Undergraduate Studies

BSc Social Science
Welcome

Studying Social Science at Royal Holloway means that you will learn from leading experts from within sociology, criminology, law, social policy and social work. Our diverse and vibrant community is dedicated to helping students reach their highest potential.

The unique strength of our community in the Department of Social Work within the School of Law and Social Sciences is that it brings together so many exceptionally talented people of different backgrounds working with diverse communities and researching real life issues. The department provides a stimulating, challenging and rewarding environment in which to learn. We are committed to breaking down traditional barriers between academics and communities to ensure you have the best learning experience.

We have an intellectually challenging approach to research and education and studying here will help you to take a broad view of current social issues and understand society and people in society.

Robert Jago
Head of Department of Social Work

Gain transferable skills and explore a wide range of critical social issues

Learn from leading experts from within sociology, criminology, law, social policy and social work

Contact details

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Connect with us

@rhulsw
royalholloway.ac.uk/socialwork
Social Science at Royal Holloway

At Royal Holloway we take an integrated approach to the social sciences, considering broad social science questions and thinking about these from different disciplinary perspectives.

You will learn from leading experts from the applied social sciences, including sociology, social policy, social psychology, criminology, politics, law and social work.

Develop knowledge of the social world and how individual and group experiences intersect with wider social structures including class, gender and race.

Engage in critical debates about social inequalities, welfare, ethics, law and public policy.

Join our friendly department and benefit from individual support focused on developing valuable knowledge and skills for a wide variety of careers.

We are part of the School of Law and Social Sciences, focusing on social inquiry, democracy, justice, human rights and economic development.
Our state-of-the-art library, housed in the Davison Building, completed in 2017. It’s open 24-hours a day and offers 1,350 study seats, with different zones for silent and collaborative work.
Studying here

The Department of Social Work, which is part of the School of Law and Social Sciences, coordinates this degree course across a range of departments to ensure that you will benefit from learning in a multidisciplinary environment. We have strong links with community organisations and services across London and our research interests include issues associated with child and adult welfare, identities, health, social care, marginalised communities and law, regulation and practical ethics.

Supportive learning
We have a strong culture of support for students. All students are allocated a Personal Tutor before arrival, who will provide academic advice and pastoral support throughout your time here.

Facilities
We are based close to the beautiful and historic Founder’s Building, which houses our Picture Gallery and chapel as well as a dining hall and accommodation for 500 students.

Directly across from the Founder’s Building is the Emily Wilding Davison Building, completed in 2017 and home to our state-of-the-art library. It is situated a few seconds’ walk away from the Arts Building, home of the department.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the course so far. The course has provided me with new perspective and insight on a broad range of topics, which I can easily relate to current life. The work continues to push me, and the lecturers and staff are always there if I need any guidance or support”

Ellen
BSc Social Science
Student societies
Royal Holloway offers a vibrant and active community with strong student involvement and 150 clubs and societies.

Extra-curricular activities
Engaging with communities and understanding the role of advocacy and action in social change are central to the nature of the programme. Throughout the programme you will be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to meet people with diverse experience, engage with work in communities and understand different people's experiences of modern Britain. These activities are designed to enable you to understand the contribution of different cultures and communities but also to understand the barriers and disadvantages others face across society.

Work experience
The four ‘Cs’ (critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration), central to success in the 21st century, underpin learning and skills development on this degree course. We offer a credited volunteer module, where you can gain practical experience of working with individuals and groups in society; and there are other ways of gaining insights such as from people with direct experience of working in social care and health. This degree also provides you with opportunities to undertake assessed work with individuals and communities, and an optional Placement Year.

Student life

“Studying BSc Social Science means I am able to gain skills from different disciplines and various views of society. I love that it doesn’t feel like I am limited to one singular path or bound by learning about one subject. All of our lecturers have an enthusiastic teaching style and expert knowledge within the course.”

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BSc Social Science
Your future career

Skills
• Develop your skills in critical thinking, communication and research, which are highly valued by employers and in a range of careers.
• Combine a solid theoretical grounding with a vocational strand to maximise your future opportunities whether you are considering a professional career or further study.

Opportunities
• Gain experience in the workplace through our volunteering module and through other exciting careers opportunities.
• Explore options to apply for a placement year working or volunteering locally or abroad.
• Engage with learning activities designed to enable you to critically understand cultures and communities in modern Britain.

Destinations
• Career opportunities are extremely varied and can range from community work, education, youth work, health-related careers to the legal and advocacy sectors or social research.

Excellent foundation for future careers or further study in education, law, social work, and the public and private sectors
Royal Holloway, University of London
• Learn from world leading experts
• Highly ranked for student satisfaction
• Beautiful campus in a safe location
• Vibrant and active community
• Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more
Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays