What does it mean to understand the world in which you live? What will your contribution be to this changing world? How do your own experiences and life chances compare to those of others?
Welcome to Sociology.

Humans are social animals. And Sociology - the study of humans in society - attempts to capture, perhaps more than any other discipline, the rich variety and complexity of human social life. Indeed, it is difficult to think of any area of social existence that a sociologist wouldn’t be interested in examining, from the most intimate of personal relationships to the worldwide circulation of ideas, beliefs, goods and people.

Sociologists are generally encouraged to cultivate a ‘sociological imagination’. This is the ability to see our own lives and the lives of those we study as intrinsically linked to wider social processes and structures. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the relationships we form, the pets we keep, the money we use, the consumables we buy, the languages we speak, the ambitions we pursue, and even the opinions we hold are all dependent on the particular historical and social context in which we find ourselves. This context is the wellspring of sociology.

With the study of social life at its heart, the scope of sociology is almost limitless. Its subject matter encompasses family life, education, crime, work, war, religion, capitalism, power, food, leisure, love, health, sleep, the body, the self, human-animal relations, art, tourism and the media, to name just a few. Sociology also has an abiding concern with the main markers of social difference in modern society - class, gender, ‘race’/ethnicity, age, sexuality and (dis)ability - and how these often intersect in shaping the life chances and experiences of individuals.

In light of its very broad focus - the social behaviour of humans - sociology appeals to students from a wide range of backgrounds. You may be familiar with the subject or have taken other subjects such as psychology, geography, media studies, law, English, history and philosophy. As a sociology student you are taught to think critically and to understand social processes and people. You also learn how to generate and analyse quantitative and qualitative data. The skills you acquire along the way are very appealing to employers, and sociologists end up in an increasingly diverse and interesting range of careers, including: local and national government, public relations, NGOs, sales and marketing, education, charities, recruitment, human resources, social work, counseling, law, TV production, publishing, urban planning, journalism and politics.
What if…
The interaction between people and their social world fascinates me?

Welcome to Sociology at Warwick
Why Study Sociology at Warwick?

You will be joining one of the country’s top sociology departments, with an international reputation and an international perspective. Our innovative curriculum is based on strong, dynamic and forward-looking research, and it offers a comprehensive and current foundation with a diverse range of specialist options.

Teaching and learning

**Ranking 23rd in the world** in the QS World University Rankings 2014/2015, we are internationally renowned for our research and teaching in sociology. We are also rated as one of the top UK departments, as confirmed by our consistently highly placing across the range of national leagues tables: rated 4th in the UK by the Guardian University Guide 2016; 5th by The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015; and 7th by the Complete University Guide 2016.

Our undergraduate teaching programme is designed by high-calibre academics whose research is published and discussed around the world. This means that our sociology courses are fresh, relevant and will introduce you to the latest thinking, underpinned by cutting-edge research.

We offer you a wide variety of classic and contemporary topic areas, refreshing our portfolio in line with student feedback and the latest developments in the subjects.

Your course will be interesting and well-taught, and we’ll make sure you get the feedback and resources you need to reach your potential. This is confirmed by the National Student Survey where 91% of our students said they were satisfied with the overall quality of their course; 94% said that staff are good at explaining things and 92% stated that they find the course to be intellectually stimulating. You’ll develop important transferable skills that are highly valued by employers, such as quantitative and qualitative research methods, critical analyses, advanced capabilities in oral and written communication, project management and team work.

You will be taught through a mixture of traditional and innovative methods, including undertaking your own research, which you will have the opportunity to publish in the student founded and led *Warwick Sociology Journal* or Warwick’s internationally refereed *Reinvention: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

Breadth of research

Our research areas are diverse and wide-ranging; giving you the option to try out a mix of subjects or to specialise in specific areas that interest you. By engaging with these areas beyond the classroom at various events throughout the year, you will widen your perspective and explore the diverse reach and applications of sociology.

Our department is structured around five vibrant research clusters:

- Theories and Methodologies
- Culture, Media and Creativity
- Body, Science, and Society
- Inequalities and Social Justice
- Politics, Community and Civic Engagement
The research clusters feed into the interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research centres, including: the Social Theory Centre; the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender; and the Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity.

Our clusters and centres organise activities on a wide range of research topics of global as well as national and local interest, including: public lectures; symposia; and seminars where you will be able to engage with nationally and internationally renowned academics.

We also host weekly seminars during term time where topics have included:

- ‘Decolonising Beauty’
- ‘Love is a Human Right’
- ‘ Debates on Evolutionary Sociology’

Examples of recent lectures and symposia from our research centres include:

- ‘Are we Post-Racial yet?’
- ‘Female Power in our Great Ape Cousins’
- ‘Gender and Climate Change’

Our community

We are a friendly, lively and interactive department with a stimulating environment where undergraduate students interact with Masters students PhD students, and staff members alike. Here, you will quickly settle in and get to know people from all levels. We also have a common room offering free tea and coffee, where you can catch up with friends or academics between lectures. What’s more, our department is based in the centre of campus, meaning that you can easily access a whole suite of other facilities.

