



1. Programme Title(s) and Code(s):

<i>Programme Title</i>	<i>UCAS Code</i>	<i>GU Code</i>
MA (Social Sciences) with Honours in Sociology with Quantitative Methods		L300A-2308

2. Academic Session:

2017-18

3. SCQF Level (see [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Levels](#)):

10

4. Credits:

480

5. Entrance Requirements:

Refer to the current undergraduate prospectus for entrants to the MA Soc Sci at:
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/sociology/>

6. ATAS Certificate Requirement (see [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#)):

ATAS Certificate not required

7. Attendance Type:

Full Time

8. Programme Aims:

Glasgow Q-Step was formed in October 2013 following an open call (Nuffield, ESRC, HEFCE) to create 15 centres across the UK to create a step change in quantitative literacy among social scientists. The University of Glasgow was awarded £1.4million and GU have matched that investment. One of the requirements of the funding was to create new 'with' degrees that sit alongside subject areas in the School of Social and Political

¹ This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course handbooks and other programme documentation and online at www.gla.ac.uk/

The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Science (SSPS). The aims of this degree are:

- To enhance students quantitative skills and literacy, to improve their employability
- To encourage students to pursue advanced learning in social quantitative methods
- To produce a new generation of post-graduates and academics fluent in quantitative methods
- to provide students with knowledge and understanding of sociological theories and research methods
- to give students opportunities to develop practical skills in the gathering, analysis, presentation and discussion of sociological data
- to develop an awareness of the ethical implications of carrying out sociological research
- to enable students to engage reflexively with the particularities of their own cultural and social contexts as well as with the possibilities inherent in cross cultural comparison
- to develop in students the ability to apply their knowledge and practical skills to solving sociologically based research problems
- to enable students to enhance their transferable and inter-personal skills, particularly in communication, time management, individual and group research work, critical appraisal of social issues, and the informed use of information technology
- to provide students with a wide range of skills that will meet the demands of the modern labour market

9. Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme:

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes as described below.

By the end of the degree students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Develop and demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts, principles, theories and methods of sociology
- Make use of the approaches offered by sociology in seeking to investigate and understand social and cultural phenomena
- Deploy appropriate historical and cross-cultural evidence in the assessment of theoretical, social and public policy arguments
- Apply appropriate advanced quantitative methods to critically analyse world problems related to core concerns of Sociological inquiry across thematic areas, for example: crime; class & inequality; health; conflict; and economic welfare over time.

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

- Judge and evaluate evidence concerning the social world
- Appreciate the complexity and diversity of social situations
- Assess the merits of competing theories and explanations
- Gather, retrieve and synthesise information
- Carry out sociological research
- Apply inference and modelling data skills using a range of statistical platforms including Excel and R
- Critically evaluate/assess other people's research on social issues
- Make reasoned arguments
- Interpret evidence and texts
- Reflect on their own acquisition and accumulation of knowledge

Intellectual skills

- Formulate and investigate sociologically informed questions
- Use major theoretical perspectives and concepts in sociology and their applications
- Analyse, assess and communicate empirical sociological information

- Identify a range of different research strategies and methods and to comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages
- Conduct research into social issues
- Undertake and present scholarly work
- Understand the ethical implications of sociological enquiry
- Recognise and argue for the relevance of sociological knowledge to social policy or to non-academic situations
- Reflect critically on the usefulness of key quantitative methods for their contribution to debates in social theory, sociology and the social sciences more broadly.

Transferable/key skills

- Think logically, analytically and critically about social and cultural issues
- Adopt a structured approach to solving research problems
- Use both qualitative and advanced quantitative research methods
- Generate new data demonstrating a core understanding of sampling, real world problems and relevance of producing consumable data for multiple stakeholders (potentially the statutory, the private and the voluntary sectors)
- Develop information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources of information
- Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in a variety of written forms including data visualisations
- Develop communications and information technology skills
- Work effectively both independently and in groups
- Manage time and meet deadlines
- Develop inter-personal skills
- Appreciate and understand processes of social change

10. Typical Learning and Teaching Approaches:

One of the strengths of our programme is the close links between staff research interests and the material covered in lectures.

