

**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).

**Original 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

**Amendment** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 4 February 2015, issue 13, no. 165

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 May 2016, issue 24, no. 362

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 11 March 2021, issue 48, no. 596

**Amendment** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 18 August 2021, issue 100, no. 1001

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 April 2024, issue 41, no. 672

## **Complete version as of 1 October 2021**

Curriculum for the

### **Bachelor's Programme Sociology**

at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Innsbruck

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

- (1) The Bachelor's Programme in Sociology is offered at the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Innsbruck. The Bachelor's Programme in Sociology belongs to the social and economic science study programmes.
- (2) The Bachelor's Programme in 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 in 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 in Sociology prepares graduates, in particular, for social planning, analysing and advisory professional or freelance activities in companies, in public administration and non-governmental organisations, 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 in 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 in 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. In addition to the general consideration in the courses, a separate module dealing with specific issues of gender studies, including sexual minorities and queer, lesbian and gay studies, is provided by the curriculum.

## **§ 2 Scope and duration**

- (1) The Bachelor's Programme in 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 in Sociology is structured in modules.

## **§ 3 Courses and maximum number of participants per course**

- (1) Courses without continuous assessment:  
**Lectures (VO)** are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. Maximum number of participants: 250.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. Lectures with integrated practical parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 35
  2. 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
  3. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 35 or 25 for the Colloquium for the Bachelor's Thesis
  4. Practical training courses (PR) provide practical experience with concrete scientific tasks, complementing occupational and/or academic training. Maximum number of participants: 25

## **§ 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 criterium in Z 1 does 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 at random.
- 4.

### **§ 4a Studies induction and orientation stage**

- (1) Within the scope of the Studies and Orientation Stage, which takes place in the first semester, the following course examinations must be passed:
  1. VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches 1: Introduction to Sociology (CM 1 a, 2 hrs., 5 ECTS-Credits

2. VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches 2: Topics in Contemporary Society (CM 1 b, 2 hrs., 5 ECTS-Credits)
- (2) Successful passing of all exams of the Studies Induction and Orientation Stage entitles to passing all further courses and examinations as well as to writing the Bachelor's Thesis.
- (3) Before successful completion of the Studies Induction and Orientation Stage, courses amounting to 20 ECTS-Credits may be passed. The requirements specified in the curriculum must be met.

## § 5 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules, amounting to 150 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory module: Sociological Perspectives and Approaches	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches 1: Introduction to Sociology	2	5
b.	VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches 2: Topics in Contemporary Society	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students learn to take up the sociological perspective. They acquire the ability to explain the theories and history of sociology as the science that analyses social action multidimensional, i.e. not limited to one section of human coexistence such as economy, politics or science. They can scientifically, i.e. theoretically, analyse current social, cultural, economic and political developments and evaluate them critically using current examples of social actors, institutions and processes.		
	<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>Learning Outcomes:</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		

3.	Compulsory module: Introduction to Empirical Social Research	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Introduction to Empirical Social Research	2	5
b.	PS Introduction to Empirical Social Research	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students acquire the ability to characterise the fundamentals of empirical studies. They can assign the most important qualitative and quantitative survey methods to the respective scientific-theoretical and methodological background and decide which research questions require which methods. They are able to critically evaluate existing empirical studies and independently carry out the first phases of a research process (formulation of a research question, data collection, method reflection) qualitatively and/or quantitatively or using method triangulation.</p>
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none

4.	<b>Compulsory module: Quantitative Social Research and the Basics of Statistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VO Quantitative Social Research and the Basics of Statistics</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students master the basics of descriptive and inferential statistics and can use this knowledge to answer sociological questions. They are able to carry out descriptive, univariate and bivariate data analyses independently with statistical software, to interpret the results in a sociologically meaningful way and to present them clearly with tables and graphics in research reports and presentations. To test hypotheses, students can perform parametric and non-parametric tests and calculate association measures. Successful completion of the module also enables the critical reception and use of official statistics and social science data in data archives.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 3		

5.	<b>Compulsory module: Qualitative Social Research</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
a.	<b>VO Qualitative Social Research</b>	2	5
b.	<b>SE Applied Qualitative Methods</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students understand the logic of the qualitative research paradigm. They know the most common qualitative methods and can use them to answer a sociological research question. Qualitative data can be evaluated methodically in a controlled manner and the results can be clearly presented in the form of a research report. Overall, they are able to develop a qualitative research design and independently carry out the entire research process from the research question to the report.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 3		

6.	<b>Compulsory module: Methods of Multivariate Analysis and Advanced Statistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
a.	<b>VO Methods of Multivariate Analysis and Advanced Statistics</b>	2	5
b.	<b>SE Applied Multivariate Data Analysis</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to investigate a research question theoretically with quantitative data and to apply structure-checking procedures to test hypotheses. The students can independently carry out the most common multivariate analysis methods with statistical software, interpret</p>		

	the results in a sociologically meaningful way and present them clearly with tables and graphics in research reports and presentations. The positive completion of the module enables the critical reception of quantitative-oriented contributions in the social science literature. Furthermore, the participants get their first insights into the possible uses of “big data” for the social sciences
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 4

7.	Compulsory module: Sociological Theory	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Sociological Theory	2	5
b.	PS Theory	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to differentiate between the most important paradigms of basic sociological theories with regards to their historical development and to apply them to current sociological issues. They will acquire in-depth knowledge of one of these theories and be able to present it convincingly in the context of a scientific work and for an independent problem analysis		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

8.	Compulsory module: Gender Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
	VO Gender Studies	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to critically reflect on gender codes in Western intellectual and cultural history as well as in (socially) scientific discourses of modernity, and are able to independently judge political strategies of gender politics at national, European and international level.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

