PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA Sociology and Criminology** (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (4 years) / Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Sociology Criminology
UCAS code	L303, L304
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBASOCR_C (full-time, 3 years) UBASOCRM_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFSOCR_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFSOCRM_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	101307 100484
Start date of programme	Autumn 2023
Date of programme approval	February 2026
Date of last programme amendment approval	N/A
Valid for academic entry year	**2025-26**
Programme Director	Ian Patel
Date of last revision to document	23/03/2026

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 112 points (48 points for with Foundation Year)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

To explore and examine social life and the social relations that give shape to societies across the contemporary world.

To reach students who interested in contemporary society and in confronting and understanding the most challenging and important social and ethical questions of our time.

To investigate key criminology topics, methods and theories.

To examine policies, institutions and practices related to crime and its control.

To provide students with both core and option modules in which to learn about different ways of examining social life, social relations and social change.

To provide students with a wealth of analytical skills and encourage rigorous, critical thought that can be easily transferred to other settings after their degree.

To provide students with access to leading academics and at the same time encourage their independence of thought in confronting the social realities of the contemporary period.

Foundation year aims:
The purpose of the foundation year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides you with the opportunity to explore your interests and build on your study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, you can progress onto year one of the FT or PT programmes. The curriculum for the 'with foundation year' programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme and if you successfully complete the degree programme 'with foundation year' you are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time - 3 years					
Year 1					
4	SSPA161S4	Key Concepts: Global Foundations in Sociology	30	Compulsory	T1
4	SSPA162S4	Global Societies	30	Compulsory	T2
4	LALA146S4	Understanding Crime	30	Compulsory	T1
4		College-wide option	30	30	T3

Year 2					
5	SSPA163S5	The Self, Society and the State	30	Compulsory	T2
5	LACN030S5	What is Justice?	30	Compulsory	T1-3
5	SC05020S5	Criminology and Social Theory (Level 5)	30	Compulsory	T1
5	LACN031S5	Criminology Research Methods	30	Compulsory	T2
Year 3					
6	ARAR010S6 OR SC05009S6	Industry Placement / Career Development Report OR Dissertation	30	Compulsory	T1-3
6		Level 6 option from Sociology	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Two Level 6 options from Sociology or Criminology (2 x 30 credits)	60	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time - 4 years					
Year 1					
4	SSPA161S4	Key Concepts: Global Foundations in Sociology	30	Compulsory	T1
4	LALA146S4	Understanding Crime	30	Compulsory	Autumn
4		College level 4 option	30	Optional	Various
Year 2					
5	SSPA163S5	The Self, Society and the State	30	Compulsory	T1
4	SSPA162S4	Global Societies	30	Compulsory	T2
5	LACN030S5	What is Justice?	30	Compulsory	1-3
Year 3					
5	SC05020S5	Criminology and Social Theory (Level 5)	30	Compulsory	T1
5	LACN031S5	Criminology Research Methods	30	Compulsory	T2
6		Level 6 option from criminology	30	optional	T3
Year 4					
6	ARAR010S6 OR SC05009S6	Industry Placement / Career Development Report OR Dissertation	30	Compulsory	T1-3
6		Two level 6 option from Sociology or criminology (2 x 30 credits)	60	Optional	T1, 2.3
Full-time with Foundation Year - 4 years					
Foundation Year (Year 0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	Autumn
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	Autumn
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	Spring
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Option	Spring

4		OR Level 4 language module			T1-3
Year 1-3 as full-time route					
Part-time with Foundation Year - 6 years					
Foundation Year 0A					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	Autumn
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	Spring
Foundation Year 0B					
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	Autumn
3 4	SC04048S3	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective OR Level Language module	30	Option	Spring
Years 1-4 as part-time route					
Indicative level 6 options					
6	SC05017S6	Drugs, Crime and Society	30	Option	TBC
6	SC05018S6	Gender, Crime and Violence	30	Option	TBC
6	SC05019S6	Imprisonment and Justice	30	Option	TBC

Note: not all options are available every year, and terms shown may vary.

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the

modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

These include short, formative (non-assessed) written exercises and assessed essays. The expected complexity of essays increases as you progress through your studies. In your final year you will complete a dissertation, a longer essay of your own design.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

By the end of the foundation year, you will be able to:

1. Articulate at a foundational level key concepts in some of the disciplines offered in Social Sciences, History and Philosophy.
2. Undertake academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines
3. Understand other key learning skills required for university-level study and know of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary societies in national contexts and in global and international contexts.

Understand social processes and their influence and impact on individuals, groups, societies, institutions and states.

Demonstrate knowledge of key criminology topics, methods and theories.

Identify the impact of social forces and structures that create and shape contemporary societies in the present moment and across time.

Identify the impact of policies, institutions and practices related to crime and its control.

Describe the theories and case-studies offered within sociology and criminology and their interrelationships.

Careers and further study

You will find sociology and criminology graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Politics and government
- Civil service
- Public policy
- Academia
- Journalism

Birkbeck's BA Sociology and criminology graduates will also complete with a set of valuable attributes, including

- The ability to work as part of a team

- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our

Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is available online.

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