



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

General Information Brochure
for Undergraduate Students

The Future
Reimagined

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?

What is Sociology?

- Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour.
- Sociologists investigate how groups, organisations and societies function. Sociology encourages critical thinking and urges one to challenge preconceived ideas – traits that are highly valued by prospective employers.
- Sociologists study race, social class and gender division; issues in the family, the workplace, and the state; politics and sport; the meanings of decolonisation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution; causes and consequences of xenophobia, crime, gender violence, poverty, unemployment, religious cults, and social movements; the meanings of shared cultural beliefs and practices; and social divisions and stratification including gender and sexuality.
- Successful sociology students impress employers with their broader understanding of these issues and with their range of practical skills. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge.

What research skills do you gain with Sociology?

- Sociology not only asks questions about society, but it provides students the ability to answer such questions, through a combination of critical thinking, practical and research skills.
- Sociological research takes many forms, but generally, it involves empirical fieldwork where students study real life issues among people.
- Students will learn how to design, collect and statistically analyse data from surveys of large numbers of people, or through in-depth interviews with individuals to understand their experiences and perceptions.
- Students will engage with groups through participant observation, where the researcher participates in and observes the group's daily activities. The training in research methodology that sociology offers for undergraduate and postgraduate students is a very valuable skill, one that can be applied in many different work situations.

Sociology prepares you for a career in a variety of sectors including:

- Social Policy planning and analyses
- Industrial relations officer
- Human resources
- Social research
- Academia
- Journalism and media related jobs
- NGO and public service
- Trade union sector
- Organisational development
- Conflict resolution
- Community development
- Research and development

Faculty members

The Department of Sociology is a team of 17 sociologists who, together

- Teach about 2000 undergraduate students each semester and supervise over 100 postgraduates.
- Host a long-standing public seminar series for Johannesburg region.
- Provide essential training in research and sociological practice.
- The department is also accredited by The Commission on the Accreditation of Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology (CAPACS), which is a prestigious recognition of our Honours programme, by an international body.

Funding opportunities at UJ

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is by far the biggest single source of student support in the nation. It combines loans and bursaries, with parts of the initial loan being converted into a bursary as you progress successfully towards a qualification.

It provides loans to academically deserving but financially needy students who wish to study at one of South Africa's public higher institutions. The loan is for full-time undergraduate students with South African citizenship.

For more information on other funding opportunities, please visit:

https://www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate/Documents/UJ_PostgradOpportunities2018-2019.pdf

Why study at the University of Johannesburg?

- The University of Johannesburg (UJ) – vibrant, multicultural and dynamic – shares the pace and energy of cosmopolitan Johannesburg, the city whose name it carries.
- UJ has about 50 000 students including about 7 000 postgraduates, on its four campuses. UJ is the first and only African university admitted to the highly respected consortium of 28 research-intensive universities in the world, Universitas21.
- Since 2017, UJ has been included in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), having been placed 4th in South Africa. ARWU is the most prestigious global ranking system in the world, and is a system that is heavily focused on research quality and impact.

The undergraduate programme consists of several exciting modules:

SOCIOLOGY 1

The Individual and Society

- Theory & Family
- Deviance & Religion

Social Divisions

- Power & Workplace
- Inequality

SOCIOLOGY 2

Social Relations

- Group Dynamics
- Conflict Studies

Clinical Sociology

- Principles of Clinical Sociology
- Population Dynamics

SOCIOLOGY 3

Sociology at Work

- Research Methodology
- Sociology of Work

Classical and Contemporary Theory

- Globalisation
- Sociological Theory
- Research Project

Quotes from current students on Sociology

“Sociology is the best qualification that integrates and speaks volume about the real world. My best experience with sociology is that it has equipped me with research skills, which can be used to address social problems. Sociology creates a pool of competitive graduates who become employable because they come out of the programme with the much-needed excellent written and oral presentation skills; individual and teamwork; time management and interpersonal communication skills”
Cathrine Lerato Mahlaba.

“As an aspiring social science researcher, I chose the discipline of sociology because it allowed me to study the socio-cultural, economic and political environments using different approaches. Sociology creates a conducive academic space for students to explore new phenomena and gain in-depth insights into how to deal with complex challenges, relevant and meaningful to our times. For me, studying sociology has been an enlightening and self-fulfilling experience as I learnt about real life issues that resonate with my everyday life” Sinqobile Akin.

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For further information, please visit:

www.uj.ac.za/faculties/humanities/sociology