



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

**BA (Hons)
Sociology**

Programme Code: SOCIY

2020/21

Undergraduate Material Information
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS/PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Version date: 24 July 2020

Undergraduate Material Course Information **Summary**

**Revised Course Structure and Delivery Information for Academic Year
2020/21 in Response to Coronavirus Covid-19 and Associated Public
Health England Guidance as at 3 July 2020**

**PART 1 of 2: Important General Information about Course Delivery for
Leeds Beckett University Awards in 2020/21 (Information Specific to Your
Course is Provided in PART 2)**

Introduction

This document contains important information about Leeds Beckett University's planned approach to course delivery and assessment in 2020/21. It provides an update to the information previously available in our online prospectus. You should read this document carefully so that you are aware of any changes that affect your course.

Information is provided in two parts:

The University is informed by Public Health England (PHE) Covid-19 advice and guidance for maintaining a Covid-secure learning and working environment. We have made arrangements to continue to provide a high-quality educational experience in a way that protects the safety and wellbeing of both students and staff. We are engaging closely with Leeds Beckett Students' Union to inform the arrangements and will also be informed by feedback provided by our individual students.

Public Health England guidance continues to evolve, so the arrangements for delivery of your course and use of the campus may need to change during the academic year to continue to protect students and staff.

The taught content advertised at each level of study, or its equivalent, will be delivered across the academic year 2020/21. We have identified an appropriate mix of blended learning – a mix of face-to-face, on-campus, online and digital content and teaching and learning for each subject, reflecting what will maximise learning as well as supporting more vulnerable learners and enabling the university as a whole to minimise transmission risk.

Covid-19 social distancing measures will be implemented during 2020/21 for teaching, learning, assessment and student support.

In the event of further government lockdowns, either local or national, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies.

If there is an easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to provide blended delivery for teaching block 1 in 2020/21. We will keep teaching blocks 2 and 3 under review, informed by Public Health England advice. We may revert to different proportions of on-campus learning and online learning delivery later in the academic calendar year or a later teaching block. Learning will remain accessible for students who are unable to attend on campus sessions.

How we will communicate with you

We have sent information to applicants who have accepted an offer by email on the plans for delivery of your course in 2020/21, the academic calendar (teaching block delivery or alternative) applicable for your course and on the options available to you as a prospective student, to enable you to make informed choices.

As the situation evolves, further information on local course delivery arrangements will be provided to you in emails from your School and via the School.

In addition to the course specific information set out in this document and the above communications, the University's Covid-19 microsite contains information for students and applicants, including information relating to University accommodation and University facilities and services. The Covid-19 microsite is regularly reviewed and updated as the situation, advice and planning evolve and is available at: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/#tabplaceholder2>.

Key terms and conditions

Further important information for applicants and students is available on our web site: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/information-for-applicants-and-students/>. This includes information about the student contract, fees and funding, your rights of cancellation, the student protection plan and the University complaints process. It is essential that you read the information on this webpage carefully as it sets out the rights and obligations that will form the contract between you and the University upon accepting an offer and information about how to make a complaint.

Start dates

Our academic year will begin at the normal time. Start dates will be notified to direct applicants via their offer letter or for UCAS applicants, via UCAS Track. The length of the course is confirmed in the information about your course in Part 2 of this document below.

Location of delivery

In academic year 2020/21, it is planned that your course will be delivered via a blend of online and digital learning and on-campus teaching and learning, with the necessary Covid-19 social distancing and other measures in place on campus informed by Public Health England advice and guidance.

Information on how blended teaching and learning will be delivered and the location of any on-campus delivery is provided in a subsequent section of this document entitled '**Teaching and Learning Activities**'.

Course Fees

Your course fee is stated in your offer letter. The course fee published for 2020/21 on the University's Online Prospectus and included in your offer letter has not changed. Other additional costs remain as published on our original Online Prospectus information in addition to the areas of costs outlined below.

The course will be delivered via a blended approach that includes online teaching and learning, digital learning and on campus sessions. If a further lockdown is necessary, then delivery will be continued and supported via online and digital learning. Students are advised that they will need a personal digital device for this purpose. The University's wide range of student support services available for students also includes a laptop loans scheme. Students may wish to bring an existing personal device or purchase or lease a laptop or similar device for their personal use which would be an additional cost. The costs of this would vary depending on your individual requirements but can be in the region of £400-800 depending on the device.

