

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Media, Communication and Sociology
Award	BSc (Hons)
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of Sociology
UCAS Code	PL33
Programme code	UJMCSO
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The BSc Media, Communication and Sociology is a single honours degree programme offered by the Department of Sociology in the School of Arts and Social Sciences.

Aims

- To help you understand the character of sociology as a discipline that is both theoretically informed and evidence based.
- To develop in you a critical awareness of a variety of sociological perspectives and your relevance to other areas of study.
- To make you aware of a broad range of theoretical perspectives informing sociological investigation and be able to use these where appropriate to construct arguments.
- To allow you to collect and analyse a range of sociological data through their own research.
- To enable you to demonstrate an ability to comprehend, interpret and apply a range of materials, including original texts, archive material, data sets, interview materials, to produce coherent, well- structured written work.
- To introduce you to some of the frontiers of contemporary sociology, especially those taught and researched at City University.
- To allow you to appreciate the complex interplay between local and global forces and their relationship to social processes, with particular reference to life in the 21st century metropolis which is London.
- To enable you to understand the importance of media/communication to contemporary social relations
- To allow you to acquire the disciplinary and transferable skills, knowledge, study habits and independence of thought required of graduates in sociology.
- To enable you to develop high-level reflexive capabilities with regard to their own experiences, social milieu and academic resources.
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Certificate / Part One

Following successful completion of part one *or* the Certificate in Media, Communication and Sociology, you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with Media, Communication and Sociology and interpret these within the context of your practice.

You will have demonstrated:

- a good general knowledge and understanding of the well-established principles, issues, concepts and theories in Media, Communication and Sociology.
- the ability to relate underlying concepts and principles to a variety of contexts.
- an understanding of the limits of your knowledge.

Typically you will be able to:

- use a limited range of techniques to undertake critical analysis of information.
- communicate information using key methodological techniques of the discipline
- have the basic preparation to undertake further training to develop your methodological and subject-specific understanding.

You will have:

The confidence and transferable skills to prepare yourself for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.

Diploma / Part Two

When you have successfully completed of part two *or* the Diploma in Media, Communication and Sociology you will have built on your previous knowledge and experience. You will have developed skills of enquiry in your subject and different approaches to problem-solving, you will also be able to identify the limitations of your knowledge.

You will have demonstrated:

- knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of Media, Communication and Sociology, and of the way in which those principles have developed
- the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context
- knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in Media, Communication and Sociology and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study
- an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.

Typically, you will be able to:

- use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis
- effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively
- undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.

You will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making

Degree / Part 3

Following successful completion of part three or the degree you will have a coherent, systematic and detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques for practice drawing on research and scholarship demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

Bachelor's Degrees with honours are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of key aspects of Media, Communication and Sociology, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of the discipline
- an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables you:
- to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the discipline
- to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline
- an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
- the ability to manage your own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline).

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- apply the methods and techniques that you have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
- critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution – or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
- communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
- the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Micro-Placements module (SA3000)

The Careers and Employability Service and the School of Arts and Social Sciences are working together to offer most students within the School the option to undertake professional level work experience opportunities as part of the Level 6, 15-credit bearing Micro-Placements module (SA3000). The placement opportunity is short and not related directly to your area of study and will support the development of key employability skills whilst enabling you to gain valuable work experience. Placements on the module are competitive and are subject to availability. All eligible students will be contacted and invited to express their interest during Term 1 of Level 5 (Year 2), with formal module selection taking place at the end of Level 5.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically analyse and evaluate key concepts and theoretical approaches within Sociology and the knowledge and their use in a wide range of different contexts, including Media and Communication
- Critically analyse and evaluate the changing role of culture in social life and the diverse ways in which it may be articulated with other social, economic and political relationships in different societies such as for example, the UK, the USA, Japan and S.E. Asia
- Critically analyse and evaluate the different ways in which global social relationships, including global media and communication systems affect, and are affected by, local and global cultural differences and patterns of social inequality
- Critically analyse and evaluate changes in the ways in which patterns of social inequality and social diversity such as, ethnicity, gender and class, cut across and inter-relate with each other in different ways in different social situations
- Critically analyse and evaluate the ways in which concepts and perspectives from cultural, film and television studies can be used to analyse and evaluate different forms of cultural products
- Critically analyse and evaluate the ways in which different forms of media, particularly broadcasting and the press, operate in both national and global contexts
- Critically analyse and evaluate the ways in which different theoretical positions in Sociological theory tend to be associated with different methodological positions, research strategies, research methods and different forms of substantive concepts
- Critically analyse and evaluate the relation between evidence and theory in a wide range of different contexts

Skills:

- Appreciate current issues in social life and evaluate a range of different approaches to them
- Challenge received explanations of topics and controversies in social life
- Gather, retrieve and synthesise information from a number of different sources in order to understand the complexities of issues in social life
- Analyse and interpret critically different kinds of research evidence
- Analyse cultural products such as films, TV programmes, pop music and so on
- Demonstrate a capability for accurate exposition and critical analysis of research findings in a wide variety of different contexts
- Produce an accurate exposition and critical analysis of research findings in a wide variety of different contexts
- Demonstrate a basic and practical acquaintance with a range of research methods including quantitative and qualitative methods such as questionnaires, surveys, secondary analysis, such as, semiotics, discourse

analysis, interviews, participant observation, questionnaires, interviews and so on

- Undertake and present sociological research in a preliminary way
- Relate sociological knowledge to issues of social, public and civic policy, particularly in the policy areas of Media, Human Rights, the environment, the city and Europe

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate a habit of reflection and independent study, the capacity to identify and question your own assumptions, and appreciate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.
- Respect and acknowledge the work of others
- Acknowledge and value diversity of opinion and ideas

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Sociology.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The educational aims are achieved through a combination of lectures, interactive sessions, practical workshops and small group classes, supported by a personal tutorial system. Lectures are used to provide commentary and explanation of key content areas. Small group classes are used to develop understanding by inviting you to raise questions and participate in the debate and by providing guidance for further study. You are encouraged to undertake extensive reading and independent study in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject. For the third year project, you will receive supervision and the Sociology Dissertation module provides them with the opportunity to develop research methods and writing skills.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment is primarily in the form of coursework (assessed essays and assignments) unseen examinations and a final year project.

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, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. 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, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. 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, module specifications, 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:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

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 Part of your Programme in order to progress to the following Part.

Please insert a statement on how Parts will be weighted.

The Pass mark for each module is 40%. *Please insert a statement saying whether some or all modules require students to achieve a minimum 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 a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits of a Part at first or resit attempt, you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the module specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Part, and
 - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10 percentage points below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for the Part.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation towards the Award.

2. Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from

the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Part and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Part, but satisfy the requirements for the previous Part, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Part and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

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:

http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Bachelor's Degree with Honours:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	10
2	5	120	30
3	6	120	60

Class **% required**

I	70
II upper division	60
II lower division	50
III	40

Ordinary Degree:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	10
2	5	120	30
3	6	60	60

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	40

Diploma of Higher Education:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	35
2	5	120	65

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	40

Certificate of Higher Education:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	100

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	40

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Part 1

To pass Part 1 you must have acquired 120 Level 4 credits. To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, Part 1 requirements must have been satisfied.

Following successful completion of part one *or* the Certificate in Media, Communication and Sociology, you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with Media, Communication and Sociology and interpret these using appropriate methods. You will have some experience of using both qualitative and quantitative analysis for social research.

The first year is highly structured to provide you with a firm foundation in the core aspects of Media, Communication and Sociology. You study eight 15-credit core modules. You can also take a language module as a non-credit bearing module.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Academic and Professional Practice	SG1028	15	C	Y	4
Media History and Society	SG1005	15	C	Y	4
Contemporary Issues in Media and Communication	SG1006	15	C	Y	4
Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics	SG1021	15	C	Y	4
Producing Social Data	SG1022	15	C	Y	4
Classical Sociological Theory	SG1025	15	C	Y	4
Sociology in Action	SG1016	15	C	Y	4
Researching Society: Qualitative Methods	SG1027	15	C	Y	4

Part 2

To pass Part 2, you must have acquired 120 credits as specified in Part 2 of the Programme Scheme. To progress from Part 2 to Part 3, Part 2 requirements must have been satisfied.

When you have successfully completed of part two *or* the Diploma in Media, Communication and Sociology you will have built on your previous knowledge and experience. You will have developed skills of enquiry in media, communication and sociology and different approaches to problem-solving using quantitative methods. You will also be able to identify the limitations of your knowledge.

You must take two 15-credit core media and communication modules. You must choose either 15 or 30 credits of methods electives and 45 credits from sociology core elective modules (up to 75 credits if you like) and make up your remaining credits from elective modules, some of which will require pre-requisites.

Core modules cannot be compensated, as these are considered the essential building blocks for your degree. Elective modules provide you with options to study additional topics that interest you and can be compensated.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core / Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
New Media Challenges	SG2016	15	C	N	5
News and Society	SG2051	15	C	N	5
Creative Technologies Project	CC2013	15	E	Y	5
Social Action Project	SG2060	15	E	Y	5
Understanding Social Change	SG2021	15	CE (S)	Y	5
Contemporary Social Theory	SG2028	15	CE (S)	Y	5
Sociology of Race and Racism	SG2030	15	CE (S)	Y	5
Gender and Society	SG2031	15	CE (S)	Y	5
Quantitative Analysis of Social Research Data	SG2045	15	CE (M)	Y	5
Qualitative Analysis of Social Research Data	SG2056	15	CE (M)	Y	5
Work Placement	CC2007	15	E	Y	5
Web Creation and Digital Storytelling	EN2008	15	E	Y	5
Gender & Crime	SG2042	15	E	Y	5
Key Issues in Criminology	SG2043	15	E	Y	5
Visualising Society	SG2047	15	E	Y	5
Visual Journalism	JO2350	15	E	Y	5

Part 3

The third year provides greater flexibility for you to choose modules on the basis of your own strengths and interests. Furthermore modules are offered in the areas in which staff are expert and so will be driven by research interests. Modules in Year 3 involve advanced level study which presupposes and builds on knowledge acquired in the second year. Because these are taught in staff members' expertise these are subject to some variation year-on-year in line with available staff expertise.

Following successful completion of part three *or* the degree you will have a coherent, systematic and detailed knowledge of media, communication and sociology. You will be able to design and develop techniques of either quantitative or qualitative analysis appropriate to a range of topics within the discipline and draw on existing research and scholarship to demonstrate your role as a reflective practitioner.

You must take the 45 credit Sociology Project module and choose 30 credits from media and communication Core Electives (60 if you wish) and up to a further 45 credits from elective modules some of which will require pre-requisites.

Core modules cannot be compensated, as these are considered the essential building blocks for your degree. Elective modules provide you with options to study additional

topics that interest you and can be compensated. Core Elective modules focus on core issues within your degree programme, but allow you some choice about which of these issues to focus on. These modules can be compensated.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core / Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Sociology Project	SG3068	45	C	N	6
Global Media and Sport	SG3057	15	CE	Y	6
Celebrity and Society	SG3070	15	CE	Y	6
Political Communication	SG3075	15	CE	Y	6
Digital Cultures	CC3008	15	E	Y	6
Global Migration Process	SG3041	15	E	Y	6
Multivariate Analysis	SG3071	15	E	Y	6
Education, Skills and the Job Market	SG3073	15	E	Y	6
Poverty: What counts?	SG3074	15	E	Y	6
Crime, Culture and the City	SG3076	15	E	Y	6
Culture, Race, Difference	SG3077	15	E	Y	6
Interrogating Consumer Culture	SG3080	15	E	Y	6
Work and Workers	SG3062	15	E	Y	6
Criminal Justice in Crisis	SG3082	15	E	Y	6
Leisure, the Body and Deviance	SG3083	15	E	Y	6
Publishing in the Digital Age	EN3006	15	E	Y	6
Women and Writing	EN3010	15	E	Y	6

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

This course will enable you to develop the methodological expertise to analyse social data, as well as the analytical capability to identify and engage with social policy debates. You will develop specific skills relevant to a variety of professions, as well as critical thinking, which is prized in graduate employment.

The degree's affiliation with the Q-Step Centre ensures that graduates possess strong data literacy and quantitative methods skills, which are highly sought after in sectors as diverse as the government and local government, education, market research organisations, the not-for-profit sector, the financial sector and the news media. Alumni who have entered all of these fields and many others upon graduation.

As well as successfully pursuing postgraduate careers in media and related research fields, they pursue professional journalism training and careers in publishing, advertising, public relations, marketing and arts administration and policy.

There are also an increasing number of employment opportunities in the rapidly expanding new cultural and creative industries sector of the economy.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a period of study abroad whilst completing the programme. This is possible through the SASS Exchange Programme, a year of study at one of our European and/or international partner universities via a sandwich year, which is undertaken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BSc Media, Communication and Sociology with Study Abroad.

Participation in the SASS Exchange Programme is through an application process. You are encouraged to investigate the opportunities available to you within your Department in your first year at City.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SASS Exchanges Team (SASS.Exchanges@city.ac.uk).

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a one year work placement whilst completing the programme. This is possible through joining the Integrated Professional Training Programme, which is a sandwich year that is taken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BSc Media, Communication and Sociology with Integrated Professional Training.

In identifying relevant placement opportunities you should consider your long-term plans for employment; whether the work placement proposed is relevant to final year modules; whether it might provide experience on which a project could be based.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SASS Placements Team (SASS.Placements@city.ac.uk).

- 1) You should discuss your plans with the relevant Department Placement Officer at the earliest opportunity, preferably during the autumn term of their second year.
- 2) The work placement must extend over a minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 12 months (including holidays allowed by the employing body). The Placement should normally run between the 1st September and the 31st August in the following year.
- 3) The placement must be approved by City as providing suitable supervision and training.
- 4) Participant students are required to pay an administrative charge to cover the School's costs associated with the work placement. This will be in the form of a

reduced tuition fee for the placement year, which will cover continued enrolment with City and access to all of its facilities.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Entry Requirements

A-level grades ABB

A/AS-level: 320 UCAS tariff points

IB: 32

GCSE: grade C or equivalent in English language and Maths or Statistics

Alternative entry requirements

National Diploma DDM

International Baccalaureate 32 points

European Baccalaureate 75%

Scottish BBBB

Irish BBBB

French 12.5/20

German 2.2

Italian 85%

English Language Requirements

Grade C in GCSE (or International

GCSE) Cambridge ESOL CPE grade C

or above

APL/AP(E)L Requirements

AP(E)L: Students may apply for AP(E)L for a minimum of one module and a maximum of 120 credits (direct entry to Year 2). Students who wish to gain direct entry onto Year 2 of the degree must be able to demonstrate that they have passed Year 1 of an equivalent programme at another institution. The weighting of the degree classification will be 1:2 for Parts 2 and 3.

Version: 7.0

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For use from: 2020-21