

## Programme Specification

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### Social Statistics (2017-18)

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.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of Award	Social Statistics
Interim Exit awards	Social Statistics (Research Methods)
	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education
	Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	N/A
Programme Code	4562
	4566
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	ESRC Postgraduate Training & Development Guidelines 2015
Programme Lead	Heini Vaisanen (hev1e15)

### Programme Overview

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#### Brief outline of the programme

This programme provides postgraduate instruction in the theory and methods of social statistics for students whose interests lie in the collection and analysis of quantitative social science data.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

#### Learning and teaching

Modules are taught using a variety of methods, which include lectures, seminars, group work and project work.

Lectures offer an overview of a topic, an explanation of difficult concepts or a discussion of key issues. Lectures presume a certain amount of additional reading, so it is often a good idea to read references before attending the corresponding lecture.

Seminars provide a forum for a closer examination of particular aspects of each module and are an important part of the learning process. Usually, it is only by discussing and questioning aspects of a subject that their full implications can be understood. You will prepare papers and lead discussions or debates, and so develop your written and presentational skills.

The increasing use of web-based, video-based and PowerPoint-based teaching methods demonstrates our commitment to the effective use of available equipment and resources.

#### Assessment

Each module will involve one or more sessions each week spread over the semester. For each module, you will be expected to write one or more essays (or equivalent), make presentations or contribute to seminar discussions.

Some modules are assessed by essays (or equivalent), others by exams and some by a mix of these methods. Exams are held at the end of each semester.

## Special Features of the programme

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N/A

**Please note:** As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

## Educational Aims of the Programme

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The aims of the programme are to:

- Train you in the theory and methods of social statistics and to expose you to the cutting edge of social statistical practice, thus equipping you with the necessary grounding both to understand and to contribute to future developments in the area.
- Train you for careers as applied statisticians, particularly in social science related areas such as government statistical services, social research and demography.

The Research Methods pathway also aims to:

- Provide you with the requisite skills for carrying out research in social science disciplines (e.g. demography) where statistical analysis methods are crucial.
- Provide you with broad training in social science methodology, focusing in particular on survey design and analysis, statistical modelling of complex data and demographic methods.

The Statistics pathway also aims to:

- Train you in statistical methodology, with an emphasis on underlying theory.
- Equip you with the skills to undertake research in social statistics methodology or to take up careers as professional social statisticians.
- Give you the skills for developing new methods for non-standard situations.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

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### Knowledge and Understanding

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On successful completion of this programme a student will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The data collection techniques used in the social sciences.
- A2. The statistical modelling techniques used in the social sciences, including generalised linear models.
- A3. Major statistical analysis software packages.
- A4. The principles of research design and strategy and the choice of research method.

- A5. The role of qualitative methods in social science research.
- A6. The role of inference in the scientific approach and the impact of measurement, collection and analysis strategies on the validity and generalisability of research outputs.
- A7. The use of official and other statistics on social issues.
- A8. The problems in the analysis of observational data, particularly causal inference, the impact of confounding factors and selection bias.
- A9. An individual research topic†.
- A10. *(For Research Methods only)* Modern methods for obtaining and analysing qualitative data.
- A11. *(For Research Methods only)* Demographic methods.
- A12. *(For Statistics only)* The statistical theory underpinning a wide variety of survey design and data collection methods.
- A13. *(For Statistics only)* The theory of multivariate statistics.

### Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (A1 to A8, A10, A11, A12 and A13), computer workshops (A2, A3, A10 and A13), tutorials (A1, A2, A4, A5, A7, A10, A11, A12 and A13), seminars (A1, A4, A5, A6, and A10), group work (A1 and A4) and supervised research (A9).

### Assessment Methods

Examinations (A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A8, A11, A12 and A13), coursework (A1 to A7, AR1 and A12) and dissertation (A9).

† This general skill is not developed fully for PGDip students.

## Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. Recognise standard and non-standard situations and select appropriate methods of design and analysis.
- B2. Apply methods for research design and data collection, including those based on the survey
- B3. Analyse large and complex quantitative data sets;
- B4. Interpret the results of analyses and explain them to non-statisticians;
- B5. *(For Research Methods only)* Use qualitative methodologies for social science research.
- B6. *(For Statistics only)* Make modifications to statistical methods where necessary.

### Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (B1 to B4, B5 and B6), computer workshops (B3, B4, B5 and B6), tutorials (B1, B2 and B4) and seminars (B1, B5 and B6).

### Assessment Methods

Examinations (B1, B2 and B6), coursework (B1 to B4, B5 and B6) and oral presentations (B4).

## Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. Present the results of your work in written reports.
- C2. Make an oral presentation of your work.
- C3. Identify and use library and bibliographic resources relevant to your work.
- C4. Manage an individual research project†.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Lectures (C1, C2 and C3), tutorials (C2), seminars (C2), workshops (C2) and supervised research (C4).

### **Assessment Methods**

Coursework (C1 and C3), oral presentations (C2) and dissertation (C1 to C4).

† This general skill is not developed fully for PGDip students.

## **Programme Structure**

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The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

### **Research Methods Pathway**

Part I

Typical programme content

The year is divided into two semesters, each of 12 teaching weeks. In the week before the first semester begins, you will attend a four-day induction course which will introduce you to the computing and library facilities available at Southampton.

The programme of study consists of a combination of compulsory and option modules and a dissertation to be completed over the summer months. Each module is worth 7.5, 10 or 20 CATS (3.75, 5 or 10 ECTS) points, and a total of 120 CATS are required to complete the taught component of the programme.

Programme details

The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each year of your programme, some are compulsory (i.e. enrolment is automatic) and others are options. Against each year, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are options. The option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between years. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

The programme is normally studied over one year full-time. The taught component of the programme consists of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study modules worth 60 ECTS/120

CATS. Following the taught component, students undertake a three-month period of supervised research for a Master's dissertation at a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS.

#### Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6108	Analysis of Hierarchical (Multilevel & Longitudinal) Data	5	Compulsory
DEMO6020	Demographic Methods I	5	Compulsory
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	5	Compulsory
STAT6099	Research Skills	5	Compulsory
RESM6005	Survey Design	5	Compulsory

#### Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6077	Social Science Data: Sources and Measurement	5	Core

#### Part I Optional

For the research methods pathway only: Students should take RESM6104 AND RESM6107

OR

STAT6083

These modules will become core once chosen.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6083	Generalised Linear Models	10	Optional/Core
RESM6104	Quantitative Methods I (Intensive)	5	Optional/Core
RESM6107	Quantitative Methods II A (Intensive)	5	Optional/Core
STAT6079	Computer Intensive Statistical Methods	5	Optional
GLHE6001	Critical Issues in Global Health: Concepts and Case Studies	5	Optional
DEMO6022	Demographic Methods 2	5	Optional
MATH6027	Design of Experiments	7.5	Optional
SOCI6045	Development and Migration	10	Optional
MATH6033	Epidemiological Methods	3.75	Optional
DEMO6027	Family Demography	5	Optional
GLHE6002	Methods and Analysis of Global Health Trends and Differentials	5	Optional
STAT6084	Multivariate Analysis	5	Optional
RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research	5	Optional
DEMO6026	Population and Reproductive Health	5	Optional
DEMO6023	Population, Poverty & Policy	5	Optional
RESM6006	Qualitative Methods 2	5	Optional
GERO6017	Researching Ageing Societies	10	Optional
MATH6152	Statistical Computing	5	Optional
MATH6068	Statistical Genetics	3.75	Optional
STAT6086	Survey Methods I	5	Optional
MATH6021	Survival Analysis	3.75	Optional
DEMO6021	Understanding Population Change	5	Optional

#### Part II

##### Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6022	Dissertation	30	Core

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

## Statistics Pathway

### Part I

#### Typical programme content

The year is divided into two semesters, each of 12 teaching weeks. In the week before the first semester begins, you will attend a four-day induction course which will introduce you to the computing and library facilities available at Southampton.

The programme of study consists of a combination of compulsory and option modules and a dissertation to be completed over the summer months. Each module is worth 7.5, 10 or 20 CATS (3.75, 5 or 10 ECTS) points, and a total of 120 CATS are required to complete the taught component of the programme.

#### Programme details

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The programme is normally studied over one year full-time. The taught component of the programme consists of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study 60 ECTS/120 CATS worth of modules. Following the taught component, students undertake a three-month period of supervised research for a Master's dissertation at a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS.

#### Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6108	Analysis of Hierarchical (Multilevel & Longitudinal) Data	5	Compulsory
STAT6084	Multivariate Analysis	5	Compulsory
STAT6099	Research Skills	5	Compulsory
STAT6077	Social Science Data: Sources and Measurement	5	Compulsory
MATH6153	Statistical Theory and Linear Models	10	Compulsory
RESM6005	Survey Design	5	Compulsory

#### Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6083	Generalised Linear Models	10	Core
STAT6086	Survey Methods I	5	Core

#### Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH6025	Bayesian Methods	3.75	Optional
STAT6079	Computer Intensive Statistical Methods	5	Optional
DEMO6022	Demographic Methods 2	5	Optional
DEMO6020	Demographic Methods I	5	Optional
MATH6027	Design of Experiments	7.5	Optional
MATH6033	Epidemiological Methods	3.75	Optional

RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research	5	Optional
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	5	Optional
MATH6152	Statistical Computing	5	Optional
MATH6068	Statistical Genetics	3.75	Optional
MATH6021	Survival Analysis	3.75	Optional

## Part II

### Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT6022	Dissertation	30	Core

## Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

## Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

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 Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 - 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 - 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- 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 and Employability services, 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.
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community (18.00-08.00).
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

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.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Module co-ordinators support. Module co-ordinators will be available at designated times during the week to discuss issues related to the particular modules you are studying at the time. This will be in addition to class contact time.
- Personal Academic Tutor (PAT). As soon as you register on this programme, you will be allocated a Personal Academic Tutor. S/he is a member of the academic team and will be available to discuss general academic issues related to the programme as well as offer advice and support on any personal issues which may affect your studies.
- Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (often in online format through Blackboard). The Handbook includes the aims and learning outcomes of the module, the methods of assessment, relevant background material to the module and a session-by-session breakdown of the module together with appropriate reading lists.
- Within the Faculty, administrative support is provided by your Student Office which deals with student records and related issues and with queries related to your specific degree programme.

## Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

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You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student surveys for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff-Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty.
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report.
- A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience).
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality handbook](#).

## Criteria for admission

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The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

### Postgraduate programmes



Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelors Degree	<p>Statistics Pathway: We welcome applications from students who have, or expect to have, an upper second-class honours degree or higher in any of the below subjects: Statistics, Quantitative Analysis, Mathematics, Economics (with emphasis on econometrics), Physical Sciences, Social Sciences/Geography (with a strong emphasis on quantitative methods). Full details of previous statistical training in the form of syllabuses, reading lists and, in particular, examination papers will be helpful in assessing your suitability for the programme.</p> <p>Research Methods Pathway: We welcome applications from students who have, or expect to have, an upper second-class honours degree or higher in any of the ssubjects below: Statistics, Quantitative Analysis, Research Methods, Mathematics, Economics, Geography (with evidence of basic knowledge of quantitative analysis), Population Studies (with evidence of basic knowledge of quantitative analysis), Sociology (with evidence of basic knowledge of quantitative analysis), Health Sciences (with evidence of basic knowledge of quantitative analysis), Other Social Sciences (evidence of basic knowledge of quantitative analysis).</p>		Your application will be considered on its merits, with motivation and postgraduate experience in a statistical environment potentially important factors.

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

## English Language Proficiency

The table below sets out the English proficiency requirements for this programme in terms of the IELTS test. We accept a range of other English proficiency tests including TOEFL and Cambridge Advanced/Proficiency. For full details of the recognised tests and the equivalent requirements in those tests please see [www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-language](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-language).

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

## Career Opportunities

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In Social Sciences, we strongly encourage you to think about and work towards career opportunities that are best suited to you. Our postgraduate programmes will enable you to develop and enhance transferable skills that are highly valued by employers such as critical thinking, research, report writing, problem solving and teamwork. We work closely with Careers and Employability Service ( [www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/) ) in order to provide tailor made employability workshops for our postgraduate students to prepare you for your future career and to give you information about further postgraduate study and funding opportunities. These workshops may include external speakers and networking opportunities.

We also recognise the value of placement experience both to enhance your skills and to give you an idea of what it is like to work in a particular sector or specific organisation. The University offers paid placement opportunities with a range of national and international employers to postgraduates on taught programmes through its Excel Southampton Placement programme ( <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/placements/> ). You may choose to arrange your own placement although you may find that this is unpaid. There are a wide range of events, workshops and talks that are organised by Career Destinations (see <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/students/events-workshops-fairs/calendar.page> ) as well as a jobs portal ( <http://www.student.careers.soton.ac.uk/> ) and an excellent careers resource centre in Building 37 and online that are all intended to assist you in your career planning.

## External Examiner(s) for the programme

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To be confirmed

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

**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 programme handbook.

## Appendix 1:

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 also have to pay for:

### Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	All specific pieces of software required as part of your programme are available on the University's public workstations. Statistical software can be downloaded via iSolutions for free: <a href="https://www.software.soton.ac.uk">https://www.software.soton.ac.uk</a>
Hardware	Public workstations loaded with all specific pieces of software that are required as part of your course are available in Building 58. Public workstations loaded with more generic software are available across the campus. You may, however, benefit from having your own PC or laptop and a USB stick.
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.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX85GT and FX85GT Plus or Casio FX570 (all models) these no longer need to carry the University logo. This means that they can be purchased from any retail outlet. You can also use a Casio FX83ES, GT and Plus which are the older approved models.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	Most of your coursework, such as essays and projects, are likely to be submitted on line. However, there may be some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. Information about generic University printing, including printing costs, can be found here: <a href="https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/">https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/</a>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at [www.calendar.soton.ac.uk](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk).