Buckinghamshire New University

Programme Specification

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	BSc (Hons) Health and Social Science BSc (Hons) Health and Social Science with Foundation Year
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Social Science
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	BSc (Hons) Health and Social Science
Pathways (if applicable)	None
FHEQ level of final award:	6
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma of Higher Education BSc Health and Social Science
Accreditation details:	
Length of programme:	3 years Full Time 4 years Full Time with Foundation Year 6 years Part Time
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time Part Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Health Studies (2019); Sociology (2019)
Other external reference points (e.g., Apprenticeship Standard):	
Course Code(s):	BSHASSFT / BSHASSPT / BSHASSFY
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	01/12/2022
Date of last update:	April 2024 / October 2024 / January 2025

2. Programme Summary

The BSc (Hons) in Health and Social Science programme brings together the study of health with the study of wider society and its impact on health. Health and well-being are central to this degree programme and learners will examine national and international policies in these areas. Problems and issues facing socieities in relation to health and well-being will be examined throughout this programme with a strong focus on possible health policy solutions.

There is a focus on employability throughout this programme and learners will have the opportunity to volunteer for an organisation relevant to this degree which will help enhance learners' CVs for future graduate level employment. This is an innovative and varied degree programme which offers a coherent journey through health and well-being alongside social sciences.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Provide learners with advanced knowledge and critical perspectives on a range of topics in Health and Social Science including a critical appreciation of leadership skills and activities in communities and organisations in both national and international contexts
2. Explain and evaluate diverse determinants of health, physical and mental well-being, including their relationship to social justice issues
3. Recognise ethical perspectives and the diversity of values associated with health, physical and mental well-being
4. Use a range of research strategies and methods, assess the appropriateness of their use, and identify an appropriate strategy for specific research problems
5. Enable learners to build self-confidence and self-reflection to develop their professional identities and capacities

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Demonstrate knowledge when applying theory and concepts from health and social science.
K2	Define global, environmental and planetary dimensions of health.
K3	Recognise diverse determinants of health, physical and mental well-being including policy aspects of health and well-being.
K4	Communicate ethical perspectives and the diversity of values associated with health, physical and mental well-being.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Appraise an analytical synthesis of knowledge and skills.
C2	Examine the values, practices and processes of governance that underpin health and well-being and allied agencies which administer and promote health and well-being.

C3	Analyse diverse determinants of health and well-being in terms of changing values and relationships between individuals, groups, as well as public and private agencies in different locations.
C4	Access the appropriateness of a range of research strategies, methods and their use, identifying an appropriate strategy for specific research problems.
C5	Explore different leadership modes for improving the effective running of organisations.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Acquire knowledge about health and social sciences to influence health and well-being across the lifespan within a diverse society.
P2	Apply leadership models for improving the effective running of organisations.
P3	Demonstrate skills of self-reflection in relation to inequalities and social diversity and contending understandings of these.
P4	Develop the learners individual learning journey.
P5	Develop oral and written communication skills.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Demonstrate the ability to work with others effectively using interpersonal skills.
T2	Execute a critical awareness of ethics, equality, diversity and social justice.
T3	Apply initiative and personal responsibility in relation to your learning journey.
T4	Devise and sustain arguments and innovative solutions to problems in health and social science using a breadth of inventiveness, ideas and techniques.
T5	Reflect on personal development in relation to skills required for career success.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through the examination of theories and concepts from health and social science (K1-5, C1-3) which are applied and tested through our rigorous research methods training (K5, P3-5). Social and ethical awareness are central to health and social science and learners on this programme will develop this awareness and understanding across the curriculum (K4, C3-4, T2). The attribute of creativity will be developed through the consideration of key health problems and solutions to such problems (K2, T4, C2-3, P1-2) as well as within the design of learners' independent research projects (K4, C1). Leadership and self-development will be nurtured in this programme through the

growth of skills of self-reflection, group work, communication skills and learning journey management skills (T1,3,5, P3-4, C3-4, K3).

4. Entry Requirements

The University's general entry requirements will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

• UCAS Tariff 88-112; Equivalent points equalling this from any qualifying source.
• If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our accreditation of prior learning (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Foundation Year	**Core modules:** SOC0003 Human Behaviour SOC0004 Research Matters SOC0005 Human Science – Dissecting the details SOC0006 Human Communication SOC0007 Exploring Intersections SOC0008 Knowledge Unleashed	**N/A.** No credit is awarded at this Level.
Level 4	**Core modules:** SOC4006 Wellbeing in Society- 20 credits SOC4007 Sociology of Health - 20 credits SOC4004 Making Sense of Society – 20 credits SOC4002 Policy and Society – 20 credits SOC4005 Media, Communication and Society – 20 credits SOC4018 Social Justice - 20 credits	**Certificate of Higher Education**, awarded on achievement of 120 credits at Level 4
Level 5	**Core modules:** SOC5002 Employability and Professional Development – 20 credits SOC5003 Contemporary Social Research – 20 credits SOC5004 Ethical Issues in Social Science – 20 credits SOC5005 Social Diversity: Race, Gender and Sexuality – 20 credits SOC5022 Leisure, Culture and Space – 20 credits **Option modules:** *Choose modules to the total of 20 credits:* SOC5011 Work, Welfare and Policy – 20 credits SOC5012 Human Rights and Global Development – 20 credits	**Diploma of Higher Education**, awarded on achievement of 240 credits, including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5

| Level 6 | **Core modules:**
SOC6002 Dissertation – 40 credits
SOC6011 Global Health – 20 credits

Option modules:
Choose modules to the total of 60 credits:
SOC6004 Disability, Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System – 20 credits
SOC6012 Ageing through the life course – 20 credits
SOC6013 Body, Culture and Society – 20 credits
SOC6014 Leadership and Teamwork – 20 credits | **Ordinary Degree**, awarded on achievement of 300 credits, including 60 credits at Level 6 and 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5

