**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| **Award** | **Programme Title** | **Duration** | **Mode** **of** **study** |
| MSc | Sociological Research | 1 year | Full time |
|  |  | 24 months | Part time |
| MA | Sociology | 1 year | Full time |
|  |  | 24 months | Part time |
| PgDiploma | Sociology | 9 months | Full time |
|  |  | 18 months | Part time |

All programmes draw from a common pool of course units. Candidates for the MSc Sociological Research are required to undertake more extensive research training than students on the MA or PgDiploma Sociology because the former is ESRC-recognised; however, all research training units are available to students on the MA and PgDiploma in Sociology.

Candidates for the PgDiploma in Sociology do not complete the dissertation. Otherwise the aims and outcomes of the PgDiploma are identical to those of the MA Sociology. Students admitted to the PgDiploma may be upgraded to the MA subject to satisfactory performance on the taught element of the programme.

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| School | Social Sciences |
| Faculty | Humanities |
| Awarding Institution | University of Manchester |
| Programme Accreditation | N/A |
| **Relevant QAA benchmark(s)** | N/A |
|  | Postgraduate Taught degrees at the University of Manchester are based on the [National Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/FHEQ08.pdf) (FHEQ). |

**2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMMES**

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| **01.** | To provide advanced study of and practical experience in the design, conduct and evaluation of sociological research and sociologically-informed applied research. |
| **02.** | To provide advanced and critical knowledge of the nature and purpose of contemporary social theory and the opportunity to engage critically with literature, debates and cutting-edge developments in theoretical, methodological and substantive areas of Sociology. |
| **03.** | To offer students the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in (a) collecting, manipulating and analysing sociological research data and (b) the sociological interpretation of research results. |
| **04.** | To equip students with transferable employment-related skills, and the ability to apply the insights of this discipline to careers outside academic life. |
| **05**. To make students aware of the diversity of learning resources and opportunities that are available in the School, Faculty, University, and elsewhere to facilitate their ability to learn independently, including the opportunity to learn from each others’ diverse backgrounds and experiences and to draw on the research expertise of members of staff. | |
|  | **Additional aims for the MA/MSc programme** |
| **07.** | To give students in-depth knowledge of a specialist topic within Sociology through undertaking a substantial piece of independent research under the supervision of a research-active member of the Sociology DA. |
| **08.** | To produce sociologically insightful and technically-skilled social researchers for employment in the public, private and voluntary sectors (academia, government disciplines and agencies, local authorities, health trusts, market research and consultancy companies). |
| **09.** To deepen students’ knowledge of research methods in order to maximize their preparation for a subsequent doctoral programme (especially for MSc Sociological research | |

**3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMMES**

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| **A. Knowledge & Understanding**  Critical knowledge and understanding of: | |
| **A1.** | Key stages in research design, including: the main sociological research methods and their application; ethical issues; analysis techniques; alternative solutions to research design problems and challenges so students can systematically select the most appropriate design for any social research question and rationally justify their selection. |
| **A2.** | Methodological issues and perspectives through examining an extensive range of research using qualitative and quantitative methods and primary and secondary data. |
| **A3.** | Key theoretical frameworks in Sociology and their application to explaining social phenomenon |
| **A4.** | Specialist knowledge in a variety of technical and/or substantive areas, depending on optional units and the completion of a dissertation |
| **A5.** | Current issues and developments including methodological, theoretical and substantive sociological aspects |
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|  | Outcomes 1-2 are delivered through a set of compulsory research methods units, also some optional units. Outcomes 1- 2 are developed more fully at MSc/MA than Diploma level because students complete a dissertation. Outcome 2 is the subject of a core course for students on the MSc programme.  Outcome 3 is delivered through a core course on social theory and through some optional units; it is developed further at MSc/MA level through the completion of a dissertation.  Outcomes 4 and 5 are more developed at MSc/MA than Diploma level because students complete a dissertation under the supervision of research-active members of staff.  Outcome 5 is met by ensuring that research active members of staff teach postgraduate units and supervise dissertations, and that all units are regularly updated in line with research developments. |