Beyond your course, you’ll find plenty of opportunities to engage with our community on both an intellectual and social level. Our student-organised, student-led Sociology Society organises academic talks and social activities that you can be a part of. These events will provide you with a forum beyond the classroom to discuss all things relating to sociology. Or they can act simply as an environment for you to socialise with people who share your subject interest!

Each year a study trip is organised to an exciting location where you’ll be encouraged to exercise your sociological imagination. Past study trip destinations have included: Amsterdam, Prague, Lisbon, Budapest, Seville and Berlin.

With all this to offer, we encourage our undergraduate students to get involved with all aspects of departmental life.
What can I study?

Choose from two degree programmes offered by the Department of Sociology:

BA Sociology
BA Sociology and Quantitative Methods

There are also a number of related joint honours courses, where you can combine Sociology with your study in another department:

History and Sociology
Law and Sociology
Politics and Sociology
German and Sociology
French with Sociology

Course structure

Whichever programme you choose, you will receive a thorough grounding in sociology; the key theories, issues, and academic debates. All courses provide you with a strong core and a choice of specialist modules at later stages.

Core modules in sociological theory and research methods make up half of your first year. These will underpin your understanding of ‘how sociology works’, the social analysis it involves, and the processes through which this is done. You’ll learn about the classic and contemporary traditions, perspectives and techniques. You’ll look at the situations from which they originated and how you might apply these to modern-day circumstances and issues.

You can also **build in study abroad** by adding an additional year of study at a partner University into your degree.

By completing a dissertation in a topic of your choice, you’ll undertake original research into a topic which fascinates you, in discussion with your supervisor. You’ll see from the wide range of topics our students have previously researched, that our broad expertise offers you unprecedented choice, individuality and support in this final investigation.

More information on the individual programmes and options for joint degrees can be found through the hosting department pages (History, Politics and International Studies, Law, German or French), and on the University website: [warwick.ac.uk/ug/courses](http://warwick.ac.uk/ug/courses)

**BA Sociology**

The BA Sociology course offers great flexibility in that beyond the core modules, you will choose your own topics of study from our varied specialist modules.

In your first year, you will choose half of your modules from options offered within sociology (or you can even take options from outside the department, if you wish). By your second year, you will be choosing 75% of your material. Your third year will be selected entirely by you; you’ll choose from our list of specialist options and also have the chance to do a dissertation (accounting for 25% of your final year marks). The dissertation will be on a topic area of your choosing, developed and agreed upon with your supervisor.

You can select from the wide range of optional modules in the second and third years to retain a general degree, or you can concentrate on an area of particular interest, with a view to preparing for postgraduate study or entry to a particular field of employment.
**BA Sociology with Specialism**

There are three optional pathways which you can choose to follow during your degree:

- BA Sociology with **Specialism in Research Methods**
- BA Sociology with **Specialism in Cultural Studies**
- BA Sociology with **Specialism in Gender Studies**

You select these once you are already here and studying by following a pathway of optional modules and completing a dissertation in the relevant area. You will then receive a degree certificate awarded with the relevant specialism. Selections of specialisms are confirmed at the beginning of your third year, so you can try a number of topics before choosing this route.

If you do decide to follow a specialism, you’ll still have room to choose modules outside of your specialist pathway. You might try a module from within a specialism pathway alongside other choices in years 1 and 2. This way you can keep your options open, and find out which areas you enjoy before you finalise your decision of whether or not to take a specialism.

**BA Sociology and Quantitative Methods**

You’ll cover all the core areas that the BA Sociology encounters, and also engage in advanced training in quantitative research methods.

Your first year includes four core sociology modules: Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Science; Researching Society and Culture; Understanding Social Research; Sociological Perspectives. After that, a third of your modules will be your choice, as you’ll select two or three optional modules.

In your second year, your core will be advanced quantitative methods, developing expert skills including statistical models for social analytics and practice of qualitative research. In your final year your core will be advanced quantitative methods; developing expert skills in numerical research, and writing a dissertation. In both years, half your course will be yours to select from a range of specialist topics in sociology. You will also undertake a spring camp on quantitative methods and a research-focused work placement.
Why do people riot? Do tighter social boundaries govern the ‘right time’ to become a mother more than they do the ‘right time’ to become a father? How is consumption produced, and is there a global consumer culture? How is the internet changing power relations and dynamics between patients, publics and professionals inside and outside the health care arena? What role has media played in structuring knowledge and power in modern society? Does science need public relations?

Central to how we practice Sociology at Warwick is our interest in developing pioneering ways of understanding the relationship between the individual and society. You will be encouraged to develop a ‘Sociological Imagination’. This means not only exploring the patterns, ideas and findings of Sociology in books and articles, but learning to think as an active sociologist.

