



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work – Semester Two Module Options

Welcome to the module options for study abroad students studying at Queen's University Belfast from January 2021, for the two semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The School of Social Science, Education and Social Work has a strong emphasis on professional training in education and social work. In addition, the School is training the next generation of social scientists in the areas of sociology, criminology and social policy. More information about the school can be found on our [website](#).

Please make note of the module code and the module title of the modules that you are interested in for when you fill out the [online application form](#). The level of study typically refers to the year of study a student would usually take the module in, though all modules listed are available for study abroad students. Higher level modules will sometimes require evidence of previous study.

If you have any questions about the modules available or the selection process please email AHSSabroad@qub.ac.uk and we will be happy to help.

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Criminology

Exploring Criminology

CRM1002 – Level 1

This module uses a variety of different teaching techniques, such as film, videos, field-trips and participant observation to explore a variety of different themes within criminology. The module aims to encourage the students to move beyond the lecture and the text to observe and explore the reality of crime, policing and administration of justice in the real world.

Crime and the Media

CRM2006 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The module is divided into two sections: 'Crime in the News' and 'Fictional Crimes'. The former includes discussion of the representation of politically-motivated violence (particularly in relation to Northern Ireland and the Israel-Palestine conflict), news stories of sexual violence (again, with an emphasis on research about Northern Ireland), and moral panics. The latter section will look at how the internet as well as explicitly fictional representations of crime can impact on crime, perceptions of crime and criminal justice processes. This part of the course explores themes of lawlessness, allocation of blame for crime, and the impact of screen violence.

Policing and Society

CRM2008 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The module introduces students to the area of policing and explores the main theories, concepts and debates in this field. The first half of the course begins by exploring the origins of policing, the relationship between policing and broader social factors, police work, police culture and concerns about police accountability and legitimacy. The second half of the course will examine the cost of policing, the use of performance indicators, policing controversies, the globalisation of policing methods and the increasing privatisation of policing. In particular, the experiences of Northern Ireland, Britain and Ireland will be used to highlight the importance of these topics. The primary objective of this module is to challenge students' perceptions about crime and criminals. In doing so, the module is organised under three broad sub-headings: Street Crime, Suite Crime and State Crime. This module is global in scope and draws largely on scholarly research and informed journalistic accounts to help students develop a broader critical awareness of crime and society.

Youth, Crime and Criminal Justice

CRM3003 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module explores young people's engagement in antisocial behaviour and crime. It will consider the extent and nature of teenage delinquency, how it changes with age and its association with other adolescent problem behaviours (alcohol and drug use; school exclusion; risky sexual behaviour, etc.). Analysis of official statistics and self-report survey data will be placed within a broader understanding of the social construction of youth, drawing on political, media and other sources. The module will introduce and critically examine major theoretical explanations of youth crime including, radical and realist perspectives (labelling, moral panics, left and right realism), sub-cultural theory (subcultures, counter cultures, consumerism and "style") and developmental/life course perspectives (the work of Farrington, Moffitt, Sampson, and Loeber). In addition, the course will review recent social policy responses to youth crime. These range for early childhood prevention programmes such as Sure Start, school and non-school based education and training programmes, through to the introduction of new police and civil powers such as zero tolerance, curfews, alcohol bans, and ASBOs. Finally, the module will examine the criminal justice response to teenage crime. Contrasts will be made between traditional welfare and justice approaches. Current evidence of the effectiveness and efficacy of current intervention programmes will also be considered.

Criminology Across Borders

CRM3007 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module will touch upon some supranational criminological issues in contemporary societies. It aims to consider how crime and justice unfolds outside the remit of the sovereign state. In particular, it will cover the following topics:

- Crime and Justice Beyond the state: Globalization, and state sovereignty, challenges for crime and justice.
- Transnational threats: from the emergence of international crime, to contemporary issues such as terrorism, migration and organised transnational crime as current international threats.
- War and its framing: crime, justice or new forms of war; and responses to conflicts.
- International Policing: the raise of Interpol, Europol and Frontex; their role and functions; data mining and technology; drones as policing tools; the continuum between war and the re-structuring of the security sector.
- International Criminal Courts and the crimes of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity; War Crimes; Rape as a Weapon of War.