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| **Learning & Teaching Processes** |  | **Assessment** |
| Combination of lectures, interactive seminar learning, independent supervised study, and, depending on the course-units taken, workshops and practical exercises.  All outcomes are delivered through these teaching and learning processes, but are particularly developed through the independent supervised study that accompanies the preparation of a dissertation (and thus applies more to MSc/MA than Diploma students). |  | Formative:   * written and verbal feedback on non-assessed work in the units Research Design and Research Strategy and Project Management; * written and verbal feedback on assessed assignments in all courses. Outcomes A1 and A3 are the focus of core course assessments and all students receive detailed feedback on these skills. Outcome A2 is the focus of core course assessment for students on the MSc programme. * one-to-one meetings with course tutors during office hours throughout the course and after course marks are returned; * verbal and written peer review and comment. * self-evaluation encouraged through meetings with the dissertation supervisor. All students are allocated a dissertation supervisor with whom they can discus research plans; students on the MA/MSc are required to meet with their dissertation supervisor to discuss their research proposal and research ethics.   Summative: all outcomes for 15-credit coursework units are formally assessed through a 3,000-word assignment; students receive written feedback on these assignments. The format of core course assessments includes answering essay questions and presenting a research design and a literature review. The format of optional courses and the 5-credit QRM is varied, but essays are the principal mode of summative assessment.  MSc/MA students are also assessed through the dissertation. |
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| **B. Intellectual Skills**  Studentsshouldbe able to: | |
| **B1.** | Evaluate critically the appropriateness of different research designs and methodological strategies for addressing social issues from a sociological perspective. |
| **B2.** | Frame a sociological research question that can be addressed through a clear plan of research that is achievable within a specified period of time. |
| **B3.** | Evaluate critically sociological explanations and interpretations of research results. |
| **B4.** | Articulate a coherent, reasoned and evidenced argument for a particular point of view on complex social issues and problems within the discipline and present this argument in appropriate formats. |

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| **Learning & Teaching Processes** |  | **Assessment** |
| Lectures, interactive seminar learning and, depending on the particular units, practical exercises, student group work and presentations. These teaching and learning processes relate to all the outcomes under B.  The learning outcomes are developed further through the independent supervised study that accompanies the preparation of a dissertation (and thus applies more to MSc/MA than Diploma students). |  | Formative:   * written and verbal feedback on *non-assessed* work in Research Design and Research Strategy and Project Management and on assessment work for all other courses; * written and verbal feedback on *assessed* assignments in all courses. Outcome B2 is the focus of assessed work in the core research design course so all students receive detailed feedback on this skill. * one-to-one meetings with course tutors during office hours throughout the course and after course marks are returned; * peer feedback in class; this is a formal part of the core research methods courses and a feature of some optional units; * self-evaluation; * all students are allocated a dissertation supervisor with whom they can discuss outcomes B1-4; students on the MA/MSc are *required* to meet with their dissertation supervisor to discuss their research proposal and research ethics (outcomes B1-2).   Summative:   * B1-2 are assessed in the two core research design courses and in some other units that are core for students on the MSc programme and optional for students on the MA/PgDiploma. * Essays and other written assessed assignments provide summative feedback on B3 and B4. * For MSc/MA students only, the dissertation is an additional and very effective means of assessing all outcomes. |
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| **C. Practical Skills**  **Students should be able to:** | |
| **C1.** | Locate and use library and bibliographic resources, including those available on-line, and produce a literature review. |
| **C2.** | Design and carry out a small-scale research project that is informed by sociological perspectives and that uses social science research and analytic methods in an informed, critical and ethical manner. |
| **C3.** | Produce an advanced and substantial piece of individual written work to an agreed deadline, that presents the process and outcomes of the student’s original and independent research. |
|  | Outcome C2 is at an advanced level for students on the MSc programme because of the emphasis on research methods training delivered through an extensive suite of research methods units, but MA/PgDiploma students have the opportunity to achieve advanced training in these practical skills by taking additional research methods as optional units.  Outcomes 1-2 are more advanced for students on the MSc/MA because of the dissertation.  Outcome 3 is dependent on producing a dissertation and is therefore exclusive to students on the MA/MSc programmes. |

