

**Note:**

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

**Principal version** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 April 2007, issue 36, no 200

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 15 April 2009, issue 65, no 256

**Amendment** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 30 September 2009, issue 113, no 437

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, issue 26, no 440

**Amendment** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 21 September 2011, issue 39, no 554

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, issue 30, no 503

## **Complete version from 1 October 2014**

Curriculum for the  
**Bachelor's Programme Sociology**  
at the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Innsbruck

### **§ 1 Qualification profile and Programme objectives**

- (1) The Bachelor's Programme Sociology is established at the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Innsbruck. The Bachelor's Programme Sociology belongs to the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) The Bachelor's Programme Sociology aims at scientific career preparation in the social and economic sciences and qualifies students for careers which require the application of well-founded, scientific knowledge and methods of sociology. As a scientific programme, it essentially covers theories, methods and instruments of sociology.
- (3) The educational objective of the Bachelor's Programme Sociology is to enable its graduates to develop problem-solving competences that are scientifically sound and well-grounded in theories and methods. These problem-solving competences should enable them to work on typical issues of their future occupational fields in a scientifically sound and practically relevant manner. As academically trained experts in sociology they will have a broad range of qualifications and thus will be able to work in diverse occupational fields.
- (4) The Bachelor's Programme Sociology prepares graduates, in particular, for social planning, analysing and advisory professional or freelance activities in companies, in public administration and non-governmental organizations, in chambers and associations, in the social and health sector, in education and training, in leisure and cultural institutions, social reporting in the media as well as activities in university and non-university social scientific research institutions.
- (5) Graduates of the Bachelor's Programme Sociology
  1. are to acquire the ability to observe, explain, analyse and evaluate social structures, processes and social change at different social levels by means of sociological theories, models and methods. Thus, the Bachelor's Programme Sociology offers insights into social conditions and consequences of social action as well as the structures, dynamics of

development and effects of social systems;

2. have skills in developing, implementing and supervising recommendations for possible actions and scope for design in the fields of economy, culture, and society. Thus, the Bachelor's Programme in Sociology contributes to coping practical issues in complex decision situations;
  3. have soft skills and social skills such as self-management, communicative skills as well as the ability to work in teams and groups. Thus, the Bachelor's Programme in Sociology prepares its graduates for individual initiative and cooperation in multiple and variable social contexts in terms of professional and social practice.
- (6) The results of gender studies are to be considered in all fields of sociological science. The current state of research in the field of gender studies is thus to be considered in the courses. Apart from the general consideration in the courses, a separate module with specific issues of gender studies, including sexual minorities and queer, lesbian and gay studies, is provided in the curriculum.

## § 2 Scope and duration

- (1) The Bachelor's Programme Sociology covers 180 ECTS-Credits, with a duration of six semesters. One ECTS-Credit is equal to a work-load of 25 hours.
- (2) The Bachelor's Programme Sociology is performed in the form of modules.

## § 3 Courses and numbers of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous assessment:

**Lectures** (VO 'Vorlesung') are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. Maximum number of participants: 200.

- (2) Courses without continuous assessment:

1. **Introductory seminars** (PS) introduce students interactively to scientific literature through the treatment of selected issues. They convey knowledge and methods of academic work. Maximum number of participants: 35.
  2. **Seminars** (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 35 respectively 25 for the Seminar with Bachelor's Thesis.
  3. **Practical training courses** (PR) provide practical experience with concrete scientific tasks, complementing occupational and academic training. Maximum number of participants: 25.
- (3) **Excursions** can be performed as part of courses. Excursions serve to practically illustrate political science issues and subjects. They offer the possibility to get to know social, political or economic institutions as well as national and international educational and research establishments.

## § 4 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criteria in Z 1 do not suffice, first, students for whom this course is part of a compulsory module are to be given priority, and second, students for whom this course is

part of an elective module.

3. If the criteria in Z 1 and 2 do not suffice, the available places are drawn by random.

#### § 4a Studies Induction and Orientation Stage

- (1) The Studies Induction and Orientation Stage covers one semester (30 ECTS-Credits) and offers students an overview of the main contents of the Bachelor's Programme Sociology and its structure in order to provide a factual basis to assess the decision to pursue the chosen field.
- (2) The Studies Induction and Orientation Stage requires the following course examinations, which may be repeated twice, to be completed successfully:
  1. VO Introduction to Sociological Perspectives and Approaches (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits)
  2. VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches - Contemporary Society (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits)
- (3) Passing the examinations specified in paragraph 2 permits students to attend all further courses and take all examinations following the Studies Induction and Orientation Stage and to write a bachelor's thesis as described in the curriculum. Registration requirements specified by the curriculum are to be followed.

#### § 5 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules, amounting to 145 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory module: Sociological Perspectives and Approaches	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Introduction to Sociological Perspectives and Approaches	2	5
b.	VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches - Contemporary Society	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the ability to explain the theories and history of sociology as the science that analysis social action multidimensional, i.e. not limited to one section of human coexistence. They are able to recognize main social issues and subjects and to describe them from a sociological perspective. They know how to analyse contemporary social, cultural, economic and political developments in terms of science, i.e. theory-driven, and to critically evaluate institutions and processes with current examples.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Compulsory module: Introduction to Scientific Working Skills in Sociology	h	ECTS-Credits
	PS Scientific Working in Sociology	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students are able to understand sociological issues, to limit research questions, to construct hypotheses, to find the necessary literature and to quote it correctly. Moreover, they understand to apply these skills in a written work, to reproduce the discussion of the research subject and to develop an individual argumentation.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>3.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Applied Methods of Social Sciences</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Applied Methods of Social Sciences</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Applied Methods of Social Sciences</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b>  Students acquire the ability to deal with fundamentals of empirical studies. They understand to allocate the most important qualitative and quantitative survey methods to the respective scientific-theoretical and methodological background and chose the necessary methods for each research question.  They are able to deal with current empirical studies and to apply the first steps of a research process (formulation of a research issue, data collection, method reflection) autonomously in terms of quality and/or quantity or method.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Statistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Statistics</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Statistics</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b>  Students are able to explain the logics of the current statistical procedures and approaches in empirical research of social sciences and they understand their logics and procedures in terms of empirical research. They acquire basic knowledge of the statistical methods used in empirical data analyses.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>5.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Social and Political Theories</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Social Theories</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Political Theories and Political Thinking</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b>  Students are able to distinguish and characterize the most important paradigms of sociological basic theories in their historical development. They know how to apply these theories to current sociological issues. They are able to systematically analyse power and power relationships. They know how to classify and explain the development of political thinking in the course of the centuries as well as to illustrate different definitions of power. Students understand to identify different theories of state and to explain different theories of democracy.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>6.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: European Social Structure and Culture and Gender Studies</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO European Social Structure and Culture</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Gender Studies</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b>  Students acquire the ability to explain the structures and cultures of the Austrian society and to theoretically locate compared to other European societies in terms of relevant models of society. They are able to name the most important stages of their present development and understand to update their knowledge of literary and statistical sources.  Moreover, they know how to state historical genesis and cultural variability of social order. They are able to critically reflect gender coding in western intellectual and cultural history as well as in (social)scientific discourses of modern age and to autonomously evaluate political strategies of gender politics on a national, European and international level.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

<b>7.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Structures and Change of Contemporary Society 1</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Structures and Change of Contemporary Society 1</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Structures and Change of Contemporary Society 1</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b>  Students are able to name the most important theoretical models of contemporary society and to explain structures and changes within different society models. They recognize the possibilities and limits opened by socio-theoretical models, and they understand the dependence of society models on their respective social context of origin.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 2			

<b>8.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Market, State, Social Institutions 1</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Market, State, Social Institutions 1</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Market, State, Social Institutions 1</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b>  Students acquire the ability to explain theories and analyses of development and transformation of social institutions – in particular, institutions in terms of politics, market and civil society. They know how to analyse the effects and interactions of these institutions in societies. Students know central social scientific discussions, terms and methods to analyse market, state and social institutions and organizations.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 2			

9.	Compulsory module: Life World, Life Forms: Individual and Society 1	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Life World, Life Forms: Individual and Society 1	2	5
b.	PS Life World, Life Forms: Individual and Society 1	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the ability to reproduce the essential theoretical approaches of interpretative sociology and to explain their basic terminology. Moreover, they know how to describe current topic areas and research perspectives of cultural social analyses. They are able to critically discuss constructions of identity in the context of social relationships of misjudgement and recognition based on sociological identity theories and theoretical impulses from related fields. They know how to identify and authentically reproduce central theses and lines of reasoning. Moreover, they are able to apply theoretical concepts to empirical phenomena.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 2</p>			

10.	Compulsory module: Rural and Regional Sociology 1	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Rural and Regional Sociology 1	2	5
b.	PS Rural and Regional Sociology 1	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b> Students acquire basic knowledge of the theories and processes of regional development, town and country relations as well as rural and development sociology (in Austria, Europe and Southern countries). Students acquire knowledge of the practical relevance and the use of theoretical models – e.g. of rural sociology.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 2</p>			

11.	Compulsory module: Advanced Methods of Social Sciences	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Advanced Methods of Social Sciences	2	5
b.	SE Advanced Methods of Social Sciences	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b> Students acquire advanced knowledge of the methods of the social sciences and deepen these with the help of concrete examples.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 3</p>			

12.	Compulsory module: Advanced Statistics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Advanced Statistics	2	5
b.	SE Advanced Statistics	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire advanced knowledge of statistical methods of empirical data analysis.
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 4

13.	Compulsory module: Research Project	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	PR Research Project 1	2	7.5
b.	PR Research Project 2	2	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the ability to individually plan (research and study design, research hypotheses or heuristics, survey and evaluation procedure) and implement (data collection and evaluation as well as result presentation) an empirical sociological research project as well as to relate theory, methodology and empirical research.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 3, 4 and 11		

14.	Compulsory module: Bachelor's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Seminar with Bachelor's Thesis	2	2.5 + 12.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students proof their ability to individually apply theoretical and methodical tools of sociology to a specific topic within the bachelor's thesis.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 1 to 10		

- (2) Elective modules: The following elective modules, amounting to 35 ECTS-Credits are to be taken.

1.	Elective module: Structures and Change of Contemporary Society 2	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Contemporary Society 2	2	5
b.	SE Contemporary Society 2	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students have advanced knowledge in selected theoretical society models. They understand to apply these models in analysing selected social issues. They are able to determine the possibilities of recognition in the context of social-theoretical models and conditional recognition limits within appropriate theoretical, methodical and empirical arguments and to critically evaluate relevant current socio-theoretical discussions.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 7		

2.	Elective module: Market, State, Social Institutions 2	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Market, State, Social Institutions 2	2	5
b.	SE Market, State, Social Institutions 2	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the ability to discuss and illustrate the development and transformation of social institutions, markets, state and other central institutions. They are able to apply theories and analysis methods to selected social scientific discussions and issues.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 8		

3.	Elective module: Life World, Life Forms: Individual and Society 2	H	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Life World, Life Forms 2	2	5
b.	SE Life World, Life Forms 2	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students get to know the subjects, questions and current research issues of a special sociology (consumption, town, body or knowledge and technical sociology). They know how to describe the development lines of the respective research field and to determine their essential theoretical perspectives and relationship to sociological tradition of knowledge. Students can evaluate and discuss the relevance and importance of sociological perspectives and interpretative-qualitative culture-sociological research approaches in the context of empirical and interdisciplinary research fields. They are able to compare, link and evaluate positions within research discussions. Students know how to transfer their skills to new contexts and to develop individual research issues.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 9		

4.	Elective module: Rural and Regional Sociology 2	H	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Rural and Regional Sociology 2	2	5
b.	SE Rural and Regional Sociology 2	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the ability to illustrate selected fields of rural and regional sociology (e.g. agro-food studies, agriculture-environment relations, development of the relationships between the urban and rural environments, etc.), and they know the relevant discussions. They use theoretical concepts to analyse changes of economic and consumption patterns and values as well as the influence of regulative interventions. They are able to analyse and evaluate the effects of social change in terms of identities, actions and relations between relevant actors based on specific issues.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the module according to § 5 Para 1 No 10		



5.	<b>Elective module: Interdisciplinary Skills</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Courses with a total of 5 ECTS-Credits can be selected freely from the curricula of the bachelor's and/or diploma programmes at the University of Innsbruck. The prerequisites of the respective curricula do apply.	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> This module serves to widen the study programme and to acquire additional qualifications.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

6.	<b>Elective module: Work Experience</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	A work experience in relevant national or international organizations with sociological-related fields of activity or research projects can be completed alternatively to the elective module 5. A workload of min. 120 hours is to be assessed and an internship report is to be submitted. The internship can be only started after successful completion of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester at the earliest. The Director of Studies has to give permission before starting the internship.	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> This module serves to widen the study programme and to acquire practical qualifications.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

7. Modules from the curricula of the bachelor's programmes at the University of Innsbruck according to 54 Para 1 UA with a total of 10 ECTS-Credits can be selected freely in order to focus the choice of specialization. The prerequisites of the respective curricula do apply.

## § 6 Bachelor's Thesis

- (1) The bachelor's thesis is to be completed within the compulsory module "Bachelor's Thesis" (2.5 + 12.5 ECTS-Credits).
- (2) The bachelor's thesis is to be submitted in written form and in electronic form as determined by the Director of Studies.
- (3) A topic may be addressed jointly by several students with permission of the instructor of the course provided that the work of each student can be assessed individually.
- (4) The bachelor's thesis can be written in a foreign language with permission of the instructor of the course.

## § 7 Examination Regulations

- (1) The performance of the modules – with the exception of the module Work Experience – is assessed by course examinations, which are
  1. Examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in the lectures in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define the method of examination before the course begins.

2. Courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contribution by participants. The course instructor has to define the assessment criteria before the course begins.
- (2) The performance of the module Work Experience is assessed by the Director of Studies. If the module is completed successfully, it is to be assessed with “successfully participation”, the form of assessment for a fail is “unsuccessfully completed”.

## § 8 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Bachelor’s Programme in Sociology are awarded the academic degree of “**Bachelor of Arts**”, abbreviated “BA”.

## § 9 Validity and Effect

- (1) The curriculum is effective as of 1 October 2007.
- (2) §§ 5, 7 and 10 in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, issue 26, no 440 is effective as of 1 October 2011 and applies to all students.
- (3) § 4a in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, issue 26, no 440 is effective as of 1 October 2011 and applies to all students beginning their degree programme as of winter semester 2011/2012.
- (4) [ceases to be effective according to Para 6]
- (5) The modifications of the curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, issue 30, no 503 is effective as of 1 October 2014 and applies to all students.
- (6) § 9 Para 4 ceases to be effective as of 30 September 2014.
- (7) § 4a ceases to be effective as of 31 December 2015.

## § 10 Transitional provisions

- (1) The course examinations according to the curricula for the Bachelor’s Programme Sociology in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 April 2007, issue 36, no 200, correspond to the course examinations of the curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 15 April 2009, issue 65, no 256, as follows:

<b>Course examinations according to the curriculum for the Bachelor’s Programme Sociology in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 April 2007, issue 36:</b>	<b>Course examinations according to the curriculum for the Bachelor’s Programme Sociology in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 15 April 2009, issue 65, No 256</b>
„Fundamentals of European Studies“ (VO 4)	„Skills from other Disciplines“ (VO 4)
„Minority Research“ (VO 2)	„European Social Structure and Culture“ (VO 2)“

- (2) The course examinations according to the curricula for the Bachelor’s Programme Sociology at the University of Innsbruck in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 15 April 2009, issue 65, no 256, correspond to the course examinations of the curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, issue 26, no 440, as follows:

<b>Course examinations according to the curriculum for the Bachelor’s Programme Sociology in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 15 April 2009, issue 65, no 256</b>	<b>Course examinations according to the curriculum for the Bachelor’s Programme Sociology in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, issue 26, no 440</b>

Scientific Working in Sociology (PS 2)	Scientific Working in Sociology (PS 2)
Sociological Perspectives and Approaches (VO 4)	Introduction to Sociological Perspectives and Approaches (VO 2) and Sociological Perspectives and Approaches – Contemporary Society (VO 2)