Your core learning will provide you with the strongest possible base to understand how society and people have changed over time whilst also learning how the subject itself has grown and built. You’ll learn how new techniques, perspectives and traditions have developed on the knowledge of those before them, and learn to think critically yourself about them. You’ll understand ideologies, technologies and issues that have directly affected society and behaviour, and how people themselves have changed over time. Material will cover countries and societies across the world, looking at these comparatively and the interactions between countries and the global society.

You’ll learn about the social analysis through which sociology developed as a subject, and the further techniques and methodologies now available to us today. In applying these for yourself, you will build and gain the skills to undertake your own research. You will become ‘research minded’, critical and involved; and you will be guided and inspired by academics who are energetic, forward-looking and passionate as researchers, sociologists and teachers.

From the outset, you’ll be able to choose options from a range of specialist topics. This will allow you to develop a feel and understanding for how different fields approach important sociological questions at large. First year topics such as the media, gender, race, and the building of identity allow you to gauge your interests in these areas and build a base for more in-depth material in later years.

These later years of study are tailored by you and consist of: core research modules; a dissertation chosen by you in discussion with your supervisor; and a choice of specialist module options. You can follow a specialism in cultural studies, research methods or gender studies, or develop a varied portfolio across specialist options.

Develop and follow your interests through modules such as Social Movements and Political Action, Commercial Cultures in Global Capitalism, Race, Resistance and Modernity: Transnationalism and New Media, and Sexualities and Society.

Examples of the range of undergraduate dissertations our students carried out in 2014/15

- A case study of egg donor IVF treatment
- Video games a new media: the hyper-masculine and hyper-feminine portrayals of ‘playable’ characters in regards to their performance gender
- Fight for Justice: The impact of political violence in India during 1984 on British Sikh identity and diaspora today
- Online vs Offline: An exploration of the nature of friendship in the Facebook age
- Nonstandard Flexible Working Arrangements, Health and Wellbeing. An investigation of the role of income security
Is income inequality in the UK growing? Does marriage improve health? Does growing up in a poor neighbourhood affect our life chances? These are just a few of the sociological questions that you will empirically address during your studies on this course.

Sociologists seek to describe and explain social trends and social phenomena. These tasks are often possible only by analyses of large-scale datasets. For example, we would not be able to know the prevalence of child poverty in the UK or the socio-economic profile of offenders without access to representative large-scale data. Quantitative methods skills are essential for social scientists of the new century and are also highly valued in the global job market.

This is a new degree that will provide you with advanced skills on a wide range of quantitative methods, alongside training in key theoretical and substantive sociological issues.

This degree provides excellent technical expertise in the management and analysis of data from social surveys and new forms of ‘live’, unstructured data automatically generated in today’s digital society (e.g. on Facebook or Twitter). Acknowledging that social science students are often anxious about statistics, we follow an incremental approach consisting of hands-on learning and lab time designed to support progression and build confidence.

At the end of your second year, you will undertake a three week credited paid placement, enabling you to put your skills into practice and to gain experience in a non-academic research setting. A quantitative methods Spring Camp, bringing together experts working in different research areas of international significance, will also offer the opportunity to explore the wide range of career options in different sectors. There is a recognised deficit of social science graduates with quantitative methods skills in the labour market. This degree will be highly valued by a wide range of employers including think-tanks, international organisations, and the civil service.

Gemma Ford
BA Sociology and Quantitative Methods, 1st Year

Being able to have a larger focus on quantitative methods is really interesting for me, especially in the modern world where data exists everywhere.

I chose this programme as I was looking to try something a bit different at university and I liked the fact that Warwick had a degree dedicated specifically to quantitative skills.

Employers are currently experiencing a shortage of graduates with these skills, which allows you to really stand out in the job market.

The sociology modules account for 75% of your year, and the Quantitative Methods modules 25%, providing a nice balance. I’ve always liked the research side of Sociology, and this degree programme really allows you to engage in that process.

Although some may feel apprehensive about a course which is statistics based, you needn’t worry. Lecturers start with the very basics, allowing you to build up statistical knowledge throughout the course of the year.
Featured Sociology modules

As a strong sociology department with broad research interests, our optional modules cover a wide range of areas.

Our research-led teaching means your content is kept fresh and up-to-date with current thinking in the subject area. You’ll find new modules added in line with research developments, and in response to student feedback. Therefore, you’ll be choosing from varied, interesting and current topics covering the latest approaches and theories.

Capitalism and religion

How do people’s religious beliefs, spiritual strivings and desires play into the power relations and attitudes of the contemporary world? Is religion responsible for class power, imperialism and/or economic development? What is the impact of modern capitalist economics on religious belief? Does capitalism destroy spirituality? Has capitalism itself become a new kind of religion? Is money the new God?

This module takes up a series of classic debates from social theory about the relationship between modernity, capitalism, ideology and religion and brings them up to date. You’ll explore religious dimensions of contemporary power – including neo-liberal economics, international development, western imperialism, exploitation and dictatorship.

We will engage with classic and cutting edge social theory, and apply this to examples from Africa, America and Europe. Examples will primarily relate to Christianity and capitalism, but students are welcome to incorporate their own research on other world religions.