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| **Learning & Teaching Processes** |  | **Assessment** |
| Seminars, workshops, independent supervised learning, essay-writing, practical research exercises (depending on course units), dissertation preparation and writing (for MSc/MA students only). |  | Formative:   * written and verbal feedback on non-assessed work in the core research design courses; * written and verbal feedback on assessed assignments in all courses; outcomes C1-2 are the focus of assessed work in the core research design courses and some other methods courses (core for MSc and optional for MA/PgDiploma) so students receive detailed formative feedback on these skills; * one-to-one meetings with course tutors during office hours throughout the course and after course marks are returned; * peer feedback in class; this is a formal part of the core research methods courses and of some optional units; * personal academic development plans discussed with academic advisor; * all students are allocated a dissertation supervisor with whom they can discuss outcomes C1-3; students on the MA/MSc are *required* to meet with their dissertation supervisor to discuss their research proposal and research ethics (outcome C2).   Summative:   * Skills 1-2 are the focus of summative assessment in the core research design courses and some optional units. * the preparation of extended essays for most units, and for the MSc/MA students the preparation of a dissertation, allow assessment of all skills. |
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| **D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities**  **Students should be able to:** | |
| **D1.** | Communicate complex material in a clear, systematic and comprehensive way in various written and verbal formats including essays, literature reviews, research designs, verbal presentations. |
| **D2.** | Work effectively independently and in groups to produce agreed outcomes within specified time frames. |
| **D3.** | Independently gather, analyse and organise material from various sources, and critically evaluate how it might contribute to answering sociologically-relevant research questions. This is more developed for students on the MSc/MA than PgDiploma programmes because they complete a dissertation. |
| **D4.** | Manage their own careers, with an awareness of the range of potential career paths and opportunities for further and doctoral study, and with an ability to identify the resources necessary to advance further their knowledge, understanding and skills. |

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| **Learning & Teaching Processes** |  | **Assessment** |
| A range of processes are employed, depending on the precise mix of units. The most important include: small-group discussion in seminars, independent supervised learning, the preparation of written assignments (essays, reports etc), individual and group presentations, dissertation preparation and writing (for MSc/MA students only), practical research exercises, team work assignments in the core Research Design and Research Strategy and Project Management courses, peer feedback exercises in core Research Design courses and some optional units, personal academic development plans. |  | Formative:  Skills 1-3 are evaluated primarily through -   * written and verbal feedback on non-assessed and assessed assignments * personal academic development plans * one-to-one meetings with the dissertation supervisor * peer feedback.   Oral presentations and team work constitute non-assessed assignments in the core research design units; these assignments are the subject of written and verbal formative assessment by peers and the course tutor.  Skill 4 – is evaluated principally through discussion of PADP with academic advisors  Summative: Essays and practical exercises, and for MSc/MA students only the dissertation, allow assessment of skills 1-3. |
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**4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME(S)**

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| **Programme structure and credits** |