Honours Degree, awarded on achievement of 360 credits, including 120 credits at each of Levels, 4, 5 and 6 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching strategy for this programme is influenced by the desire to create a meaningful learning journey in which learners build confidence alongside knowledge and understanding of Health and Social Science. Active learning strategies are designed into individual modules with the use of workshop style learning across the curriculum. Assessment related tasks are built into workshops and seminars to create an authentic assessment experience for learners. Discussion based activities are in every module which supports our commitment to a meaningful learning journey where learners will apply their knowledge to explore solutions to health issues and problems. Study groups will be created in level 4 to facilitate cooperative learning whilst also helping learners to settle into BNU by working closely with the same few students on a regular basis. An Academic Skills programme will be a feature of Level 4 where learners will develop the necessary skills to facilitate their academic journey. Cooperative learning, inclusion and respect are key to the learning and teaching strategy in this programme.

Assessment

There are a wide range of authentic assessments across this programme including, for example, presentations and reports. See individual module descriptors for details.

Contact Hours

Each module carries particular contact hours depending on its credit value. For a 20-credit module there are 60 contact hours which can include, for example, lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, fieldtrips. See individual module descriptors for details of contact hours.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- *Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes (2023)*

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the My BNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on university regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling

- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on university processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Critically analyse the contested nature of health using a wide range of perspectives						x														
Show a critical understanding of the diversity and changing nature of determinants of health and the controversies that attend them	x					x										x				
Critically analyse contemporary issues at the forefront of health and physical and mental well-being	x					x														
Demonstrate an informed understanding of ethical perspectives and the diversity of values											x					x				

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
associated with health and physical and mental well-being																				
Critically analyse a range of theories of causality relating to health and ill-health	x					x					x									
Critically appraise the nature of health inequalities and evaluate the impact of population interventions aimed at reducing health deficit						x										x				
Critically analyse the diversity of experience and values associated with health	x					x														
Critically evaluate the role of the individual and of institutions in affecting health status						x					x									

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Cross traditional subject boundaries drawing on appropriate knowledge from other academic disciplines to reflect critically on health issues	x					x					x					x				
Apply an appropriate critical framework to use and evaluate research in health studies						x					x					x				
Describe and examine a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within sociology, evaluate their application and creatively use concepts in analysing social phenomenon or addressing social problems	x					x					x					X`				
Provide an analytical account of social diversity, addressing issues of						x					x					x				

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
identity, difference, and their relationship to inequality and power																				
Analyse social processes shaping individuals, groups, social practices, social institutions and social structures						x										x				
Examine a range of data sources, research strategies and quantitative and qualitative methods and assess the appropriateness of their use	x										x									
Discuss sociological topics with appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates and present the conclusions in a variety of appropriate sociological											x					x				

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
formats suitable for different audiences																				
Summarise and explain the findings of empirical sociological research, including a critical assessment of the methodological frameworks used	x					x					x					x				
Analyse the ethical implications of social research in a variety of applied research settings						x					x									
Identify and construct evidence from a range of sources						x					x					x				
Demonstrate an ability to synthesise bodies of evidence and arguments						x					x					x				

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	**K1**	**K2**	**K3**	**K4**	**K5**	**C1**	**C2**	**C3**	**C4**	**C5**	**P1**	**P2**	**P3**	**P4**	**P5**	**T1**	**T2**	**T3**	**T4**	**T5**
Evaluate competing explanations and draw reasoned conclusions	x					x					x									
Discuss and present ideas and interpretations with others in a clear and reasoned way	x					x					x					x				
Assess and analyse the ethical implications of research and enquiry	x					x					x					x				
Demonstrate skills in information gathering, analysis, communication and presentation						x					x					x				
Work independently and manage time											x					x				
Demonstrate some ability to plan and develop an independent project with a clear outcome											x					x				

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	**K1**	**K2**	**K3**	**K4**	**K5**	**C1**	**C2**	**C3**	**C4**	**C5**	**P1**	**P2**	**P3**	**P4**	**P5**	**T1**	**T2**	**T3**	**T4**	**T5**
Reflexively question assumptions which are taken for granted.						x					x									

Buckinghamshire New University

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	**K1**	**K2**	**K3**	**K4**	**K5**	**C1**	**C2**	**C3**	**C4**	**C5**	**P1**	**P2**	**P3**	**P4**	**P5**	**T1**	**T2**	**T3**	**T4**	**T5**
Level 4																				
Policy and Society	x	x	x				x	x			x				x				x	x
Making Sense of Society	x			x					x		x		x	x	x		x		x	x
Media, Communication and Society	x			x					x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x
Wellbeing in Society	x	x	x				x	x			x				x				x	x
Sociology of Health	x	x		x		x	x			x			x	x	x		x	x		x
Social Justice	X			X		x		X	X		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Level 5																				
Employability and Professional Development	x			x		x	x		x				x	x	x	x		x		x
Contemporary Social Research	x			x		x	x		x				x	x	x		x	x		x
Ethical Issues in Social Science	x			x		x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x			x
Social Diversity: Race, Gender and Sexuality	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Human Rights and Global Development	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Leisure, Culture and Space	x	x	x			x		x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
Level 6																				
Dissertation	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Disability, Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x				x		x	
Global Health	x	x	x	x		x		x			x		x				x		x	
Aging through the Life Course	x	x	x	x		x		x			x		x				x		x	
Body, Culture and Society	x	x	x	x		x		x			x		x				x		x	
Leadership and Teamwork	x			x		x	x			x		x		x	x	x		x		x