and Data Governance you will be able to examine the theories related to all aspects of digital data production, use and governance and apply these to your discipline-specific context as well as to analyse the differences between contexts. You will possess sufficient knowledge of the social and political context of digital data production, use and governance, of methodological approaches to researching the field, and advanced level discussion and debate at the intersection of social and computer science, data research, ethics, politics and policy. You will have the ability to synthesize and apply that knowledge to contemporary debates at the intersection of social and computer science, data research, ethics, politics and policy. You will be able to design activities that are engaging, challenging, relevant and draw on the use of technology where appropriate to enhancing learning. You will gather appropriate information to answer questions pertaining to digital and computational sociology, data policy and research and will be capable of accurate exposition and critical analysis of research findings and complex texts in a variety of different contexts. The assessments you undertake to achieve this qualification will focus on activities that you need to undertake as part of your role and will support you in developing your practical abilities. The postgraduate certificate will enable you to gain confidence in your role and skills.

Programme credits and weighting

| Programme Stage | HE Level | Credits | Weighting (%) |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Taught | 7 | 60 | 100% |

Class requirements

| Class | % required |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| With Distinction | 70 |
| With Merit | 60 |
| Without classification | 50 |

EMPLOYABILITY AT CITY

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ONTO?

The programme will place graduates in roles such as social policy advisers and qualitative/quantitative data researchers in government, data-focused think-tanks and NGOs, user experience analyst, data policy adviser, data and reporting analyst, data insight manager, data strategy and performance officer.

For more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career>