Sociology and Social Policy

The Sociological Imagination

SOC1002 – Level 1

This module aims to provide a general introduction to doing sociological research, through a critical engagement with landmark studies. C. Wright Mills' idea of a 'sociological imagination' provides the framework for evaluating the quality of key pieces of research, exploring the connections between how they are defined, carried out and written up. The module covers a range of research methods, as they are employed in studies of important aspects of social life, such as racism, drugs and urban life, love and technology, social networking, education and masculinity and violence. The module also provides an in-depth introduction to the theoretical character of sociology by introducing classic perspectives shaping the discipline.

Digital Society

SQM1003 – Level 1 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to departmental consent.

This module will be both theoretical and intensely practical. Tutorials, assignments and group activities are designed to help students confront digital technology and apply their skills to navigating and utilising that. Lectures are focused on using theory to critically reflect on how technological advancements fit into or alter accounts of how society is shaped the way it is. Particular emphasis is placed on enhancing students' appreciation of the idea of data. We are all of us contributing to the growth of 'big data', making use of data in our everyday lives and, often, paying for services with our data. But what is 'big data'? Through exploration of concepts such as database matching, artificial intelligence and internet of things, we will examine how technology is being used to understand humanity and debate whether this process is 'disrupting' or reinforcing society's existing strata and structures. Students will be encouraged to reflect critically on their own use of information and communication technologies and how this behaviour shapes contemporary society. This will include examination of the 'information revolution' and its effects on communication and social relations: local and global, personal and institutional. Students will also be encouraged to examine evidence both supporting and challenging commonplace perceptions of digital media's influence on modern life.

Themes and Issues in Social Policy

SPY1005 – Level 1 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module will look at contemporary developments and trends across a range of social policy areas in the UK. It will encourage students to examine the various ways in which key social policy 'problems' have been addressed. The first half of the module will introduce students to social policy in a range of substantive areas such as education, employment, housing, crime, health and social care. The second half of the module will take a more focused approach by exploring the ways in which social policy has sought to improve the welfare and well-being of particular groups in society with respect to children and young people, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and older people.

Social Inequalities and Diversity

SOC2002 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This module will critically examine key sociological debates about the character and dynamics of contemporary society from the point of view of social inequalities. It provides an introduction to key concepts, current research findings, and theories of social inequality. The objective is to discuss how social inequality impinges on virtually all facets of individual and social life and how it is created and maintained.

Qualitative Skills Research

SOC2003 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Introduces students to a variety of qualitative and explorative research methods, including research ethics and methods of data collection.

Questions for an Ageing World

SPY2009 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This course provides a critical understanding of how social policy shapes a person's life trajectory. The course takes a life course perspective, immersing students in a range of social science literature including social gerontology, social policy and life course sociology. Key issues and themes covered include human rights (including children's rights), disability, old age, birth and death. The role of public information and education in developing human agency is explored through the examination of contentious issues in social policy such as birth practices and our experience of death and dying.

Theory Counts

SQM2001 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to departmental consent.

This module is designed to complement the core Sociology Development of Social Theory module, which introduces students to a range of sociological theories. The module will explore the relationship between theoretical development and empirical evidence. Theory Counts examines how different theories use, or ignore, quantitative data. It will also introduce students to approaches to testing theories using different types of quantitative data. Students will be exposed to research design issues as well as a range of analytical strategies involved in the testing of different theories.

Issues in Contemporary Irish Society

SOC3005 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The module aims to develop a sociological understanding of the dramatic social change which has occurred in recent times on the island of Ireland (particularly Northern Ireland). This will be accomplished by focusing on a series of key issues which help to illustrate both the scale and the nature of the transformations involved.

Global Risk Society: Power and Participation

SOC3048 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The purpose of this module is to examine from a sociological perspective some of the major trends that are transforming social relations on a global scale. As world leaders become increasingly comfortable in referring to a 'global society', we question the nature of what is being created and how this is being achieved. By applying concepts from political sociology in particular, this course will provide insights into the relations of power behind these trends and the new forms of social participation that they have provoked.