A variety of learning and teaching approaches are used at Levels 1 and 2 and in our Honours courses. Knowledge and understanding is developed through lectures, tutorials (levels 1 and 2), seminars/workshops (honours level) lab work (levels 1, 2 and honours) and independent research. The lectures lay out central ideas, demonstrate the ways in which arguments are evaluated in the light of evidence and research experiences, and provide important empirical and historical knowledge. Lectures often include illustrative material, which can include visual historical evidence, ethnographic film and material derived from appropriate textual, media and on-line sources. Students are encouraged through engagement with such illustrative material to recognise how arguments refer to empirical evidence, and to understand the practice of sociological investigation and interpretation.

In all respects, the lectures are intended to lay the groundwork for independent study on the part of students. This study is guided by the provision of reading lists which refer students to important textual and on-line sources, and which are also practical examples in the protocols of academic referencing. Independent study provides the primary context in which knowledge and understanding is developed and serves as basis for both the preparation of assessed work, and for participation in seminar, tutorial or workshop discussions. Seminar or workshop sessions at honours level are designed to provide a collaborative context in which interpretations can be tested, arguments formulated and considered and knowledge transferred between peers. They encourage the development of team work and of important communication and inter-personal skills. As a discipline, sociology encourages the practice of reflective consideration of an individual's own experience. Seminars and workshops provide a context in which such reflection can take place, and the differences between merely anecdotal and properly scientific forms of evidence can be discussed and established. Training in advanced statistical skills, exposure to real-world data, and problem solving exercises will further develop their critical thinking skills.

Feedback on both formal and indicative assessment provides students with enhanced understanding of both the substantive content of the course, and of the central intellectual and communication skills which the course

seeks to develop: clarity, summary, synthesis, etc.

11. Typical Assessment Methods:

Across our Honours teaching programme a wide variety of assessments are used. These include:

- Essays and other forms of written work, including reports and reviews (formative and summative)
- Projects (summative)
- Unseen written examinations of various types (summative)
- Dissertation

12. Programme Structure and Features:

The Single Honours Sociology degree programme extends over four years of full time study. You need to be in the College of Social Sciences and the resulting degree is called an MA (Social Sciences) Honours degree.

Year 1

Course	Level	Credits
Sociology 1a	1	20
Sociology 1b	1	20
40 credits in Social Science	1	40
40 credits in another approved subject (social science, arts of science)	1	40
Total credits = 120		

Year 2

Course	Level	Credits
Sociology 2a	1	20
Sociology 2b	1	20
Quantitative Methods 1*	1	20
Quantitative Methods 2*	2	20
40 credits in another approved subject (social science, arts of science)	1	40
Total credits = 120		

* A grade D3 pass or above in Psychology 2; Geography 2; Statistics 1 will be permitted instead of completion of Quantitative Methods 1 and 2.

Entry to Honours Sociology normally requires a D3 or better in Sociology 1a and 1b; Quantitative Methods 1 and 2 and C3 or better in Sociology 2a and 2b. Students must also meet the College requirements for progression to honours.

Year 3

Course	Level	Credits
Social Theory	3	20
Qualitative Methods	3	20
Quantitative Methods 3.1 and 3.2	3	40
Two Other Sociology Courses	3	40
Total credits = 120		

Year 4 Honours

Course	Level	Credits
General Paper	4	20
Dissertation	4	40
One other Quantitative Methods course	4	20
Two other sociology courses	4	40
Total credits = 120		

Year 3 Non-Honours

Students who do not qualify for entry to Honours, or who would prefer to complete a degree in three rather than four years might be eligible for the MA Sociology or the MA (Social Sciences) Ordinary degree. There is no facility for gradating with a three year with quantitative methods degree.

Regulations

This programme will be governed by the relevant regulations published in the University Calendar. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) Award of the degree
- (b) Progress
- (c) Early exit awards
- (d) Entry to Honours (For undergraduate programmes, where appropriate)

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/>

13. Programme Accredited By:

14. Location(s):

15. College:

16. Lead School:

17. Is this programme collaborative with another institution:

18. Awarding Institution(s):

19. Teaching Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

20. Language of Instruction:

English

21. Language of Assessment:

English

22. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (see [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Sociology.pdf)) and Other External or Internal Reference Points:

The relevant QAA benchmarking statement for Sociology is available in full at:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Sociology.pdf>

There is no specific statement for Sociology with Quantitative Methods.

23. Additional Relevant Information (if applicable):

Support for students is provided by the Postgraduate/Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such Student Learning Development (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/sld/), Counselling & Psychological Services (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/counselling/), the Disability Service (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability/) and the Careers Service (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/careers/).

24. Online Distance Learning:

No

25. Date of approval: