Get ready for BA(Hons) Sociology

We hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. We warmly welcome you onto our BA(Hons) Sociology course.

As we move towards the start of your course, we thought that the information below would be useful for you in preparing to start with us.

Samantha Stephen and Sean Creaven
Admissions Tutor and Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can print your ID card only if you have uploaded your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning
These activities are based around the 'Sociology of Food' which we hope that you will find to be an interesting way into studying Sociology at university. The activities are entirely optional, and you need not do them before starting your course.

Activity One
Listen to the lecture on 'Food and Gender' by our lecturer, Beth Benker.

- Explain in your own words how Beth collected the information (data) for her research project.
- How do working class women think about food compared to working-class men?
- Try to work out what a typical evening meal might include if prepared by a middle-class woman.
- To what extent do you agree with how Beth explains what middle-class men mean by 'laziness' in relation to food?
- Drawing on your own experience use examples to assess if and how women are generally the 'channel for foods into households'.

Activity Two
Keep a food diary for a day and think about these issues:

- How much did it cost to produce the food that you ate (considering any hidden costs such as energy used for cooking, transport to food outlets)?
- Where did the food come from (types of food outlets eg. Shops, food banks; countries of origin)?
- Who decided on what to eat, how was the food prepared and by whom?
- What might this food say about who you are and the connections that you have with others (personal beliefs, nationality or ethnicity, family, food producers, etc.)?
- Was consuming this food a moment or experience of conflict or togetherness?

Read around your subject
A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Following on with the theme of food, you could read these articles (or any others that you can find for yourself). **This reading is entirely optional and you need not do it before starting your course.**

Article One: Calder, T. (2019) Social Identity and Veganism. The Vegan Society. Questions to think about:

- What do you know about veganism?

- Do you agree that veganism is more an individual lifestyle choice than a protest movement?
- What sort of 'social identities' are associated with veganism?
- In your view, does having a vegan sausage roll in major food stores amount to the success or failure of veganism?
- Have you ever taken part in 'Veganuary' or would you consider it? Why/why not?

Article Two: Bahr Bugge, A. (2011) Lovin' It?, *Food, Culture & Society*, 14 (1), 71-89. Questions to think about:

- What is this article about?
- How did the researchers collect their information (data) about the food habits of young people?
- Do you agree from your experience that fast food is becoming a 'taboo food' and even a 'rebellious food'?
- What are your attitudes towards fast food and (how) has this article helped you to make sense of them?
- If you did some research on food, what would you focus it on?

Please note. You cannot access this article (Bugge) until after you are registered. You may read it after you are registered which will give you access to the UWE library.

Make your module choices

You may want to familiarise yourself with the modules that you will be studying in your first year and the optional modules that you will have the choice of studying in your second and third year. We have also included details of the core textbooks:

Module Options Booklet

Be prepared

Access support
Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped
The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course,

please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

International students
The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact any of us:

Admissions Tutor: Samantha Stephen via email at Samantha.Stephen@uwe.ac.uk

Programme Leader: **Dr Sean Creaven** via email at Sean.Creaven@uwe.ac.uk

Associate Director of Studies: **Dr Mandy Kidd** via email at Mandy.Kidd@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: This information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026