Bodies, property and politics

Does the relationship between bodies, property and politics differ across national forms of governance and regulation? How are the relationships between knowledge and value, along with the kinds of social differences (such as race and gender), being transformed in such markets?

Globally, capitalism and biotechnology are becoming increasingly interconnected, with ever widening markets in human and animal bodies and body parts. The patenting of human cells and DNA, the use of embryos in reproductive technologies, the recruitment of humans in clinical trials and trade in human organs are all part of emerging ‘bioeconomies’.

You’ll consider the idea of ownership of bodies, bringing together work from economic sociology, science and technology studies and biomedical sociology. Through studying the application of markets to biological materials, you’ll examine why bodies becoming a saleable commodity is an ongoing problem for politics.

War, memory and society

Does war have social origins? How do societies plan and mobilise for war today compared to the past? What impact do media and popular culture have on how war is understood and debated in contemporary society?

This module examines the social and cultural consequences of war and how war, society and memory interact with, and impact upon each other. Past debates will be linked to current questions concerning the social and cultural implications of war for today’s states and societies. Aspects touched upon include social protest, the implications of the ‘War on Terror’, human rights, displaced peoples and social consequences of failed states.
You’ll consider the importance of war in the making of collective identities and memory in Britain and the countries of its commonwealth (e.g. Australia, Sri Lanka). You’ll also explore how war has helped influence the development of sociology as a discipline, and look at major sociological approaches to theorising social origins of war.

**Digital data - data collection**

An increasing amount of social and political life is now based, mediated or at least related to some kind of online content. Most social settings, whether domestic or professional, have an online counterpart. With the opportunity of this ever-growing flow of data, comes the question of its relevance and quality. Where does this or that piece of information come from? Who provides it and for which explicit and implicit purposes? Is it good for sound scientific research? Last but not least: once it has been collected, do we have the tools required to treat it and confront it with theory?

You’ll review the classical methods of data collection in the social and political sciences, and their adaptations to fit online data. You’ll analyse the advantages and disadvantages of online data collection techniques as well as what benefits online data has to offer. Using sociological and political theories, you’ll also assess online data opportunities.

**Economic sociology**

Is market society natural? Given their highly technologised forms, can markets today still be described as social in basis? How does power or ‘control’ work in markets? Is it about ‘beating the crowd’ or establishing a crowd following or collusion between big market players?

In our world, economic concerns are of increasing importance. The news is filled with stories about economic crisis, the politics of austerity, consumer spending and debt. For this reason, it is important that sociology engages with economics and economic life in ways that place the social basis of such issues into question.

Introducing you to the sub-discipline of Economic Sociology, this module addresses and explains connections between society and the economy, and analyses money as a mediating force in social life. You’ll analyse the changing status of the economic and the social through and beyond the recent financial crisis, covering theories from Max Weber’s early economic sociology through to recent sociological writings about neoliberalism and crisis.
Study Abroad

Experience different cultures. Meet new people. Explore another part of the world.

Sociology is part of a global network of exchange partners enabling you to spend time studying in another country during your degree. We have long-standing agreements with prestigious universities in countries around the world.

Studying abroad will add one year to your degree programme, as you’ll spend your third year abroad.

Country options for studying abroad

- **Erasmus** – studying at a partner institution in Europe
  - École Normale Supéérieure de Cachan, France
  - Charles University Prague, Czech Republic
  - Friedrich-Schiller-Universitat Jena, Germany
  - Goteborg University, Sweden
  - Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
  - Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
  - Universitat Bremen, Germany

- **Hong Kong**
  - University of Hong Kong
  - Chinese University of Hong Kong

There are also opportunities for you to study at one of our university-wide placements. These are placements open to all students across the university. Whether you’re interested in Australia, China, Japan, or Brazil, there are options here for you. warwick.ac.uk/studyabroad

Why study abroad?

Study abroad is an excellent way to enrich your studies in sociology. In our interconnected world, it is important for you to gain international perspectives on society. You’ll have the first-hand opportunity to explore how culture and social interaction take place in societies around the world by living life as a local. On a personal level, you’ll gain invaluable skills that you can transfer to future study and career opportunities. You’ll grow as a ‘global citizen’, which is something that employers value highly. Your mind and horizons will be broadened as you continue the study of sociology abroad. You’ll even have the chance to expand your knowledge by trying out other subjects and complementing your ‘sociological imagination’. You’ll gain confidence and independence as you explore the society around you. Most importantly, you’ll have fun! Meeting new people and exploring different places will provide you with a fresh outlook on life. All of the experiences and knowledge that you gain will set you in good stead as you return to Warwick for your final year.
“I chose my particular country, the Czech Republic, because I am interested in the history and politics of the Central and Eastern European states and I was attracted to the culture. I would also like to take the opportunity to see more of Europe while I am abroad, and the location of the Czech Republic is perfect for that. Another factor was that it wouldn’t be too far away from the UK to fly back for the holidays!