The University is developing a means-tested Covid-19 Financial Assistance Package to support students to acquire a laptop should this be needed. Students may also apply for a living expenses fund for unexpected personal hardship as a result of the Covid-19 Crisis.

Students will need to follow the Public Health England advice and any specific national requirements for maintaining personal safety and hygiene to protect themselves and others from the Covid-19 risks. These personal safety measures such as the wearing of face coverings will be an additional cost that students need to consider.

Timetable Information

This course will be scheduled using a teaching block delivery and will be specified in timetable information.

The 2020/21 academic calendar and term dates are available on our web site at:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/-/media/files/academic-calendars/2021-student-calendar-sept.pdf?la=en>

The academic year 2020/21 will start on the dates notified to you.

Taught sessions will normally be scheduled and included in your timetable. This will include on-campus sessions that you should attend. In 2020/21, depending on your course, this may also include scheduled online teaching and learning sessions where student engagement is required at a specified time and tutor pre-recorded lectures and scheduled discussion sessions. Module information will be made available online by the school for enrolled students.

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

1. The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
2. The Leeds Beckett app

You should discuss any difficulties relating to your engagement with timetabled sessions with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

Covid-19 social distancing measures will be in place for teaching, learning, assessment and student support in 2020/21. This means that there will be operational requirements and protocols in place for the way in which your course is delivered and the way in which University activities, facilities, and spaces operate which students and staff will need to follow.

In the event of further government lockdowns either local or national in response to Covid-19, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies. We may need to implement approved emergency Covid-19 pandemic academic regulations to take account of the impact of Covid-19 general extenuating circumstances.

Teaching and Learning Activities

The way we will deliver this course and teaching, learning and assessment activities in 2020/21 will be informed by Public Health England advice and guidance on Covid-19 secure requirements and the need for social distancing for the protection of students and staff.

You will experience a blended approach to learning for 2020/21; this is a mix of face-to-face, on campus online, and digital content, teaching and learning.

We are working within the government 2 metre social distancing measures for Teaching Block 1, so we are not planning to deliver large-group teaching on campus throughout 2020/2021. This will ensure that maximum space will be available for small-group teaching.

In most cases, the taught content will also be available online so you can still access it if you are not able to attend campus due to the pandemic (for example, due to self-isolation, shielding or travel restrictions). There will be digital content and recorded lectures available online to support students who may be unable to travel to campus. In some circumstances, other formal taught sessions may also be recorded.

In the event of a further government lockdown in response to Covid-19, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies and study towards achieving any specified professional statutory and regulatory body accreditation requirements where this applies.

If there is an easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to provide blended delivery for teaching block 1 in 2020/21. We will keep teaching blocks 2 and 3 under review, informed by Public Health England advice (see Introduction section above).

Further information on local course delivery arrangements will continue to be available from your School.

Students will be kept up to date with new information when this is available via this University web site.

Learning Support

Our approach to delivering student support in 2020/21

Given the planned social distancing measures in place on campus for 2020/21 to ensure safe delivery of services for students and staff, some of the arrangements for student support will be accessible online.

We are committed to ensuring you continue to have opportunities to access the learning and wellbeing support that you need over the forthcoming year. General learning spaces, including access to libraries, will be available to be booked online.

We want to provide a safe environment for students and staff, so on-campus delivery of student support services will be limited. This may mean that campus-based school offices will operate within defined core office hours. However, full access to advice, learning support and specialist services will be delivered via telephone, email, video calls and online live chat. The Students' Union will also be implementing social distancing arrangements for student advice services.

Access to Library support in 2020/21

The Library offers access to thousands of resources via MyBeckett or the Library website (<http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/home>) which also provides full details of all our services.

In response to Covid-19, and the need for social distancing for the protection of students and staff, the libraries will be available via a booking system in 2020/21 for students to study, access PCs and laptops, printer/ copiers, and other equipment, and to use the books and journals.

The Library and Student IT Advice Service is available by online chat, email or phone, and provides support on using the University's online and digital services, finding information, borrowing, Office 365, MyBeckett, online meetings, saving your work, passwords, etc.