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| **Course units** | **Credits** |
| All students are required to take a combination of compulsory and optional units, a total of 120 taught credits.  MA/PgDiploma students have 60 credits of core courses and 60 credits of options; MSC Sociological Research students have 90 credits of compulsory courses and 30 credits of options.  MSc/MA students must also complete a 60 credit dissertation.  **Compulsory units**  **For all students:**  SOCY60401 Research Design  SOCY60412 Research Strategy and Project Management  SCY 60331 Social Theory and Cultural Identity  **For students on the MA/PgDiploma Sociology, the following unit is also compulsory:**  SOCY60342 Cultural Criticism: sources for a public sociology  **For students on the MSc Sociological research following unit are also compulsory:**  SOCY60432 Philosophical and Methodological Foundations of Social Research  SOCS70511 Introduction to Quantitative Methods  3 Qualitative Methods Workshops  **Options**  **For students following the general pathway**  All students are required to make up the remaining credits by choosing, in consultation with their academic advisor, from a series of units offered within the Sociology Discipline Area and up to b15 credits of certain approved units offered elsewhere in the Faculty of Humanities.  **Dissertation (for MSc/MA students only)** Additional non-assessed courses Health and Safety module | 15  15  15  15  15  15  15 (made up of 3 x 5-credit workshops)  These are 15 credits, though Qualitative Methods Workshops are composed of 3 x 5 credits workshops.  60  n/a |

**5. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT**

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| **Induction**  Induction takes place during the first week of term to welcome new students and to introduce them to key members of both academic and administrative staff. There is an introduction to library facilities (both within the School of Social Sciences and the John Rylands Library), to IT facilities and the PG Hub.  **Programme Handbooks**  All students are given a copy of the Programme Handbook shortly after arrival. This includes comprehensive information on all aspects of the programme, and has specific advice on the dissertation process and the support available. The Handbook is also available online.    **IT Skills**  All students are encouraged to take IT training courses appropriate to their extant level of competence and expected level of need in the course of the year.  **Tutorial support & pedagogy**  Each student is assigned to an academic advisor within the Sociology Discipline Area whom s/he will normally meet at least once each semester. All students are also assigned a dissertation supervisor. MSc/MA students are encouraged to meet with their supervisors on 4-6 occasions throughout the year (or over 2 years if study is part time)and they are *required* to meet with their supervisor on a minimum of two occasions to discuss their research proposal and ethics. All 15 credit units involve 20 hours of scheduled contact time; tutorials constitute up to 10 hours but the format varies depending on the type and size of the course. Students are invited to meet with course tutors one-to-one to discuss the preparation of assessed assignments and feedback on non-assessed and assessed work.  **Student Representation**  There is a Staff-Student Liaison Meeting once a semester. Students are also invited to send representatives to staff-student meetings at School and Faculty levels. Student feedback is also invited through the Student Forum in semester 2. |

**6. CURRICULUM MAP OF COURSE UNITS AGAINST INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME**

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| **Course Unit Title and Code** | | | **Knowledge & Understanding** | | | | | | | **Intellectual Skills** | | | | | **Practical Skills** | | | **Transferable Skills & Personal Qualities** | | | |
| Code | **Course Unit title** | **C/O** | **A1** | **A2** | **A3** | **A4** | **A5** | **A6** | **A7** | **B1** | **B2** | **B3** | **B4** | **B5** | **C1** | **C2** | **C3** | **D1** | **D2** | **D3** | **D4** |
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|  | IT Skills (non-assessed) | O |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | D |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Legend for cells**

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| **D = intended learning outcomes of the programme are taught or developed by students within this course unit** | **C = compulsory course unit** |
| **A = intended learning outcomes of the programme are assessed within this course unit** | **O = optional course unit** |

**7. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION**

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| Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions criteria of the University of Manchester and the School of Social Science in one of the following ways:  Upper Second Class honours (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject. If English is a second language, then a minimum level is required (IELTS at 7.0, or equivalent)  Further details are available on the Sociology Discipline Area and the School of Social Sciences websites at <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/sociology/study/sociology-courses/> |

**8. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS**

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| ***Assessment Rules and Classifications***   * Minimum pass mark for each course unit is 50% (PgDiploma is 40%)   Full details of assessment and compensation arrangements are here:  <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/student-intranet/postgraduate/postgraduate-taught/degree-regulations/>  ***Classification Criteria***  Full details of pass, merit and distinction levels are contained in the Programme Handbook |

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| **Date of original production:** | August 2004 |
| **Date of current version:** | August 2020 |