I am hoping to learn more about the Czech culture as well as various other cultures from other Erasmus students during my stay. I would like to improve my language skills and study Czech while I am there, as well as to simply take the opportunity to do more Sociology, hopefully from a new perspective, and also explore more disciplines within the social sciences...”

Hannah Feld
BA Sociology – currently on year abroad
What do Sociology graduates do?

Six months after graduating, 87% of our 2013 students were in jobs or further study.

Example jobs of graduates include:
Researcher, National Health Service Trainee, Human Resources Trainee, Teacher, Charity worker, Consultant, Banker, Digital Media Executive, Project Manager, Journalist, Audit Assistant, Business Support Administrator, Recruitment Consultant, Marketing Assistant.

Sectors where graduates were working include:
Media, Education, Banking, Management consultancy, Charity, Retail trade, Social care sector, Recruitment and Human Resources, Public sector/Local Government.

Courses 2013 graduates progressed into include:
MA in Public Administration, MA Social Research, MSc Economics, MA in Ethnicity, Culture, Diaspora, MA in Social and Political Thought, MSc/MA Sociology, MA in Social Research, (MSW) Master of Social Work, MSc in Science, Media and Public Policy.

Stephanie Jones
BA Sociology

I graduated in 2008 and immediately after graduation I began working for the Students Union as a Welfare Officer leading on welfare related campaigns and representing students on welfare issues.

After Warwick I moved to London and gained a place on the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme. I worked mainly as a Project Manager in a Mental Health Trust and as a Service Manager running several busy departments in a large hospital. Following this I went travelling around Asia and Africa as I had secretly always wanted a gap year!

On my return to the UK I continued my NHS career by taking up another operational management role as a Business Performance Manager. I still work for the NHS but my career path has taken a different route, moving from operational management to service improvement, leading on large scale strategic projects. I currently work as a Quality Improvement Manager leading on a review of services across Lancashire and Cumbria, improving patient outcomes by implementing specialist Arterial Centres.

My Warwick degree in sociology has most definitely helped me to gain a successful career in NHS management. Employers really value a Warwick degree as its graduates have a proven track record and reputation for being a real asset to organisations and businesses. A sociology degree is particularly valued in the NHS as it gives graduates the ability to appreciate the health economy as a whole and recognise that health outcomes are affected by race, gender, age and social class. This knowledge and understanding is invaluable when leading on service reconfiguration to improve the population’s health.

The University and the Students’ Union are committed to ensuring their graduates leave university entering into a successful career. For me, without a Warwick degree in Sociology I don’t think this would have been possible.
People who study Sociology go into a wide variety of jobs. You will gain a range of very valuable skills, including: how to work independently and how to find information, extract what is important from it and turn it into an argument. You’ll learn to work in collaboration with others, but also how to work effectively without close supervision. All Sociology degrees teach research methods. These allow you to generate new knowledge from both quantitative and qualitative sources. You will learn how to analyse results from a various data ranging from large statistical studies to in-depth one-to-one and group interviews. You will also learn to carry out your own research both individually and in groups.

The study of Sociology will change the way you see the world around you and how you relate to others. The skills you learn are relevant to the workplace and are valued by employers.

Given that 91.7% of all Warwick Graduates end up in either employment or further study, and that 70% of graduate recruiters do not require graduates to have a specific degree, perhaps the most important question to ask is not “What degree will get me a good graduate job?” but “How can I make the most of my time at Warwick so that I can get the job I want?”

Claire Leslie
Senior Careers Consultant

Each Department at Warwick has a senior careers consultant assigned to it. The consultants develop an expertise in careers relevant to the particular students. Sociology students in the past have been interested in careers in social research and have pursued them in think tanks, pressure groups and the Civil Service. They have also chosen to become human resources managers, retail managers, consultants, accountants, teachers and police officers. Sociology as a degree teaches students a wide range of employability skills relevant to the workplace and valued by employers. Careers support includes one-to-one guidance sessions, small group seminars, alumni evenings, peer support sessions and opportunities to meet potential employers. Individual guidance sessions take place within the department and all students are familiar with the careers consultant. We will still offer support to you up to three years after you graduate.

The important thing to remember is that it is down to each individual student to decide whether or not to engage with the careers service and the sooner you get involved the better. You can make a start now by reading the Warwick Careers Blog careersblog.warwick.ac.uk. We look forward to greeting you once you arrive!
How will I learn?

For each of your modules you will have a combination of lectures and seminars. The lectures will introduce you to a particular topic and then you will spend time reading around the topic in preparation for seminar discussion. During these weekly seminars, you will build on the knowledge, theories and ideas from the lecture and readings, sharing your views about the topic and debating the issues. Your seminar groups are kept small enough so that you have personal access to the tutor as well as space to have your say during each session. There will also be lots of opportunities for individual and group work as part of your modules.

Research training, personal development, and professional development are embedded in your degree programme. Through modules, extra seminars, skills workshops, careers presentations, one-to-one advice sessions, and guest speakers, you will be able to sharpen the skills that employers are looking for.

What learning spaces are available?

In addition to the excellent range of teaching and learning spaces provided by the university (e.g. a number of fully resourced Learning Grids, open 24/7, providing areas for both collaborative and individual study), sociology utilises a range of traditional and innovative teaching spaces close to the department. There is also a very popular Departmental Common Room, proving free tea and coffee for students and a place where you can relax, meet fellow students and mix informally with lecturers and other members of staff.

How will I be assessed?

Although methods of assessment vary for each module, you will generally be expected to write essays and/or take a two to three-hour examination in some modules. You will be given plenty of advance notice regarding these assignments and examinations.

In your second year you may be able to choose your method of assessment. This may be 100% examination, 100% assessed essay, or 50% exam and 50% essay. Please be aware that there may not always be this choice, but you will be given full information about assessment at the time of choosing your modules. As well as essays and exams, you could also be assessed through other methods like online quizzes, group presentations, research projects or podcasts.

We realise that feedback is important to your academic development, so throughout your degree you will receive regular and extensive feedback to help you progress, including: written comments on essays, the chance for one-to-one meetings with module tutors and informal feedback during seminars and group discussions. You will also write formative essays for which you will receive detailed feedback in preparation for your module summative assessments.
What support will I receive?

Your personal tutor

You will have a personal tutor who will be a first point of contact for you, offering you guidance and support for your general academic questions and any academic or personal difficulties you might have. They support your academic development throughout your course, and you will have regular meetings throughout the year so they should get to know you well. This means they have a complete picture of your strengths, experiences and skills, and will also provide references for you during and beyond your time as a student.

Module tutors

Your module tutors will be able to provide specific advice about the subject matter of individual modules along with advice in terms of specific essays and assignments. Module convenors/tutors have weekly Advice and Feedback Hours when you can sit down on a one-to-one basis with the tutor and follow up on seminar discussions, seek guidance on your essays, and ask questions about feedback you have received.

The Director of Student Experience and Progression (DSEP)

The DSEP can offer you additional tailored support, building on support offered by your personal tutor. This might be advice on study skills, including how to do well (or even better) in essay writing or exams, which modules might suit you best, or guidance on internships, careers, and postgraduate study.

Your academic librarian and library helpdesk

The library helpdesk is available 11 hours a day to help you day to day with searches, borrowing and reserving items, but you also have a specialist Academic Support Librarian to give you targeted support in your subject area. Your Academic Support Librarian will help you to develop information and research skills during your course and can offer you training in literature searching, finding and using information, referencing and avoiding plagiarism and reference management tools.

Departmental study skills sessions

Study skills are incorporated into the first year programme (e.g. essay writing, exam technique, independent research, and use of the internet and the library). Study skills sessions (essay writing and exam techniques) are also available for second and third years in the Spring/Summer terms.

Warwick Undergraduate Skills Programme (USP)

The Undergraduate Skills Programme is designed to develop your academic, personal and professional development skills, improve your marks, impress potential employers, and network with other Warwick students giving you a ‘USP’ over other candidates in the workplace.

Academic Writing Programme

As an undergraduate, your main form of examination is via written assignments, mostly essays and exam scripts. It is therefore essential to develop a good level of academic writing, so that the content of your piece is coherent, fluent, clear and, most importantly, academically literate. You will have access to a wide range of academic writing support, both in group format (courses, lectures, seminars) and the opportunity for tailored one-to-one consultation/advice.
Opportunities

Societies

As a Warwick student, you can be involved in a wide range of Societies, ranging from those which are academic in nature to those relating to hobbies or other interests. There are over 250 societies at Warwick – who knows, you could be the next President of one of them!

The Sociology Society is an academic society aiming to offer a broad range of events and support for students through their degree.

Events

Whether you’re an undergraduate, postgraduate or member of staff, you’ll be encouraged to attend our department seminars and other research activities which take place throughout the year. We host a range of fantastic sociological speakers from across the UK at these seminars and events.

Our research centres and clusters organise exciting research events, including workshops, seminars and lectures, often with high profile national and international speakers.

The Department also organises a number of events targeted at undergraduate students. For example, we host an Alumni event where past members of the Department come to talk with current students about their careers, and a range of social events such as a Welcome Party and an end-of-year BBQ.

Warwick Sociology Society Executive Committee 2015/16

Warwick Sociology Society is for anyone who studies the subject, who is interested in Sociology, who has friends who study Sociology or who likes the look of an event we put on! We aim to create a fun, communal and educational atmosphere where students from different stages of their degree programmes. We currently having 85 official members.

We host a variety of events, both academic and social in nature. Social activities include: end-of-term meals at Christmas and Easter; trips off campus, such as bowling. Our academic events include: talks by members of the Sociology department and external speakers, a mentoring scheme, film screenings, and revision and exam skills sessions to help you through the third term!

Check out our webpage: warwicksu.com/societies/sociology and our Facebook page: facebook.com/SociologySociety
Study trip

Our annual study trip will give you the opportunity to interact with fellow sociology students in an international environment. The trip takes place in the last week of the spring term each year. In the past, we’ve travelled to cities such as: Lisbon, Berlin, Copenhagen, Athens and Seville… to name but a few.

In 2015 we went to Amsterdam. 20 students – a mixture of undergraduate and postgraduate – had the chance to learn about the city with a sociological eye.

Trip activities focused on learning about Amsterdam and Europe’s colonial histories. This included a guided tour from Jennifer Tosch’s Black Heritage Amsterdam Tour. Exploring on foot and by boat, we uncovered aspects of the city’s history and the industries on which it was built, which are often hidden from view.

Listening to lectures on stigmatised neighbourhoods in Amsterdam, visiting museums with expert guides, and exploring the city’s street and protest art were just some of the things we got up to whilst in Amsterdam. One of our organised lectures became a public lecture in the occupied university where students also got a chance to reflect on the role and purpose of universities as institutions.

All of this was, of course, complemented with plenty of delicious food and lots of free time for students to explore the city independently!

The trip is generously subsidised by the Sociology Department and it’s an excellent chance for students to meet and build relationships with people at other stages of their studies, as well as to travel to a new city and apply the skills of sociological analysis they have been learning through their degrees.

Undergraduate Research Support Scheme (URSS)

Imagine securing a bursary to carry out a research project of your choosing during your summer holidays whilst at University. This is possible through a scheme, offered at Warwick, which our undergraduate students can apply to take part in ‘The Undergraduate Research Support Scheme’ (URSS).

If you are successful, you’ll get a bursary and skills development training to carry out your summer research project, as an addition to your Sociology degree course. All students are supervised by an academic member of staff for the scheme.

Undertaking a summer research project with URSS will give you a taste of research, which is invaluable if, after your undergraduate degree, you want to go on and study at postgraduate level. You’ll also develop a range of skills which will add further value to your degree study.

The Institute for Applied Teaching and Learning (IATL) also offer funding directly to students for undertaking either individual or collaborative research, through their Student as Producer fund. In addition IATL host an international, peer-reviewed journal for the publication of undergraduate research papers. Many of our Sociology undergraduates have gained academic publications alongside their degree.

Warwick Sociology Journal

Our undergraduate and postgraduate students can showcase their work in our student-founded, student-led journal. Although the journal is student-led, the Sociology Society and our department support the initiative. Each issue has a central contemporary theme and submissions are accepted from any members of our academic community. Topics of discussion have ranged from feminism to education to media.

Example URSS Research projects carried out by Sociology students

- Why, how, and how far is the Voluntary Assisted Suicide debate shifting towards legalisation?
- Working but not employed: why do students volunteer?
- Investigating Women’s Participation in Decision-Making Within Communities in Kono District, Sierra Leone, since the Introduction of Fambul Tok
- ‘Go Home or Face Arrest’ – A research project investigating the opinions of young immigrants aged 18-21 regarding ‘Operation Vaken’, a Home Office Campaign
A week in the life of a Sociology student...

Savvy Hersov
Final Year, BA Sociology

Monday

9am - Gender, Culture, Popular Media Lecture. Last year I managed to get away with having no 9ams. I’m not someone who is naturally an early-riser so I prefer to try and set my alarm earlier than I need so that I can have a bit of time to lie, half-awake, in my warm bed before I need to get up.

10am - Breakfast. So sometimes when I have to get up early I skip breakfast. I only do this when I know I’ll have the opportunity to grab something to eat after lectures, like a cooked breakfast at Library Café.

After breakfast I went to the library and attempted to study (heavy emphasis on the ‘attempted’) before my seminar. I then began reading for my Sexualities and Society module. I’ve wanted to take this course for two years but it’s only open to finalists.

6pm - Effective Altruism Society. I then popped back onto campus for EA’s first event of the year - Giving Games. This involved listening to two presentations of two charities and then each person voting which charity we would donate £10 each to (£10 that was donated on our behalf so we ourselves didn’t have to part with any money!). Effective Altruism is one of the societies I wanted to get involved with last year, but didn’t end up getting around to. It wasn’t officially a society last year but has now properly started up at Warwick and is looking very promising. After the presentations we all went over to Bar Fusion for dinner. I haven’t been to Bar Fusion for a couple months. The food was good as always and the meal was free on behalf of the society.

I also cheekily picked up some treats. I’ve found I sometimes eat a little unhealthily when I’m at university because I can get away with it as I’m not living with my parents (sorry Mum if you’re reading this).

Tuesday

12pm - Curiositea. I met up with friends in Curiositea for lunch and cake. We had a lovely time and admittedly didn’t leave quickly. We ended up chilling by the sofas and chatting and then doing a little bit of work. We then meandered over to the Sociology Common Room, yes, we have a common room :) where we continued to chat and do a little bit of work. As it’s the beginning of term our workloads aren’t too bad, so it’s easier to spend a relaxed day of studying and seeing friends.

