

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		October 2016			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
Sociology					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MA Culture, Society and Globalization			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
PG Diploma in Culture, Society and Globalization					
PG Certificate in Culture, Society and Globalization					
Admissions criteria					
The minimum requirement is a 2.1 undergraduate degree or international equivalent and for students whose native language is not English, an English-language IELTS proficiency score of 7 with at least 6 in writing. The undergraduate degree will normally be in a relevant social sciences or humanities discipline but candidates with other backgrounds and relevant experience may be admitted following an interview.					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MA Culture, Society and Globalization	1 FT 2 or 3 PT	October	YES	NO	NO
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
NA					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop students' knowledge and understanding of key sociological theories, concepts and approaches in the study of culture, society and globalization. • To provide students with social research skills to enable them to critically evaluate social research and to design research appropriate for the investigation of aspects of culture, society and globalization. • To enable develop students' knowledge and understanding of social media, and their roles, emergence and impacts in culture, society and globalization. 					

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

- To develop students' in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected areas of culture, society and globalization, including of social inequalities and practice.
- To allow students to study a range of options in order to allow them to pursue a personalised programme of in-depth study and personal educational development in selected areas of relevance to culture, society and globalization.

Additionally for the Masters:

- To allow students to conduct an academically rigorous in-depth independent study of an area of culture, society and globalization

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and understanding of:
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

1. The development of theories of globalization in relation to culture and society; historical perspectives, including imperialism and colonialism; key debates and concepts concerning the effects of globalization.
2. Approaches to conducting social research and social research management.
3. The emergence and impacts of social media in culture, society and globalization.

Additionally for the Diploma:

4. Selected areas of culture, society and globalization that allow for the deepening of knowledge of processes involved, with particular reference to social inequalities and practice.

Additionally for the Masters:

5. How to design, conduct and write up a sociologically rigorous independent study in culture, society and globalization.

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- The programme is designed to include lectures, seminars and tutorials as the main methods of enhancing knowledge and understanding (1-5)
- Lectures, seminars and tutorials are interactive and students are encouraged to discuss and evaluate arguments, critically engage with theory and apply ideas to examples from relevant literature and direct experience. (1-5).
- A dedicated social research methods and management module provides knowledge and understanding of how to undertake research for and design a research project (2).

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Knowledge and understanding is assessed primarily through course-work assignments (1-4). In most cases this consists of a substantial essay, allowing students to demonstrate wide and critical reading and show their knowledge and use of theories and concepts, and of selected topic areas (1,3 and 4). In others, it consists of modes such as a research proposal, allowing for the demonstration of knowledge of issues involved in conducting social research (2).
- A dissertation is used to assess students' knowledge and understanding of how to conduct an in-depth study in an area of culture, society and globalization, including showing knowledge of a wide range of relevant sociological literature (5).

B: (i) Skills – discipline related

Able to:

For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

1. Critically interpret, analyse and evaluate theories, concepts, methodologies and arguments in the sociological study of culture, society and globalization.
2. Apply theories and concepts to selected empirical areas and formulate sociological arguments.
3. Undertake relevant tasks of bibliographic searches, critical evaluation and analysis, selection of appropriate methods, and consideration of research practicalities to design effective social research.
4. Effectively analyse social data through one or more methodological approach (qualitative and/or quantitative).

Additionally for the Diploma:

Additionally for the Masters:

5. Undertake a sustained, rigorous, independent piece of sociological work involving extensive background research, distillation of information and critical evaluation in the field of culture, society and globalization.

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Lectures, seminars and tutorials encourage 1-4; with the Social Research Methods and Management module being especially dedicated to training in 3 and 4; and further available optional methods modules as well as the dissertation allowing for 3 and 4. All the elements of the programme and the various learning/teaching methods and strategies, including individual supervision, contribute to the high level task of 5.

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Course-work assignments allow for the assessment of 1-4. A research proposal in the Social Research Methods and Management module is especially relevant for 4.
- The dissertation is designed to assess 1-3, in some cases 4, and especially to assess 5

B: (ii) Skills – transferable

Able to:

For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

1. Effectively read, interpret, summarise and analyse complex debates.
2. Critically evaluate ongoing public debates and new examples of culture, society and globalization.
3. Effectively present ideas and information in written and oral form.
4. Formulate approaches to investigating 'real world' problems.
5. Use the internet, VLE and email effectively.
6. Manage time effectively.

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Lectures, seminars and tutorials allow for the development of skills 1-5 & 7; the use of ongoing new examples – including some formulated as part of an international partnership scheme with students elsewhere - encouraging the development of 2, 3 and 4; and preparing for classes also includes 6. Students are required to present work orally as part of seminars, tutorials and in the partnership scheme and virtual conference (3) and to work with others on specified seminar tasks and the virtual conference (5). The compulsory Social Research Methods and Management course provides an important induction in transferable skills, including in time-management (7).

