

# CORE MODULES: BA (Hons) Psychosocial Studies

You must take modules worth 120 credits at each level of the course. Each module is worth a specified number of credits.

## Year one for full-time students (Level 4)

---

### Social and Developmental Psychology (15 credits)

- *This module will provide an introduction to key topics, theories and issues in social and developmental Psychology. It will enable students to understand how certain behaviours and experiences can be shaped by different social contexts (the family, peers, and society) and the impact of these on social and emotional development.*

### Issues in Child Development and Social Psychology (15 credits)

- *Students are introduced to quite a wide range of domains of research in developmental and social psychology, whilst avoiding having to consider any one topic in too much depth.*

### Sociology and the Self (15 credits)

- *This module will introduce students to the value of studying the development and experience of the self using sociological, psychoanalytical and psychological perspectives.*

### The Sociological Imagination (30 credits)

- *Sociology as a discipline focuses on the relations that connect individuals, groups and institutions within societies. This module introduces students to the sociological 'cast of mind' and explores the specific contribution of sociology to understanding the past, present and possible future of modern societies.*

### Political Ideologies and Social Controversies (15 credits)

- *This module offers a grounding in major political ideologies and key political concepts that will form the foundation for future study in practical and theoretical aspects of social science. The module introduces students to the study of various political ideologies and helps them develop appropriate knowledge and understanding of key features of political ideas and behaviour.*

### Making Sense of Gender (15 credits)

- *This module will encourage you to think about the significance of gender in shaping the social world. It does this through three interrelated themes: the examination of the various and contested meanings of gender; the exploration of specific aspects of social and organisational life within which gender is a central concern; and globalisation and gender politics.*

### Sociology of Globalisation (15 credits)

- *This module will introduce students to concepts of globalisation. Students will be asked to consider how their daily lives are affected by processes of globalisation and think critically about theoretical approaches to these processes.*

## Year two for full-time students (Level 5)

---

### Contemporary Social Psychology (15 credits)

- *Social psychology is the study of how people's thoughts, feelings and behaviours are influenced by the actual, imagined or implied presence of others. Building on classic social psychology theory and research, this module considers contemporary social psychology, including topics such as racism and the replication of classic social psychology experiments.*

## Personality, Intelligence and Psychometrics (15 credits)

- *This module is designed to enable students to develop an understanding of key contemporary approaches to the study and assessment of personality and intelligence. In this module we examine the assumptions behind theoretical approaches to personality and intelligence; the nature of personality and intelligence; the theory of psychometrics; the strengths, implications and limitations of different approaches; and the applications of theory.*

## Social Theory (15 credits)

- *This module will discuss the contribution of key social theories to our understanding of the distinguishing features of modern societies, individuals, changing social structures and processes of modernity and 'post-modernity'. Key themes will include: sociological perspectives and debates on the self and identity; sociological debates on social power and authority; changing sociological conceptions of social structures and social change.*

## Knowledge and Belief (15 credits)

- *The first part of the module looks at the argument that since the turn of the twentieth century different forms of knowledge have transformed not only the way in which we understand the social and natural worlds but the very nature of our lives. The second part of the module focuses upon two issues of debate in contemporary social and philosophical theory.*

## Social Divisions (30 credits)

- *In studying this module, you will consider the significance of social divisions in the contemporary world, taking the UK as its primary example. Focusing on the intersection of class with divisions of gender, ethnicity, and age, you will analyse continuity and change in patterns of social inequality and identity. You will explore the changing economic, political and cultural context in which social divisions are produced and lived, and consider the relationship between global processes and varied, localised patterns and experiences of inequality.*

## Research Design and Project Preparation (15 credits)

- *The aim of this module is to provide you with guidance, support and information, in order to prepare for the major project (or part thereof) in their final year. It will cover research methodologies including interviewing, focus groups, ethnography, and quantitative analysis, while weekly sessions will also include guidance on practical issues/skills such as: appropriate use of supervisor; selecting a suitable topic and researching research problems; literature surveys and reviews on chosen topics; how to develop research aims and objectives; research ethics and writing a research proposal.*

## Plus 15 credits of optional modules dependant on pathway

- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Body Politics (15 credits)**  
*Beginning with the body in history, you will examine the ways in which religious, scientific and cultural ideas and beliefs have shaped understandings of the body, as well as looking at sociological theorising of bodies and embodiment.*
- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Theories of Crime and Deviance (15 credits)**  
*Theories of Deviance will introduce you to the explanations of deviant and criminal behaviour throughout the twentieth century.*

## Final year for full-time students (Level 6)

---

### Undergraduate Major Project (30 credits)

- *The individual Major Project module allows students to engage in a substantial piece of individual research and/or product development work, focused on a topic relevant to their specific discipline.*

### Lifespan Development (15 credits)

- *This module aims to give students an overview of human development across the lifespan. The emphasis in this module is on development across the lifespan, including how childhood experiences affect later development.*

### **Clinical Psychology (15 credits)**

- *This module will enable students to have a critical awareness of the issues and debates involved in understanding deviant behaviour. It examines the psychological, social, cultural and biological influences and predispositions upon general definitions of abnormality and specific disorders.*

### **Atypical Development (15 credits)**

- *The course will introduce a variety of developmental disorders including Downs' Syndrome, dyslexia and autism. The module will include an analysis of biological, cognitive and social issues and discuss models of atypical development.*

### **Nature and Society (15 credits)**

- *This module explores the relationship between social and natural worlds and, in the process, considers sociological debates about how best to engage with biological knowledge.*

### **Plus 30 credits of optional modules dependant on pathway**

- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Investigative Psychology (15 credits)**  
*The psychological study of crime, criminals and victims within a legal framework is known as criminal or forensic psychology. This module examines the role that psychology and psychological perspectives can play in the criminal justice process.*
- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Sociology of Popular Culture (15 credits)**  
*This module looks at various contested definitions of 'popular culture', and considers the role it plays in contemporary lives.*
- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Feminist Theory and Practice (15 credits)**  
*This module offers you the opportunity to explore the development of feminist theory and practice from the early 20th century, with a particular focus on the period from the 1960s to the present.*
- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Sexuality and Social Control (15 credits)**  
*This module provides a critical exploration of the range of discursive practices which are deployed to explain sex and sexuality in Western culture.*
- **OPTIONAL MODULE: Race, Racism and Cultural Identity (15 credits)**  
*This module provides an in-depth exploration of the sociology of 'race', racism and ethnic divisions. It considers three related themes: the social origins and significance of racial and ethnic divisions; the (varied) causes, contexts and consequences of racism and antiracism; and the cultural consequences of migration.*