I then had dinner with a friend and headed home to do my laundry so I didn’t run out of clean clothes.
**Wednesday**

9am - Economic Sociology Lecture. I think this module will be quite different from my previous ones in terms of the subject matter, but I think I’ll enjoy it. I studied Economics at A level and absolutely loved it. I’m hoping my ‘econ’ vocab starts to come back after three years of not having to use it!

10am - Sexualities and Society Lecture. This module is only open to 3rd years and 4th years. I’ve spent the last few days delving into some reading on Victorian sexuality, something which I’ve never really considered before.

Evening - I spent the evening having dinner at Xananas with a bunch of my housemates from last year and then we went and saw a Doc Brown show at the Warwick Arts Centre. I wasn’t too familiar with much of Doc Brown’s comedy, but I absolutely loved his show. I was laughing non-stop from start to finish. The Warwick Arts Centre was something which was of great appeal to me when I attended my Open Day at Warwick. I’m particularly interested in stand-up comedy, and the Arts Centre always has loads of well-known comedians performing throughout the year. Plus Warwick students get discounted tickets. Always a bonus.

**Thursday**

Thursday was filled with seminars and lectures, including our first dissertation lecture. This gave us an overview of the whole process and helped to answer any queries we had. I had tried in the morning to attend the careers fair but the queue went out of the building all the way onto the Piazza. So I waited and went back later at the end of the day when it was less busy.

Warwick’s Careers and Skills department organise regular workshops, employer presentations and careers fairs throughout the year and they are well worth going to. I was able to chat to employers from a variety of sectors and find out more info about the application process for lots of different graduate schemes. Employers tend to like to also give out a bunch of free stuff.

**Friday**

On Friday I attended a presentation by Frontline about their graduate scheme. These kinds of presentations help you narrow down your options, even if it’s just helping you decide what you don’t want to do.

That evening my housemates and I went and bought lots of food from Iceland and Tesco (which only came to £13!) for our special house night in. We ate lots of pizza, chips, garlic bread, spring rolls and hot fudge cake and watched TV. It was very laid-back and super cheap. It was a lovely start to the weekend.

You can read Savvy’s blog entries at: studentblogs.warwick.ac.uk/sociology
 Thinking about applying?

There are a few things about the process you should know:

- All applications to undergraduate courses are made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), and you will be able to apply to up to five courses.
- You'll submit one UCAS form with your qualifications, predicted grades, a reference and your personal statement.
- UCAS sends this to each of your chosen universities, who then decide whether to make you an offer for your chosen course.
- We won't see which other courses and universities you have applied to.
- You receive a decision via UCAS Track.
- The UCAS deadline for our courses is 15 January; we give equal consideration to all applications received before this date.

You'll have one personal statement for all your courses. This is where you demonstrate your interest in the subject and tell us why you would be a great student for our course. The more thought-through your course choices, the easier your personal statement will be to write.

Of course, taking the time to research and consider your options is also advisable to find the right course and place for you. Also check the typical offers and any essential subjects for each course.

You’ve received an offer...

Once you have received a decision from all your courses, you must choose your first choice course (Firm choice).

Unless you’ve already taken your exams, your offer will be conditional on your achieving specified grades. Your place at your firm choice is guaranteed if you meet these conditions at results time. So your firm choice needs to be where you want and intend to go, as long as everything goes to plan.

You might also select an insurance choice, in case you miss your grades for your firm choice. You will only go to your insurance if you are not accepted by your firm choice, but do meet the grades of your insurance offer.

You may want to bear this in mind when applying, and consider one or two courses with a lower typical offer to serve as a ‘back up’ for you.

And also

Check out the student.blogs.warwick.ac.uk and read about daily life for our student bloggers.

Visit to get a feel for Warwick for yourself. If you receive an offer we will invite you to come along to an offer-holders day so you can meet us, our students and see the department. But you are also welcome to come to see campus anytime, or book onto a tour or visit day. See warwick.ac.uk/ug/visits

Find out more detail about our courses and department by visiting our departmental website warwick.ac.uk/sociology

Browse warwick.ac.uk/ug for information about university life, including finance, accommodation and campus life at Warwick.
Entry requirements and typical offers

Check these before you apply via our website warwick.ac.uk/ug/courses, so that you have the most up to date information, as these could change for the next admissions cycle.

Offers normally exclude General Studies and Critical Thinking.

For 2015 entry:

BA Sociology: ABB/IB34

BA Sociology and Quantitative Method: ABB/IB34

BA Politics and Sociology: AAB/IB36

BA Law and Sociology: AAB/IB36

BA History and Sociology: AAB including A in A level History/IB36 including HL6 in History

BA German and Sociology: AAB including A level German/IB36 including HL5 in German

BA French with Sociology: ABB including A level French/IB34 including HL5 in French

We welcome a range of A level equivalent qualifications from across the world, so if you are unsure what the level is for you, just get in touch ugadmissions@warwick.ac.uk
For the benefit of applicants, this publication is produced at the earliest date possible. The University, however, reserves the right to modify or cancel any statement in this publication, and accepts no responsibility for any consequences of such modification or cancellation.