<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i> 7. Undertake a sustained, rigorous, independent piece of work involving extensive background research, distillation of information and critical evaluation.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course-work assignments assess skills 1, 2, the written form of 3, in some cases 4, 5 and 6. • Portfolio tasks in some modules also assess these, together with 3 (oral). • The research proposal in Social Research and Management further allows for assessment of 4. • The dissertation allows for the assessment of 7.
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain experience of intellectual debate with others from a variety of backgrounds. 2. Gain experience of undertaking a structured programme of study and personal educational development. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Gain experience of undertaking a progressive structured programme of study and sustained personal educational development. <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Gain experience of conducting a Masters level piece of sustained academic work requiring individual initiative and the deployment of a wide range of knowledge and skills. 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive lectures, seminars and tutorials, the international partnership scheme and virtual conference, and participation in the departmental allotment, all encourage 1. • The overall programme encourages 2 and 3. • The dissertation encourages 4. <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All assessments are of products from undertaking the structured programme of study (2 and 3) and of participating in the intellectual debate (1) that is a key element of learning on the programme . • The dissertation assesses 4.
<p>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)</p>	
<p>There is no QAA subject-specific benchmark statement for Sociology at MA (Level 7) level but the undergraduate benchmark statement has been consulted and the programme designed meets all of the subject specific benchmarks. The programme has been designed to build upon and exceed these by meeting the aims, objectives and learning outcomes specified for Masters degrees in the QAA ‘Framework for Higher Education Qualifications’ (as described in detail in the New Programme proforma). All Programme modules are designed to develop Level 7 knowledge and/or skills, going beyond those of Level 6.</p>	

University award regulations

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's Yorshare site.

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's Yorshare site.

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
<i>Plagiarism Awareness Module</i> (by end of Week 6; compulsory; core - 0 credits)			
Culture, Society and Globalization 1: Theories and development (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Culture, Society and Globalization 2: Inequalities and practice (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Dissertation (60 credits)	
Social Research Methods and Management (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected a list of possible modules in other departments.		
Understanding Social Media (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected a list of		

	possible modules in other departments.	
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Masters 2 yr PT

Year 1			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
<i>Plagiarism Awareness Module</i> (by end of Week 6; compulsory; core - 0 credits)			
Culture, Society and Globalization 1: Theories and development (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Culture, Society and Globalization 2: Inequalities and practice (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Dissertation (60 credits) – students will undertake the dissertation workshops and initial supervisor meetings in the summer term of year 1 and will continue their dissertation under supervision in accordance with their own workloads through year 2.	
Social Research Methods and Management (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (20 credits) – this may be taken in Yr 2 if this works best for student's own workload: Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected a list of possible modules in other departments.		
Year 2			
Understanding Social Media (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; An approved elective module selected a list of possible modules in other departments.		

Masters 3 year PT

Year 1			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
<i>Plagiarism Awareness Module</i> (by end of Week 6; compulsory; core - 0 credits)			
Culture, Society and Globalization 1: Theories and development (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Culture, Society and Globalization 2: Inequalities and practice (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Dissertation preparation workshop (this may be taken in year 2 if this suits the student workload better)	
Year 2			
Social Research Methods and Management (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected a list of	Dissertation workshop and supervisor meetings	

	possible modules in other departments.	
Year 3		
Understanding Social Media (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected a list of possible modules in other departments.	Complete dissertation (60 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma (if applicable)

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<i>Plagiarism Awareness Module</i> (by end of Week 6; compulsory; core - 0 credits)		
Culture, Society and Globalization 1: Theories and development (Compulsory: 20 credits)	Culture, Society and Globalization 2: Inequalities and practice (Compulsory: 20 credits)	
Social Research Methods and Management (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected from a list of possible modules in other departments.	
Understanding Social Media (Compulsory: 20 credits)	One of the following (all 20 credits): Metrics and Society; Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology; an approved elective module selected a list of possible modules in other departments.	

Postgraduate Certificate

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<i>Plagiarism Awareness Module</i> (by end of Week 6; compulsory; core - 0 credits)		
Culture, Society and Globalization 1: Theories and development (Compulsory: 20 credits)		
Social Research Methods and Management (Compulsory: 20 credits)		

Understanding Social Media (Compulsory: 20 credits)		

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
<i>Online plagiarism awareness tutorial</i> – submitted by the end of week 6 in Term 1	Assessment for modules taught in the Autumn Term are submitted Week 2 of Spring Term	Assessment for modules taught in the Spring Term are submitted week 1 of Summer Term	<i>Research Dissertation</i> - assessment to be submitted by mid-September approx.	
		Reassessments for modules taught in the Autumn Term are submitted weeks 5 - 8 summer term (after the progression board)		
		Reassessments for modules taught in the Spring Term are submitted weeks 5 - 8 summer term (after progression board)		
		MA Progression Board: Week 5 of Summer Term	Resubmission board: Week 1 of Summer Vacation	
				MA Final Exam Board: Week 7 of Autumn Term after course has finished.

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module? ⁵
Culture, Society and Globalization 1: Theories and Developments	SOC000 18M	7	20			SpT week 2, coursework	No
Culture, Society and Globalization 2: Inequalities and Practices	SOC000 19M	7	20			SuT week 1, coursework	No
Understanding Social Media	SOC000 03M	7	20			SpT week 2, coursework	No
Social Research Methods and Management	SOC000 12M	7	20			SpT week 2, coursework	No
Dissertation in Culture, Society and Globalization	SOC000 20M	7	60			SuVac, mid-September, dissertation	Yes

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Metrics and Society	SOC00022M	7	20			SuT week 1, coursework	No
Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology	SOC00013M	7	20			SuT week 1, coursework	No
Elective	Various	7	20			SuT week 1, coursework	No

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	28 August 2016
Departmental web page:	www.york.ac.uk/sociology
Please note	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	