SOCIOLOGY



ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Undergraduate Studies

Welcome



The new Sociology BA hons degree within the Department of Geography and Sociology offers a varied sociology degree with excellent opportunities to develop specialist interests. Within one of the worlds' leading centres for research and teaching, we are very proud of our interdisciplinary research and teaching profile and work hard to provide a supportive learning community.

This is a welcoming place, where you will both feel at home and be inspired by great teaching by some of the leading lights in UK sociology. We look forward to meeting you at one of our Open Days and we hope that you'll apply to join us here.

Professor Simon Blockley
Head of Department



33rd
out of 130 UK universities
(The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2027)

Athena SWAN Silver Award
ECU GENDER CHARTER

Contact details

Admissions enquiries
ugadmissionsgeog@royalholloway.ac.uk
Department of Geography
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX, UK

Connect with us
@rhulsociology
royalholloway.ac.uk/sociology

Sociology at Royal Holloway

Study Sociology at Royal Holloway and discover how to gather and analyse evidence about how societies function, how people and institutions interact, and how social change shapes the world around us. By developing a sociological imagination, you will learn to see the world as more complex, contested, and historically contingent than it first appears.

You will engage with contemporary debates around culture, knowledge, gender, violence, religion, sexuality, inequality, health, race, ethnicity, migration, and digital technology through modules taught by leading researchers in these fields.

Our staff are as passionate about teaching as they are about making a difference in the world at large through innovative research, consultancy and collaborative projects.

We offer:

- Inspiring degree programmes led by staff who are acknowledged as experts in their field.
- An exciting and varied programme where research informs teaching.
- A strong culture of pastoral and tutorial support, in a close knit, friendly community.
- An opportunity to apply to take a placement year, which can be spent working or carrying out voluntary work or a study abroad year.
- Our high achieving graduate students at Royal Holloway develop transferable skills that are attractive to a wide range of employers.



Choosing your degree (For details of current module options and our entry requirements, please see our website.)

Sociology is a fascinating theoretical and empirical subject that frames a wide range of research areas central to understanding social, cultural and political change in global societies. You will develop a range of flexible and transferable skills as well as a deeper understanding of:

- The key issues and challenges facing contemporary societies.
- Theoretical approaches to studying social change, gender, violence, race, health, religion, migration, sexuality, inequalities, digital .
- Qualitative and quantitative research analytical skills
- Communication skills and critical thinking skills.

Undergraduate study

Our single honours degree offers flexibility for students to build pathways they are interested in. The first year covers a board range of foundational courses in sociological theory, research and study skills. You can then develop your interests by choosing from a range of exciting courses options in year 2 and 3.

In year 3, students undertake a compulsory research dissertation with the support and supervision of an academic member of staff. In addition, students can choose from a range of modules reflecting the cutting edge research of our academics to further explore key relevant themes. Our flexible degree courses also enables you to apply to take a Place Year or a study year abroad.



DEGREES	UCAS code
SINGLE HONOURS	
BA Sociology	L701
JOINT HONOURS	
BA Sociology and Philosophy	LV35
BSc Criminology and Sociology	LM39
MINOR	
(LLB) Law with Sociology	ML23

Our single honours degrees are accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers).

Studying here

Supportive learning

Our whole department has a strong culture of support for students. Every student has a personal tutor who provides academic advice and pastoral care throughout the entire degree programme.

You will learn through a series of lectures, supported by tutorials and seminars. On average students have 10-15 hours of formal contact time per week, with about 25 hours per week for independent study, including essay and report writing, library research and seminar preparation. Assessment is by coursework such as essays and portfolios, which my involve report writing, zine making or oral presentations. There is a departmental library space to complement the study resources in the Davison library.

Inspiring teaching and research

Research sits at the heart of our teaching. You will be taught by researchers actively shaping debates in their fields, bringing current research, new ideas and real-world perspectives into the classroom. Our work also reaches beyond academic debate, contributing to policy, third-sector organisations, professional practice and wider public conversations. Students are encouraged to develop their own interests, questions and intellectual perspectives as they progress through their degree.



Top 25%

of all UK research in Research Excellence Framework

(THE, REF Research Excellence Framework 2021)

15th

in the UK for the overall quality of its research outputs

(Times Higher Education's (THE) analysis and rankings of the REF 2021 results (May 2022)

Student life

The department of Geography and Sociology is home to a dynamic community of undergraduate students and staff. We attract talented students from all over the world as well as from across the UK. Students are recruited as ambassadors for school visits, department Open Days and applicant visits. We also organise social events to help everyone make friends and settle into the department life.





Our community

The Sociology Research Group provides a lively intellectual home for research engaging with some of the most pressing questions facing contemporary societies, building on a remarkable sociological heritage. Sociology at Royal Holloway traces its roots through Bedford College, which established a Social Studies course in 1918 and, from 1925, contributed to the University of London's BA in Sociology, at a time when sociology was still establishing itself as a university discipline in Britain. Over subsequent decades, Bedford and later Royal Holloway became home to influential sociologists including Barbara Wootton, Bernice Martin, George Brown, Margot Jefferys, Mike Bury and Jon Gabe.

Your future career

A sociology degree opens a number of employment opportunities and sociology graduates are highly sought-after by a wide range of employers. Choose to go into any of these careers.

You will gain highly transferable skills you can apply to any career. These skills include:

- Research and analytical skills using specialist computing applications.
- Critical thinking skills and the ability to make arguments.
- Written and oral communication skills to express ideas to wide range of audiences.
- Team working, self-management skills.
- RHUL careers service also offer one to one CV support, applications and job support.



Business management

Education

Social and criminal justice

HR

Social research

NGO sector

Market research

Local and central government

Law

Welfare

Health and social care

Journalism and media

This brochure was produced in November 2026 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at **Royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays**

Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX
+44 (0)1784 434455
royalholloway.ac.uk

royalholloway.ac.uk/sociology

10369 11/26