<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Awarding body</th>
<th>University of Surrey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Teaching institution (if different)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Final award and programme/pathway title</td>
<td>MSc Social Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Subsidiary award(s) and title(s)</td>
<td>Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PG Dip</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PG Cert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. FHEQ Level</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Credits and ECTS credits</td>
<td>180 credits : 90 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mode of study and route code</td>
<td>Mode of study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Full-time with PTY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part-time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Distance learning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. JACs code</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. QAA Subject benchmark statement (if applicable)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Other internal and / or external reference points</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Faculty and Department/School</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Programme Leader</td>
<td>Dr Jane Fielding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Date of production/revision of the specification</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Educational aims of the programme</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The main aims of the programme are to:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide an appropriate training for students preparing MPhil/PhD theses, or for students going on to employment involving the use of social science research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduce students to a variety of different approaches to social science research at an advanced level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cover the principles of research design and strategy, including formulating research questions or hypotheses and translating these into practicable research designs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Make students aware of the range of secondary data available and equip them to evaluate its utility for their research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Develop skills in searching for and retrieving information, using library and Internet resources</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduce students to the philosophical, theoretical and ethical issues surrounding research and to debates about the relationship between theory and research, about problems of evidence and inference, and about the limits of objectivity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop skills in the use of SPSS, and in the main statistical techniques of data analysis, including multivariate analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop skills in the use of CAQDAS software for the analysis of qualitative data</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Develop skills in writing, in the preparation of a research proposal, in the presentation of research results and in verbal communication</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Help students to prepare their research results for wider dissemination, in the form of seminar papers, conference presentations, reports and publications, in a form suitable for a range of audiences, including academics, policy makers, professionals, service users and the general public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsidiary Award: Postgraduate Certificate in Social Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>On completing the Certificate in Social Research Methods students can expect to be able to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Use some of the research techniques commonly employed in sociological research, from survey research to field methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Collect or generate quantitative and qualitative data through different techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological bases</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Analyse: quantitative data using basic skills; qualitative data from both ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Employ a quantitative and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Apply critical reflection skills to the methodological, theoretical, ethical, and philosophical aspects of social research practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Have some understanding of the contribution social research makes to social policy formulation and the evaluation of planned social interventions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and understanding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate the epistemological and ontological questions that underpin social research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show critical awareness and understanding of the methodological implications of a range of sociological theories and approaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show systematic knowledge of basic principles of research design and strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the use and value of a wide range of different research approaches across the quantitative and qualitative spectra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognise the significance of social/political contexts and uses of research</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual / cognitive skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systematically formulate researchable problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyse qualitative and quantitative data drawn both from ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments, using basic and more advanced techniques, and draw warranted conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically evaluate the range of approaches to research</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional practical skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in sociological research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generate both quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employ a quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key / transferable skills</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work to deadlines and within work schedules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply computing skills for research instrument design, data analysis, and report writing and presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicate ideas, principles and theories by oral, written and visual means</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsidiary Award: Postgraduate Diploma in Social Research Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On completing the Diploma in Social Research Methods students can expect to be able to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in sociological research, from survey research to field methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Collect or generate quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological bases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Analyse: quantitative data using basic and more advanced skills; qualitative data from both ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Employ a quantitative and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data; apply critical reflection skills to the methodological, theoretical, ethical, and philosophical aspects of social research practice
- Plan, manage and execute research as part of a team.
- Present research findings to differing audiences
- Have an understanding of the contribution social research makes to social policy formulation and the evaluation of planned social interventions

**Knowledge and Understanding**
- Appreciate the epistemological and ontological questions that underpin social research
- Show critical awareness and understanding of the methodological implications of a range of sociological theories and approaches
- Show systematic knowledge of basic principles of research design and strategy
- Understand the use and value of a wide range of different research approaches across the quantitative and qualitative spectra
- Show advanced knowledge of techniques, and appropriate use, of quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Recognise the significance of social/political contexts and uses of research
- Show engagement with innovations and developments in social research
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research ethics

**Intellectual / cognitive skills**
- Systematically formulate researchable problems; analyse and conceptualise issues; critically appreciate alternative approaches to research; report to a range of audiences
- Analyse qualitative and quantitative data drawn both from ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments, using basic and more advanced techniques, and draw warranted conclusions
- Develop original insights, questions, analyses and interpretations in respect of research questions
- Critically evaluate the range of approaches to research

**Professional practical skills**
- Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in sociological research
- Generate both quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological bases
- Employ a quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data
- Plan, manage and execute research as part of a team
- Present research findings to differing audiences in both written and oral formats, as appropriate

**Key / transferable skills**
- Communicate ideas, principles and theories by oral, written and visual means
- Work to deadlines and within work schedules
- Work independently and self-organise
- Apply computing skills for research instrument design, data analysis, and report writing and presentation
- Formulate and solve problems, both individually and as part of a team
- Demonstrate experience of a work environment

**Principal Award: MSc in Social Research Methods**

Completing the M.Sc. in Social Research Methods students can expect to be able to:
- Formulate, design, plan, carry out and report on a complete research project
- Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in sociological research, from survey research to field methods
- Collect or generate quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological bases
• Analyse: quantitative data using basic and more advanced skills; qualitative data from both ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments
• Employ a quantitative and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data
• Apply critical reflection skills to the methodological, theoretical, ethical, and philosophical aspects of social research practice
• Plan, manage and execute research as part of a team and as a sole researcher
• Present research findings to differing audiences
• Have an understanding of the contribution social research makes to social policy formulation and the evaluation of planned social interventions

Knowledge and Understanding
• Appreciate the epistemological and ontological questions that underpin social research
• Show critical awareness and understanding of the methodological implications of a range of sociological theories and approaches
• Show systematic knowledge of basic principles of research design and strategy
• Understand the use and value of a wide range of different research approaches across the quantitative and qualitative spectra
• Show advanced knowledge of techniques, and appropriate use, of quantitative and qualitative data analysis
• Recognise the significance of social/political contexts and uses of research
• Show engagement with innovations and developments in social research
• Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research ethics

Intellectual / cognitive skills
• Systematically formulate researchable problems; analyse and conceptualise issues; critically appreciate alternative approaches to research; report to a range of audiences
• Analyse qualitative and quantitative data drawn both from ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments, using basic and more advanced techniques, and draw warranted conclusions
• Develop original insights, questions, analyses and interpretations in respect of research questions
• Use methodological, theoretical, ethical, and philosophical knowledge about social research practice to address complex issues creatively
• Critically evaluate the range of approaches to research

Professional practical skills
• Formulate, design, plan, carry out and report on a complete research project;
• Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in sociological research
• Generate both quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological bases
• Employ a quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data
• Plan, manage and execute research as part of a team and as a sole researcher
• Present research findings to differing audiences in both written and oral formats, as appropriate

Key / transferable skills
• Communicate complex ideas, principles and theories by oral, written and visual means
• Work to deadlines and within work schedules
• Work independently and self-organise
• Apply computing skills for research instrument design, data analysis, and report writing and presentation
• Formulate and solve problems, both individually and as part of a team
• Demonstrate experience of a work environment

17. Programme structure – including the route / pathway / field requirements, levels modules, credits, awards and further information on the mode of study.
All programmes operate on a 15 credit modular structure over two semesters. All taught modules are semester based and are worth 15 credits, which is indicative of 150 hours of learning, comprised of student contact, private study and assessment. Project and dissertation modules can be either 15, 30, 45 or 60 credits and, additionally Master’s dissertations 90 credits.

Credits achieved from completing the dissertation / final project module cannot be attributed to a subsidiary award. Students are unable to submit their dissertation until they have successfully completed their taught modules.

This programme is studied full-time over one academic year and part-time over two academic years. In order to achieve the principal award of an MSc a student must complete 180 credits, with a minimum of 150 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6. Students are also eligible to exit the programme with the following subsidiary awards:

- PG Dip – 120 credits with a minimum of 90 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6
- PG Cert – 60 credits with a minimum of 45 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6

In order for students to progress they must achieve a minimum average of 50%.

Programme adjustments (if applicable)

NA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FHEQ Level (7): Potential awards – MSc / PG Cert / PG Dip</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM010</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCM042</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCM006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM042</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCM004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM018</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCM043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many optional modules must a student choose in order to achieve the necessary amount of credits to achieve this level? NA

18. Opportunities for placements / work-related learning / collaborative activity – please indicate if any of the following apply to your programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate Tutor(s)/ Guest Speakers/ Visiting Academics</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Training Year (PTY)</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement(s) (study or work that are not part of the PTY or Erasmus Scheme)</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Placement(s) (that are not part of the PTY Scheme)</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERASMUS Study (that is not taken during Level P)</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study exchange(s) (that are not part of the ERASMUS Scheme)</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual degree</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Methods Workshops</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. Quality assurance
The Regulations and Codes of Practice for taught programmes can be found at: http://www.surrey.ac.uk/quality_enhancement/index.htm