Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MSc Social Research**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMSSOCRS_C
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy
7	**Exit Award(s)**	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 year full time, 2 years part time
9	**Mode of Study**	FT X PT X DL
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**

- Provides a rigorous training in a range of contemporary social research methods, including quantitative and qualitative methods
- Focuses on research design, addressing critical issues in social research

Distinctive features:

- Excellent foundation for doctoral social research.
- Interdisciplinary, theoretically informed and creative approach to research
- Part-time, evening, face-to-face study
- Taught by leading figures in the field

15	**Entry Criteria**

At least a second-class honours degree (2:2) in a relevant social science subject and/or relevant work or other (for example, voluntary) experience.

16	**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

- apply quantitative and qualitative methods to social research.
- demonstrate understanding of issues in designing social research, including ontological, epistemological and ethical issues.

On successful completion of this programme students will be expected to have

- obtained a good level of competence in applying qualitative and quantitative research methods.

| | • extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities.
• demonstrated the ability to conduct an independent research project.
• developed their ability to obtain and analyse information from a wide array of sources. |

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	The programme consists of lectures and seminars for taught modules, along with a dissertation. In the research methods modules, assessment is based on research projects, assignments or essays submitted during the year.

18	**Programme Description**
	This is an interdisciplinary social science training programme designed to prepare students for further research in the workplace or for MPhil/PhD study. The programme covers ontology, epistemology, as well as various quantitative and qualitative techniques. All students also carry out an independent dissertation, putting into practice the methods and theoretical concepts they have been taught. The programme provides a particularly vibrant environment for theoretically informed and socially engaged research.
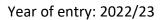
Students take six core modules (120 credits) and write a dissertation (60 credits). Full- time students take all taught modules throughout the academic year and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take three modules each year and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept of their second year.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full-Time programme – 1 year

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO263S7	Investigating the Social World	30	Core
7	SSPO019S7	Masterclass in Social Research	30	Core
7	SSPO239H7
SSPO240H7
SSPO241H7
SSPO245H7
SSPO242H7
SSPO243H7	**Four from** Introduction to Quantitative Social Research, Applied Social Data Analysis in R, Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research, Experiments in Social Research, Qualitative Social Research Methods or Qualitative Social Research Design	60	Core
7	SSPO018D7	Social Research Dissertation	60	Core

Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	SSPO263S7	Investigating the Social World	30	Core
7	SSPO239H7 SSPO240H7 SSPO241H7 SSPO245H7 SSPO242H7 SSPO243H7	**Two from** Introduction to Quantitative Social Research, Applied Social Data Analysis in R, Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research, Experiments in Social Research, Qualitative Social Research Methods or Qualitative Social Research Design	30	Core
Year 2				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	SSPO019S7	Masterclass in Social Research	30	Core
7	SSPO239H7 SSPO240H7 SSPO241H7 SSPO245H7 SSPO242H7 SSPO243H7	**Two from** Introduction to Quantitative Social Research, Applied Social Data Analysis in R, Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research, Experiments in Social Research, Qualitative Social Research Methods or Qualitative Social Research Design	30	Core
7	SSPO018D7	Social Research Dissertation	60	Core

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

[20]	**Programme Director**	Dr Chao-yo Cheng
[21]	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Autumn 2010
[22]	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 2010
[23]	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2010
[24]	**Date(s) updated/amended**	May 2022