

Part B - Doctoral Programme Profile

Sociology, Social Policy, Sociology and Social Policy, Criminology 2020/21

This Sociology, Social Policy, Sociology and Social Policy, Criminology Doctoral Programme Profile accompanies the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2019/20*, and details additional Faculty/programme-specific information.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time/part time
Duration in years	Maximum candidature is 48 months following standard progression for a FT student and 84 months following standard progression for a PT student.
Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	PhD
Name of award	PhD
Interim Exit awards	MPhil, (Level 7)
FHEQ level of final award	8
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
Programme Lead	Dr Charlie Walker
Date specification was written	08/12/2015
Date Programme was validated	
Date specification last updated	12/09/2019

All Doctoral Programme Profiles should be read alongside the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2019/20* and the University of Southampton's [Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy](#) and [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology welcomes applications from students who are interested in pursuing postgraduate research in these disciplines. We are interested in applications from students who wish to undertake both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research across the full range of methodological approaches in the areas of employment change, migration, social movements, welfare states and wellbeing, policing, cybercrime and other aspects of the social/computational interface, criminal psychology, criminal justice and penal policy, postsocialism and postcolonialism. We also welcome applications from students who wish to undertake research in areas that are directly associated with other staff research interests, details of which can be found on our [staff webpages](#).

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to provide you with:

- experience of, and the opportunity to gain expertise in, rigorous, leading edge research in a sociology, social policy or criminology-related discipline;
- broad knowledge of the contextual background of your research problem in the general field of sociology, social policy or criminology;
- a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations of your chosen discipline and area of research;
- training in generic and transferable research skills;
- a high quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive, research-led environment;

- communication and presentation skills through seminar presentations and production of a research proposal and thesis;
- the ability to interpret and critically evaluate research and scholarship in areas of sociology, social policy or criminology;
- the ability to conceptualise, design, implement and manage research for the generation of new knowledge, tools, applications or understanding at the forefront of sociology, social policy or criminology;
- the ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication;
- the capacity to present ideas, arguments and research findings effectively to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences
- the ability to contribute to research and development needs in the field of sociology, social policy or criminology.

Programme Structure

The following summary should be read in conjunction with the Faculty Postgraduate Research Handbook and the University Regulations as specified in the [Calendar](#).

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible always to predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are, however, all required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#). The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted accordingly.

Programme details

Year 1

By the end of three months you should have completed your Academic Needs Analysis and highlighted any modules or training that should be attended to enhance your studies, confirmed your full supervisory team and written an outline of the motivation for your research, together with a plan of work for year 1. It is expected that you will take a mixture of substantive and technical training courses throughout the year to develop the skills that you need for the whole PhD process.

Throughout the year you will be expected to develop knowledge in your chosen area of research through reading and developing a review of previous work in the area. You will also be developing your research questions and starting to conduct analyses, where appropriate. The relative timescales for these tasks will be discussed with your supervisors.

At the end of your first year there will be a review meeting conducted by at least one of your supervisors and an independent assessor. This is to ensure that the research is progressing well and on target, and provide an opportunity for issues to be raised about the programme or the supervisory arrangements.

Year 2

Training requirements for year two will be discussed in the review meeting conducted at the end of the first year and this training will be followed up throughout the year.

In this year you are expected to expand on the work started in year 1 and to enter fully into the analysis of the research questions.

It is expected that you will submit a confirmation thesis. You must successfully meet the requirements of the **Confirmation of PhD Registration** (Second Progression Review) if you wish to submit for a PhD. The criteria you must meet in order to be confirmed to PhD status and the process that must be adhered to are outlined in the University's Code of Practice and the Faculty's PGR Student Handbook. Candidates unsuccessful at this review may be allowed to transfer to the MPhil degree programme.

If you meet the requirements for confirmation you will remain on the PhD programme, otherwise you may either request to be transferred to an MPhil, or be given further time to meet the requirements of the Confirmation Panel. Failure to meet the criteria for a successful progression review will lead to the termination of your PhD candidature.

Training requirements for year two will be discussed with your supervisory team and this training will be followed up throughout the year.

Year 3

Evidence of continued progress is provided by publications and presentations in suitable venues (e.g. departmental and faculty seminar series; national and international conferences). It is unlikely that further major training will be needed at this stage. The target date for submission of your thesis is normally at the end of year 3 as this may coincide with the end of any supporting studentships.

Year 4 (and higher for part time).

For students in full time registration, the final thesis (whether MPhil or PhD) must be submitted *at the latest* by the end of the 48th month (excluding periods of suspension) unless special dispensation is granted by the Graduate School (for candidates in part time registration the deadline for submission is 84 months). Extensions will only be granted rarely, in the case of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, and must be applied for in advance with written justification and support from the supervisory team.

Programme Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice
- the ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Current theoretical foundations underlying your discipline and PhD topic
- Contextual background and current research issues relevant to your PhD topic
- Methodological expertise relevant to your PhD topic

Learning and Teaching Methods

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition you will further develop via substantive and methodological module lectures, tutorials, seminars from our MSc programmes, as well as student-led study groups.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods will include oral presentations, written assignments, research proposal, progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration** and a thesis with *viva voce* as described in part A.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Interpret and critically evaluate research and scholarship in areas of sociology, social policy or criminology
- Conceptualise, design, implement and manage research for the generation of new knowledge, tools, applications or understanding at the forefront of sociology, social policy or criminology

- Analyse and create new knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication;
- Present ideas, arguments and research findings effectively to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences

Learning and Teaching Methods

Guided and independent research which can include lectures, seminars, and extended periods of self-study.

Assessment methods

Written assignments, research proposals, progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration**, theses, *viva voce* exams as described in Part A

Support for student learning

Learning and Supervision

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the main supervisor. Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances such as staff arrivals and departures.

In addition to University-wide learning support, students studying on the Sociology, Social Policy or Criminology Doctoral Programme will be able to access:

- An academic supervisory team who will provide advice and support throughout the programme and who are actively engaged in research closely related to your chosen area.
- Access to other staff in the Academic Unit
- Systems for the support of student learning within the Faculty.
- Dedicated office accommodation.
- A Research Training and Support Grant (usually £750 per annum for up to 3 years FT, £375 for up to 6 years PT).
- A computer for your exclusive use.

The Faculty also offer the following learning support:

- Induction programme for orientation, introduction of the programme and staff, and dissemination of materials.
- Postgraduate Student Handbook, including guidance on selection of technical modules.
- Access to all administrative and academic material on the Faculty, Programme and individual module web sites and Blackboard.
- An opportunity to meet with the Graduate School (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues you may be having during your studies.
- Infrastructure to support your research.
- Access to other staff of the Faculty.
- Access to Faculty cluster of computers with relevant specialist software.

Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

The current fees charged for the programme may be found on the [University Postgraduate Fees and Funding website](#).

Any fieldwork or related research costs are your responsibility; if you have external funding then this may include expenses, but the department will not cover expenses beyond the Research Training and Support Grant mentioned above.

Intermediate exit points (where applicable)

Admission

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelor's degree	1 st class or a good 2:1	In an appropriate Social Science discipline	

Master's degree	Merit	In a relevant subject	Equivalent experience and qualifications may be considered
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Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). This programme is not particularly designed for admission through RPL.

English Language Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English and who are not exempt from taking an English Language test, according to the University of Southampton's regulations, are required to obtain a minimum of 6.5 overall in the IELTS test, with no individual elements of the test scoring below 6 (or an equivalent secure English Language test from band C in the [University list of recognised tests](#)).

The University's Admissions policy on English Language requirements can be found [here](#).

Other Criteria

A research proposal in the research area of interest to the doctoral programme must be submitted with the University application.

All candidates whose first language is not English and who require a visa to study must comply with the minimum requirements for language proficiency set by UK Visas and Immigration for the issuance of the visa.

Candidates will not be able to register for the programme until they have received an offer letter and met and/or accepted the conditions laid out in it.

Career Opportunities

Students may have the opportunity to develop their careers through applying to take on some teaching or demonstrating duties. Students who undertake such duties must successfully complete [ITSPG1 and ITSPG2](#) or, for laboratory-based activities, an Introduction to Demonstrator Training. Module leaders will also be expected to provide additional training on the particular teaching required. The availability and precise nature of the teaching opportunity may vary from semester to semester. Some remuneration may be available.

Please contact your supervisor or the Head of Teaching Programmes to find out about latest opportunities to contribute to teaching in our Department.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the Handbook (or other appropriate guide).

Appendix 1:

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre

- Enabling Services offering assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
- a Researcher Development and Graduate Centre, which provides professional development and skills training
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the Code of Practice

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Stationery		You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks		Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Technical Equipment	Recording Equipment:	If you plan to conduct qualitative research and record interviews or focus groups, you will need to provide a digital recorder
IT	Computer Discs	If you need an external drive to store your data, you will need to provide one
Printing and Photocopying Costs		In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.
Conference expenses	Accommodation	Students can use the Research Training and Support Grant for costs related to participation in a relevant conference
	Travel	Students can use the Research Training and Support Grant for costs related to participation in a relevant conference