9.	Compulsory module: Structures and Change in Modern Society	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Structures and Change in Modern Society	2	5
b.	PS Structures and Change in Modern Society	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students can name the most important theoretical models of modern society and can describe structures and changes in the light of the various social models. They recognise the possibilities and limits of knowledge opened up by social-theoretical models, and have a grasp of the dependence of the social models on their respective social context.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 2		

<b>10.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Market, State, Social Institutions</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Market, State, Social Institutions</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Market, State, Social Institutions</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students can explain theories and analyses of the emergence and transformation of social institutions - in particular institutions of politics, the market and civil society. They can analyse the modes of operation and interactions of these institutions in societies. The students know central social science debates, terms and methods for analysing the market, state and social institutions and organizations.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 2</p>		

<b>11.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Life World – Life Forms: Individual and Society</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Life World – Life Forms: Individual and Society</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Life World – Life Forms: Individual and Society</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students can reproduce the essential theoretical approaches of interpretative sociology and explain their basic terminology. They can also describe current topics and research perspectives in everyday and cultural-sociological analyses. In particular, they are able to critically discuss identity constructions in the context of social misconception and recognition based on sociological identity theories as well as theoretical impulses from related fields. They can identify central theses and lines of argument and reproduce them without falsification. In addition, they are able to apply theoretical concepts to empirical phenomena as an example of research.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 2</p>		

<b>12.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Rural and Regional Sociology</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Rural and Regional Sociology</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>PS Rural and Regional Sociology</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students can reflect the current status of the debates on the dynamics of social change in agriculture and rural areas and describe their interactions with social developments (in Austria, Europe and in countries in the south). They will be able to reflect on and analyse processes of urban-rural relationships as well as the fundamentals of regional development processes using social science theories.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 2</p>		

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>Learning Outcomes:</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 compulsory modules 4 and 5			

14.	Compulsory module: Bachelor's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Seminar with Bachelor's Thesis	2	2.5 + 12.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students proof their ability to individually apply theoretical and methodical tools of sociology to a specific topic within the scope of their Bachelor's Thesis.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 3 to 5 and 9 to 12.			

15.	Compulsory module: Selected Sociological Topics	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Selected Topics in Sociology (Three different courses that have not been chosen in elective module 2, each with 2 hours and 5 ECTS-Credits as announced in the course catalogue, are to be completed.)	6	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> This module serves to gain in-depth knowledge in selected subject areas of sociology. The students specialise in one or more subject(s) and acquire in-depth knowledge in them.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

(2) Elective modules amounting to 30 ECTS-Credits are to be passed.

1.	Elective module: Sociological Work Experience	h	ECTS-Credits
	To test and apply the knowledge and skills acquired, or to provide orientation about the conditions of professional practice and to acquire professionally relevant qualifications, students can complete a work experience covering 350 hours ( in institutions of public administrations, economy and media, in chambers and interest groups, bodies of social work and cultural management, national and international organisations). Before starting the work experience, it must be approved by the Director of Studies. A confirmation of the duration, scope and contents of the work done must be presented. In addition, a report must be written.	-	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>

	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students apply acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment; after completing the module, the students know about the conditions of professional and / or scientific practice.
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 1 to 3 and 8.

2.	<b>Elective module: Sociological Specialisation</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Three VU courses that are not chosen in compulsory module 15, each with 2 hours and 5 ECTS-Credits as announced in the course catalogue, are to be selected.	6	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students acquire in-depth knowledge by focusing on some of the sub-areas of the subject.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	<b>Elective module: Interdisciplinary Skills</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Courses with a total of 10 ECTS-Credits can be freely selected from the curricula of the bachelor's programmes at the University of Innsbruck.	-	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The Interdisciplinary Skills module serves to acquire interdisciplinary/generic knowledge and to build up social and socio-politically relevant competences.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> The requirements specified by the respective curricula must be met.		

4. Individual Choice of Specialisation. For the Individual Choice of Specialisation, modules covering a total of 20 or 15 ECTS-Credits may be freely selected from the bachelor's programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck. The registration prerequisites specified by the respective curricula must be met.
5. Instead of the elective module acc. to §5 par. 2 no. 3 and the Individual Choice of Specialisation acc. to §5 par. 2 no. 4, a Minor (Complementary Subject Area) may be passed, providing the availability of places. Minors are fixed modules from other disciplines covering 30 ECTS-Credits; they have been published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin.

## § 6 Bachelor's Thesis

- (1) The Bachelor's thesis includes 12.5 ECTS-Credits and must be written as part of the compulsory module 14 "Bachelor's thesis".
- (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 Sociological 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 Sociological Work Experience is assessed by the Director of Studies. If the module is completed successfully, it is to be assessed with “participated with success”, the form of assessment for a fail is “participated without success”.

## § 8 Academic degree

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

## § 9 Coming into force

- (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.
- (8) §4a in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 May 2016, Issue 24, No. 362 comes into force on 1 October 2016 and is to be applied to all students commencing their study programme as of the 2016/2017 winter semester and to all students, who have not yet passed the courses of the studies induction and orientation stage according to the previous regulations.
- (9) The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 11 March 2021, Issue 48, No. 596 comes into effect as of 1 October 2021 and is to be applied to all students.
- (10) The modification of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 April 2024, Issue 41, no. 672 comes into effect as of 1 October 2024 and is to be applied to all students

## § 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)

- (3) For students, who have started their study programme before the 2016/2017 winter semester, the limitation of ECTS-Credits that may be passed before completion of the studies induction and orientation stage according to §4a par. 3 in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 May 2016, Issue 24, No. 362 is not to be applied before 30 November 2017. After that point in time more courses and examinations may only be taken after successful completion of the whole studies induction and orientation stage.