UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS
(for PGT programmes that will run under the new modular scheme)

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 Social Research Methods	Level 7 (Masters)
Award(s) available *only* as interim awards	
Postgraduate Certificate	
Postgraduate Diploma	
Admissions criteria	
IELTS 7.0 with at least 6.0 in writing; A good undergraduate degree in the social sciences or humanities; good academic references; a demonstrable interest in social research. The course leader may seek additional information from the student before extending an offer to study for MA Social Research Methods	

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 Social Research Methods	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time	From October 2011, then annually	All face-to-face, campus-based.		

Language of study	English

Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)
N/A

Educational aims of the programme(s)

For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

- To provide students with practical experience of the range of quantitative and qualitative research methods which are necessary for doctoral research in the social sciences, and which meet the requirements of vocationally oriented social research in industry, national and local government, and public services.

- To introduce students to the underlying epistemological, conceptual and ethical dimensions of the research process.

- To establish the importance of understanding social research methods, and the broader process of social research, in the context of key debates in contemporary sociology, and in relation to core research activities of the department.

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

n/a

Additionally for the Masters:

n/a

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:	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:	• Lectures, seminars, tutorials and guided independent learning are the primary teaching methods and are used to ensure all 5 numbered learning outcomes are met.
1. a sound understanding of the practical and conceptual aspects of the research process.	• The course team will also use the VLE as teaching tool.
2. the ability to plan, design and undertake independent research.	
3. the ability to make a critical evaluation of research literature, and from that identify key issues for further research.	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)
4. the ability to generate and operationalise specific research questions/hypotheses, and to identify an appropriate methodology.	• Essays, article reviews and presentations are used to assess the performance of students in relation to the stated learning outcomes.
5. awareness of the ethical context of the research process.	
Additionally for the Diploma:	
Additionally for the Masters:	

B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
Able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1. Critically consider the pros and cons of different methodological approaches 2. Identify the epistemological foundations that underlie specific social scientific research methodologies 3. Develop informed research strategies *Additionally for the Diploma:* *Additionally for the Masters:*	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Lectures, seminars, tutorials and guided independent learning are the primary teaching methods and are used to ensure all 5 numbered learning outcomes are met. • The course team will also use the VLE as teaching tool. Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Essays, article reviews and presentations are used to assess the performance of students in relation to the stated learning outcomes. •
B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
Able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1. Presentation skills 2. Distil and summarise research findings 3. Literature review skills 4. Critical reading skills 5. Teamwork skills *Additionally for the Diploma:* *Additionally for the Masters:*	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Presentation skills (1) and teamwork skills (5) will be developed during seminars and presentations • Distil and summarise research findings (2) will be developed during seminars, tutorials and independent learning • Literature review skills (3) will be developed in lectures, seminars, tutorials and through independent learning. • Critical reading skills (4) will be developed in lectures, seminars, tutorials and through independent learning.

	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)
	- The ability to distil and summarise research findings (2) will be formally assessed in those modules that contain an article or book review assessment. - Literature review skills (3) are essential for all forms of module assessment: essay, article and book reviews and presentations. - Critical reading skills (4) are essential for all forms of module assessment: essay, article and book reviews and presentations.

C: Experience and other attributes	
Able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1. Carry out an informed and rigorous piece of social research *Additionally for the Diploma:* *Additionally for the Masters:*	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): This MA Social Research Methods culminates with a research dissertation. All students are required to complete a piece of original social research. All students will be supervised by an expert in their chosen study area. Teaching methods used include: seminars, tutorials and independent learning.
	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) This skill (1) is assessed in the dissertation module.

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)

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 in the Department Virtual Office on Yorkshare.

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 in the Department Virtual Office on Yorkshare.

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
University Online Plagiarism Module (core – 0 credits) By Week 6.			
Social Research Methods & Management (Core - 20 credits)	*Advanced Methods in Social Research* Core - 20 credits)	*Research Dissertation* (completed during second half of the year) (core 60 credits)	
Qualitative Methods (Core - 20 credits)	*Metrics and Society* (Core - 20 credits)		
Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis	*Themes and Issues in Contemporary*		

(Core - 20 credits)	*Sociology* (core – 20credits)		

Part Time Study

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
Year One	• *Plagiarism Awareness Module* (by end of Week 6)		
	• *Social Research Methods & Management* (20 credits)	• *Metrics and Society* (20 credits) • *Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology* (20 credits)	
Year Two	• *Qualitative Methods* (20 credits) can be taken in Year 1 • *Quantitative Methods & Data Analysis* (20 Credits)	• *Advanced Research Methods* (20 credits)	• *Research Dissertation* (60 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma (if applicable)

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
University Online Plagiarism Module (core – 0 credits) By end of Week 6.		
Social Research Methods & Management (Core - 20 credits)	*Advanced Methods in Social Research* Core - 20 credits)	
Qualitative Methods (Core - 20 credits)	*Metrics and Society* (Core - 20 credits)	
Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis (Core - 20 credits)	*Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology* (core – 20credits)	

Postgraduate Certificate

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
University Online Plagiarism Module (core – 0 credits) By end of Week 6.		

Social Research Methods & Management (Core - 20 credits)		
Qualitative Methods (Core - 20 credits)		
Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis (Core - 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
Online plagiarism awareness tutorial – submitted by the end of week 6 in Term 1	*1.Social Research Methods & Management,* 2. *Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis,* 3. *Qualitative Methods:* assessment to be submitted by the start of week 2.	*1.Advanced Methods in Social Research,* 2. *Metrics and Society* 3.*Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology* assessment to be submitted by the start of week 1.	*Research Dissertation* - assessment to be submitted by mid-September approx.	
		Reassessments for modules taught in the Autumn and Spring Term are submitted weeks 5-8 (after the progression board)		
		PGT Progression Board convenes in Week 5	PGT Resit Progression Board convenes Week 1 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]
Social Research Methods & Management	SOC00012M	7	20	n/a	n/a	SpT, week2 – open assessment	no
Qualitative Methods	SOC00007M	7	20	n/a	n/a	SpT, week2 – open assessment	no
Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis	SOC00006M	7	20	n/a	n/a	SpT, week2 – open assessment	no
Advanced Methods in Social Research	SOC00011M	7	20	n/a	n/a	SuT, week1 – open assessment	no
Metrics and Society	SOC00022M	7	20	n/a	n/a	SuT, week1 – open assessment	no

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[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.

Themes and Issues in Contemporary Sociology	SOC00001M	7	20	n/a	n/a	SuT, week1	no
Research Dissertation	SOC00009M	7	60	n/a	n/a	SuVac, mid-September, dissertation	yes

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
n/a							

Transfers out of or into the programme
Students may leave the programme with a Postgraduate Certificate if they have accumulated at least 60 credits. These credits can be accumulated in either the taught or self-study elements of the programme. Students may leave the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma if they have accumulated at least 120 credits. These credits can be accumulated in either the taught or self-study elements of the programme.

Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	**Date approved**

Quality and Standards
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. Quality assurance and enhancement processes include: • 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. More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/ Departmental Statements on Audit and Review Procedures are available at: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/deptstatements/index.htm

Date on which this programme information was updated:	31 August 2016
Departmental web page:	http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/

Please note

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.

Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.

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.