



## Sociology FAQs

### 1. What are the compulsory modules/classes I will be taking in first year?

Level 1 Sociology introduces students to a broad range of concepts and ideas. This programme is organised logically to commence with an understanding of human beings, in terms of their evolutionary origins, relationship with nature and other animals, as well as aspects of their thinking and how they develop a sense of self identity in relation to others. The first semester course also introduces students to an understanding of social interaction, while exploring a range of factors that influence the development of self-identity and community in a modern context, from consumerism, urbanisation and bureaucracy to an understanding of crime and deviance and some its causes. The second semester course takes these ideas forward to explore the larger scale aspects of society, addressing topics such as social stratification, politics, religion, media, education systems, globalization and so on. Overall, the first year programme provides our students with an interesting and engaging set of foundational building blocks, challenging common sense assumptions and imparting a scientific perspective on a range of important social phenomena and processes, while preparing them for the rest of their degree.

First Term: [SO1007 Introductory Sociology 1: Self, Identity and Society](#)

Second Term: [SO1509 Introductory Sociology 2: Systems of Power](#)

### 2. Can I take optional modules/classes? How many? Are there any restrictions to what I can take?

Given the openness and flexibility of the Scottish MA Degree, students take three other classes each semester beyond their compulsory modules. There are very few restrictions, provided the modules fit with the timetable of your compulsory modules. This can include languages, music, other sciences, etc. When choosing modules students should access the timetable checker tool that lets them check there are no clashes before selecting their modules.

It is also strongly advised, however, that you should continue with each selected subject across both semesters as far as possible. This allows you to gain prerequisites to carry on with subjects into Level 2, and maximum flexibility should you wish to pursue a joint honours option.

### 3. What will my timetable in first year look like? How much contact time will I have with lecturers?

Each of your modules will typically have around 2 x 1-hour lectures per week.

There will also be 1 hour long tutorial sessions for each module with a small group of students on the course.



#### **4. What are the typical first year class sizes like?**

In your compulsory classes, there will be around 250-300 students in your lecture class!

Your practical classes will be in smaller groups of around 12-15 students.

In your optional modules, class sizes will vary depending upon the modules you choose.

#### **5. Will there be any group work/group projects?**

In your different modules there are likely to be opportunities to participate in group work and group projects, as well as exercises that require you to work independently.

Group work is an important transferable skill, and so these exercises are designed to help you develop and use these skills effectively. As to other transferable skills, students are also provided with training in individual and group presentation skills, as well as formal research skills, as part of our focus on enhancing employability.

#### **6. Can I study abroad with this degree? Where can I go?**

Yes you can! The time spent abroad is usually for one semester or sometimes a full year either in your second year of study. Our degree programmes have agreements for placements in Europe, Canada and the USA.

#### **7. Are there any societies which would be good to join?**

Yes, we have the [AUSA Sociological Society](#)

The society organises a range of events throughout the year, including social events, film nights, interesting talks debates and so on.

#### **8. Should I be preparing for first year by reading anything specific? Do you have any suggestions?**

If you wanted to make a head start on your studies, then we would recommend Sociology by Fulcher and Scott (4th Edition).

#### **9. How are my modules/classes assessed?**

All our courses are assessed through a mixture of continuous assessment and exams.

There will also be some multiple choice exams in first and second year, then longer answers and essay-style exams will be used in third and fourth year.

Some of our courses have no exams, with all assessments being submitted during term time.