Emotion, Power and Politics: The Political Sociology of Emotions, Trump, Brexit and Populism

SOC3053 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study. Places on this module are limited so application will not guarantee enrolment.

The module will introduce and give students a firm understanding of a new, and increasingly important, sub-field that operates at the intersection of political sociology, and the sociology of emotion: the political sociology of emotion. The approach is interdisciplinary, deploying concepts and literature from various areas across the social sciences, including social and political theory, sociology and the sociology of emotion, political psychology, and political science. The module examines the 'politics-emotion nexus' in various ways, and shows how an understanding of emotion has become increasingly salient in and vital for the explanation of the contemporary world. There will be seminars addressing the relationships between emotions and: social movements; nationalism; affective and/or emotional citizenship; war and conflict; the emotional state; the increasing importance of emotions in and for party politics; the rise of populism, Trump, and Brexit; and emotions in post-conflict and divided societies. This is a research-led module, arguing for the importance and distinctiveness of the sociological approach to understanding and explaining these issues, and introducing work and case studies at the very cutting edge of the discipline. Teaching will combine a lecture and seminar/discussion format.

Modelling the Social World

SQM3004 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and foundational skills. Enrolment will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to departmental consent.

The module will enable students wishing to acquire advanced multivariate quantitative methods to be trained in such methods. This may include methods such as event history, multilevel modelling, or structural equation modelling.

Policy Briefing Paper

SPY3002 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Students prepare a policy briefing paper, on an issue of contemporary importance, based on a request from a voluntary/community sector body in liaison with the Northern Ireland Science Shop. If a suitable request is unavailable, the briefing will be on a topic agreed with the module convenor. The briefing paper is developed using government publications and parliamentary records as primary sources. These are supplemented by academic and other publications from within the policy-making community. Students meet with the requesting body on several occasions in order to clarify the request and to deliver the final draft of the briefing.

Gender, Family and Social Policy: Comparative Perspective

SPY3019 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The module aims to explore the critical study of the gendered distribution of welfare. It reviews the welfare systems and institutions in the UK and elsewhere, and assesses their capacity to meet the welfare needs of women in diverse circumstances. The module also considers the position of women in relation to welfare states, as citizens, workers, carers and clients from international and comparative perspective.

Social Work

Psychology for Social Work

SWK1002 – Level 1 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

The purpose of this module is to provide a basic introduction to students of the main theoretical approaches in psychology and to provide an overview of the contribution made by the discipline of psychology to our understanding of human development and behaviour. Students will be supported to develop an awareness of the applicability of psychology to the practice of social work in a range of contexts.

Sociology for Social Work

SWK1006 – Level 1 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

This module will introduce students to the discipline of sociology and help them explore their relevance to social work practice. Key themes include (i) poverty, social security, housing, political conflict in Northern Ireland (ii) family life, gender, crime, globalisation, (iii) psychological perspectives on human development and behaviour through the lifecycle. These perspectives will be used to explore the complex nature of social work with individuals, families and communities. A particular feature of the module will be teaching on the relationships between social work and the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Social Work in Context

SWK2006 – Level 2 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

This module will provide an overview of a range of core social work theories and methods of intervention with an emphasis on the context in which they are used. It will provide students with a tool to develop critical understanding of the moral and anti-oppressive dimensions to professional practice interventions. Students will be enabled to develop a critical perspective in values and AOP with an emphasis on working in a diverse contexts and settings.

Research, Policy and Practice

SWK2009 – Level 2 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

This module will provide students with an introduction to research and its application to social work. It will enable students to identify, appraise and use relevant research. Students will be introduced to key issues relevant to a variety of research methods, drawing on examples from a range of practice areas. Emphasis will be placed on how research informs the social work process and on skilling students to access research through databases and other internet sources. Tutorial and assessment tasks will be designed to enable students to develop an exploratory and critical approach to research-minded practice.