



Durham
University

Department of Sociology

Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

2026/2027

Sociology and Criminology

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

Department of Sociology is a multidisciplinary Social Science Department offering courses in sociology, criminology, and social research methods. We teach two major undergraduate degree programmes (Sociology and Criminology) and are the lead department for a joint honours Anthropology and Sociology programme. At Postgraduate Level, we also deliver a Masters in Research Methods which offers three specialisms in Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology. We also have a large body of research students supervised by world-leading researchers. However, international exchange opportunities relate to our undergraduate Sociology and Criminology programmes.

Sociology and Criminology are based at Mill Hill Lane, just outside the centre of Durham. Most of the lectures are taught in the Sociology building, with a small number taking place at other locations on the Durham University campus. The Department of Sociology located around a 20 minute walk from Durham's shops, bars, restaurants and cafes and a similar distance from the Cathedral and Palace Green.

A.1: Departmental Coordinator

Dr Will Coyles
Department of Sociology
32 Old Elvet, Durham
DH1 3HN
Email : sociology.studyabroad@durham.ac.uk

B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, typically consisting of six 'single' modules each year for three years. Some modules count as double modules so a particular year may be made up of only five modules, one of which is double-weighted. Within Level 3 of our undergraduate programmes, we have recently introduced a number of 10 credit modules allowing for more flexibility in module choices. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year, with most of the teaching taking place in the first two terms. However, 10 credit modules at level 3 are semesterised i.e., they are studied over one term. All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this means that at the end of each

academic year assessment/examinations will be considered for progression by a Board of Examiners, and that the final degree class is determined by the assessments/examinations taken in the second and third year.

Some of our modules require that others have been previously taken as a 'prerequisite'. If you wish to undertake a module with a prerequisite, you should consult the Exchange Coordinator about your suitability for this module.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the

Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The Department of Sociology offers undergraduate modules from its BA Sociology and BA Criminology to incoming exchange students. We expect incoming students, who are coming to study for a full teaching year, to take between 80 (minimum) and 120 (maximum) credits worth of modules, with the total number of credits required to be agreed in advance between the institutions as part of each learning agreement. To ensure that the modules are appropriate to your current stage of higher education we offer only second and third year modules.

Students undertake a mixture of assessment, normally a combination of exams and summative essays, with some extended essay-based projects. This can vary from module to module depending on the type of subject being assessed. Research Methods modules at Level 2, for example, include a statistics-based project. In addition to summative work (work which forms part of the final module mark) students are also set 'formative work' which does not form part of the final assessment mark for the module but gives students an opportunity to submit a piece of related work on which they will receive feedback.

Modules on our Undergraduate Sociology and Criminology programmes, open to incoming exchange students, adopt a range of teaching and learning methods. The typical format for a module is a lecture series combined with smaller fortnightly seminar groups which give students an opportunity to explore issues arising from lectures and reading in greater depth. You should be prepared to undertake significant independent study for which readings will be available through the library and through Blackboard Learn Ultra, our online learning environment. We recognise that this can be challenging for students working in a second language and teaching staff are glad to

comment on further reading choices. There is not, however, any specific additional support for visiting students.

We insist that student's study in the Department of Sociology on the basis of a departmental link. We will not accept students on the basis of an external link (to another Durham Department).

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules incoming exchange students can choose from. To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/> Please do contact the Exchange Coordinator, Dr Will Coyles (sociology.studyabroad@durham.ac.uk) or Learning and Teaching Administrator, Gwen Burns (sociology.ugadmin@durham.ac.uk). Either of us will be able to give you a more up to date view of which modules are available as not all modules will be running in any given year. **Please note that our first-year modules are not open to incoming exchange students.**

D1: Modules available to students coming on a departmental link

YEAR 2

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	Durham Credits	Available to one/two term students
SOCI2311	Crime, Power and Social Inequalities	20	N
SOCI2221	Policing and Police	20	N
SOCI2231	Contemporary Criminological Theory	20	N
SOCI2252	Research Methods in Action	40	N
SOCI2261	Modern and Contemporary Sociological Theory	20	N
SOCI2271	Sociology of Education	20	N

SOCI2301	Communities and Social Justice	20	N
SOCI2321	Sociology of Health and Medicine	20	N

YEAR 3

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	Durham Credits	Available to one/two term students
SOCI3567	Youth in Crisis: Young People, Crime and Justice	10	Y
SOCI3667	Sociology of Forensic Science & Criminal Investigation	10	Y
SOCI3697	Cyberculture and Cybercrime	10	Y
SOCI3687	Crime, Justice and the Sex Industry	10	Y
SOCI3707	Drugs and Society	10	Y
SOCI3747	Disability Studies, Crime and Victimisation	10	Y
SOCI3727	Digital Culture: Moral Panics and Conspiracy Thinking in Sociological Perspective(s)	10	Y
SOCI3577	Sociology of Mental Health and Illness	10	Y
SOCI3997	Gender, Health and Medicine	10	Y