

Get ready for MRes Social Research (Sustainable Futures)

Welcome to the MRes Social Research (Sustainable Futures) course. The teaching team very much looks forward to meeting you in September.

Dr Caroline Bartle

Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 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 registration 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 registration, 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.

You can also explore our support for careers and enterprise. [UWE Careers & Enterprise](#) provide a range of workshops, appointments and a huge range of online resources to support students in realising their future ambitions. The [Careers Toolkit](#) is our online portal to finding vacancies, booking onto events and accessing a range of resources.

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 register. 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 only print your ID card if you have added 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

If you are new to research then the following YouTube videos will provide you with an introduction to some key ideas.

David Sotir [‘Critical Thinking Skills’](#)

Graham Gibbs [‘The Nature of Social Research’](#)

If you want to learn more about the different types of research methods that can be used, you can explore the video resources from the [National Centre for Research Methods](#).

Read around your subject

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.

Reading any book about research design will be useful, but this one suggested below provides an easy introduction to anyone who is new to research. It is available as an e-book through the UWE library once you are registered.

Dawson, C. 2009, *Introduction to research methods: a practical guide for anyone undertaking a research project*, 4th edn, How-To Books, Oxford.

Start looking at published research in your field of interest. You might find open access versions of publications on [ResearchGate](#) or [Academia](#). Research published by academic researchers at UWE can be found on the [UWE Bristol Research Repository](#) free of charge. You should consider how the evidence for the research was generated as well as what the research has discovered. Questions you can ask yourself as you read:

- Is this a theoretical paper, or does it present findings from data?
- Did the authors collect/generate data themselves (primary data)?
- Is the data quantitative (numerical) or is it qualitative (words, images)?

If you want to develop your critical thinking, you might like to buy the following book and work through the exercises:

Chatfield T., 2018. *Critical Thinking*. Sage, London. (ISBN 978-1-4714-6 pbk, £16.99)

It is not a compulsory purchase, but one you may find useful and interesting. However, there are workbooks available to help with [critical thinking and writing](#) through the UWELibrary study skills too.

Connect with others

Many of the research groups and departments have twitter accounts which you may wish to follow for news and forthcoming events, for example [@UWE_CTS](#), [@UWE_SPE](#) and [@UWE_GEM](#).

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**.

The core software used in your course includes:

- MS Office Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Teams)
- Minitab / Other Statistical Software
- NVivo (Qualitative data analysis)

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 programme, please contact me: **Dr Caroline Bartle** via email at caroline.bartle@uwe.ac.uk

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 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025