- online (including 24/7 chat): http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/contact_us
- by phone - 0113 812 1000 (24/7 IT support)

The Library Academic Support Team can help you develop your academic skills such as critical thinking, academic writing and analysing data, and research skills such as how to find, use and evaluate information for your studies. The team liaises with your lecturers to provide the information resources you need for your subject and to arrange academic skills sessions to support you in your studies. They also have a wide range of short tutorials available on the Library's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFFd5u75zmy00EnkM9F2zPQ>

Support from your School

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to university specialist support services as appropriate. They can also arrange for a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript on your behalf. You may also like to contact your Course Representative or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course related questions.

Student Advice and Support

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, you may contact the Student Advice Hub to speak to one of our Student Services Advisers. This team, consisting of recent graduates, are able to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. Our Student Advice Hub will be operating via live chat, video, telephone and email services. Telephone lines - 0113 812 3000 will open as usual 09.00-17.00 Mon-Fri. You can book an appointment via telephone or online video chat with an adviser via the link at: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-experience-team/>. This is where contact details for all specialist support services can also be found. You can also email the team at studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Range of Support Services Available

There is a range of support for disabled or vulnerable students. Any student with a disability, who may or may not have declared this to the University and wishes to discuss their learning support for the year ahead or their status as a Covid-19 extremely vulnerable person, should contact their Disability Adviser for their School who is based in Student Services to discuss their support needs in the first instance. The service contact details are disabilityadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk or telephone 0113 812 5831. Students who are classed as Covid-19 Extremely Vulnerable (i.e. you have received a Shielding Letter from the NHS) but who do not regard themselves as disabled, and have not registered with the Disability Team, should discuss any support arrangements they may need, directly with their Course Director and if resident in halls, their Residential Life Team.

Once enrolled, you will have access to our virtual learning environment, MyBeckett. Within this system you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration. The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.

You can also access details of all University student support teams at our web A-Z of Services. This can be found at <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-support/>. Here you can obtain further information including service contact details, access self-help resources or book an appointment with a range of support services.

In order to provide you with information on student services support in 2020/21 in response to the changing Covid-19 position, updated information will be provided on our University Covid-19 microsite.

Part 2: Important Information Specific to BA (Hons) Sociology (SOC1Y) for 2020/21

Award	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Sociology
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Arts Sociology Diploma of Higher Education Sociology Certificate of Higher Education Sociology
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification & Credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total)

Course Lengths & Standard Timescales

The standard start date for Leeds Beckett University induction week is reproduced below and relates to the majority of students starting a course in September 2020. A proportion of courses have alternate start dates which are displayed on the online prospectus and additionally will be notified to the students concerned via the offer letter. Non-September starters will also have their start dates confirmed in their offer letters.

- 3 years (full time, campus based)
Starts 21st September 2020/ Ends June 2023
- 6 years (part time, campus based)
Starts 21st September 2020/ Ends June 2026

For more information about part-time delivery contact your school

Timetable Information

This course will be taught via teaching block delivery. Details of on campus and other scheduled sessions will be confirmed in your timetable.

Further information on learning and teaching activities and your modules is provided in a later section of this document.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director	Dr Natalia Gerodetti (N.Gerodetti@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk)
Your Academic Advisor	An academic advisor will be allocated to you at induction.
Your Course Administrator	Brionny Fox (B.Fox@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Course Overview:

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- Encourage students to think differently and challenge common sense understanding, to be critical and reflective, and enable them to understand society in a variety of new ways;
- Develop a critical appreciation of the intellectual tradition of sociology and of contemporary sociological scholarship;
- Enable students to apply the insights of sociology to the clarification of social issues and problems;
- Encourage students to develop their understanding of social responsibility, not only in their professional lives but as citizens;
- Enable students to conduct their own sociological research and critically evaluate the uses of a range of sociological research methods and approaches;
- Enable students to understand the ways in which social structure has shaped their own sense of themselves, and to gain insight into the possibilities for social change

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Identify significant social issues and from this formulate appropriate questions and then investigate them.
2. Critically evaluate competing sociological theory and concepts.
3. Reflect on their own values and background and in so doing develop a critical awareness of their wider social world and the global context within which they live and the different cultural perspectives that exist to explain these contexts.
4. Apply a range of research techniques in order to research a particular problem using appropriate digital tools and resources.
5. Appreciate and critically debate the historical and social background to the range of social divisions and diversity that exists in the social world.
6. Apply critically, understanding the relevance of Sociology to public, social and civic debates and policy.

Teaching and Learning Activities and Your Modules

The Sociology course team is aware that different teaching and assessment methods suit different students' learning styles and our philosophy is to help develop the wide range of skills that contemporary sociology students require. The team will be using blended teaching and learning activities and a variety of assessment practices in order to promote active learning and student engagement on the course. Formal teaching takes place via synchronous and asynchronous teaching inputs with guided learning opportunities for students both as individuals and in groups (where appropriate). Remote learning is further supplemented by campus based enrichment activities with tutors (public health guidance permitting). More informally, the team also provides drop in sessions and one-to-one support via individual meetings to discuss feedback or assignments.

Online seminars and discussion boards are environments where students are encouraged to debate, question and argue over the chosen topics for discussion; in so doing students develop the skills of critical questioning and thinking as well as the confidence to express their informed views using digital technologies. Collaborative work amongst students which is presented more formally as the course progresses is an integral part of the course and aimed at developing students' skills and confidence in the presentation of knowledge and the self. Where deemed necessary appropriate digital tools for collaboration and presentation will be used.

As far as assessment is concerned a range of assessment tools are used reflecting both the diversity of knowledge and skills being assessed, and the need to provide students with a range of means of demonstrating their achievement of learning outcomes. Our assessment methods include a range of oral and written assessments, such as presentations, reflexive learning logs, skill audits, critical case-studies, small-scale research projects, critical reflections, timed essays, research proposals, portfolios, and group work activities using a variety of digital and analogue tools. Whilst assessments are spaced as much as possible students are also expected to (learn to) manage their time effectively in relation to their assessment workload.

All students on the course are provided with a Course Handbook and a Module Handbook for each module they study. The module handbook provides students with details relating to;

- Module learning outcomes
- Module content and delivery and engagement plan
- Recommended reading
- Assessment details and submission dates
- Tutor contact details

Please note that this delivery schedule applies to Level 4 students in 20/21 only.

Level 4	
Teaching Block 1	Core (Y/N)
Doing Sociology in Leeds	Y
Sociology, Capitalism and Modernity	Y
Teaching Block 2	Core (Y/N)
Global Capitalism	Y
Urban Identities	Y
Teaching Block 3	Core (Y/N)
Culture, Media and Society	Y
Researching Society	Y

Level 5 Core Modules (2021/22 for FT students and 2022/23 and 2023/24 for standard PT students)

Exploring Social Research
 Inequalities of Class & Culture
 Modern Social Theory
 The Sociology of Gender & Feminist Perspectives

Level 5 Option Modules (delivery years as per Level 5 core modules above)

The following option modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules:

Critical & Public Sociology
 Digital Societies
 Protest & Social Movements
 Sexuality, Family and Feminist Theory

Level 6 Core Modules (2022/23 for FT students and 2024/25 and 2025/26 for standard PT students)

Contemporary Society & Social
 Futures Poverty, Inequality & the
 Welfare State Sociology Dissertation

Level 6 Option Modules (delivery years as per Level 6 core modules above)

The following option modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules:

Critical & Philosophical Issues in Social

Science Identity & Power

Men & Masculinities

Contemporary Visual Cultures

Technologies, Health & Bodies

The Sociology of Work

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and a sample of option module choices undertaken by a typical student. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, placement activities and independent study. Sandwich placement years spent out of the University are not be included in the calculation unless they are credit bearing and attributed to a level of the course. Modules may have more than 1 component of assessment.

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some group assessments.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some collaborative work.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework.

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	222 hours	270 hours	141 hours
Independent Study	978 hours	930 hours	1059 hours

Learning Support Arrangements

In line with the University's expectations the programme operates an Academic Advisor system. All students are allocated to an Academic Advisor who is the first point of contact for non-academic/module related pastoral support. Students enrolled on the programme will be supported by the same Academic Advisor (in year 1 and 2, followed by their dissertation tutor in year 3) and the course team. Where possible, all Academic Advisors will be engaged in the delivery of credit-bearing modules at Levels 4. This will ensure that students will have regular contact with their Academic Advisor and that they can support them in their personal, academic and career development. It is expected that students will meet with their Academic Advisor (by invite and upon their initiative), outside of credit-bearing provision and induction programme, a minimum of five times per year. Academic Advisors use a variety of ways to arrange meetings with their students which may include tutor arranged appointments and student arranged appointments online or face-to-face where appropriate and safe to do so.