

SOLENT
UNIVERSITY
SOUTHAMPTON

www.solent.ac.uk

20
24

Social work, criminology and sociology

2024 undergraduate courses



Help the vulnerable and uphold justice

There are many areas of work that help individuals and communities to alleviate social deprivation. You can have a rewarding career that shapes the lives of those in need of support.

In criminal justice, you could go into a fascinating career in the prisons and court service, policing and investigation, or even the social service, to work with offenders and young people.

Gold-standard teaching and opportunities

Our focus on practical knowledge and employment opportunities is just one of the reasons we're rated gold in the latest Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) review from the UK government Office for Students.

TEF recognises excellence in teaching, learning and achieving positive outcomes for students - with gold status awarded only to universities offering outstanding student experience and career outcomes.

TEF
2023

Overall: **Gold**

Student experience: **Gold**

Student outcomes: **Gold**

Teaching Excellence Framework

If you're looking for a truly meaningful career – helping, understanding or protecting people – then our social work, criminology and sociology courses provide all the tools you need.

Why Solent?

- Our accredited BA (Hons) Social Work was in the top three for University of the Year at the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2022.
- You'll complete significant periods of work experience in either local authorities or voluntary, private and independent organisations in the region.
- Work shadowing and volunteering opportunities in the criminal justice system.
- Guest lectures delivered by key practitioners who work within the police, the probation service, cybersecurity and the military.
- Taught by experts with extensive links with local and national employers, such as Hampshire Constabulary, the National Probation Service, the National Crime Agency and various international organisations.

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Taught by experts with extensive links to industry

Connections to industry are made through several avenues, including guest speakers and the professional connections of teaching staff. Our courses also have close working relationships with many local and national employers, such as Hampshire Constabulary, the National Probation Service, Portsmouth Adult Social Care, a Portsmouth drug addiction charity, the National Crime Agency and various international organisations.

In social work, you'll complete practice learning placements through our partnership arrangements with Southampton City, Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight local authorities, as well as other social care organisations.

Past guest speakers have included professionals who work within public health, the police, the probation service, cybersecurity, the military and charities.



Specialist facilities

We provide a stimulating learning environment and access to state-of-the-art resources to help you make the most of your time with us.

- Professional-quality equipment – psycho-physiological recording, eye-tracking and experimental cubicles.
- Portable crime scene and mock courtroom for use during investigating crime scene and forensic evidence modules (criminology).
- Our purpose-built Solent Courtroom gives you the opportunity to practise your skills and knowledge in a realistic setting.

A cutting-edge campus



The Spark building

The Spark, our award-winning teaching and learning building, is the proud centrepiece of our campus – and everything about it is centred around you and your learning. Our lecture theatres include at-seat charging sockets for laptops and tablets, while the latest lecture-capture technology uploads to our virtual learning environment.



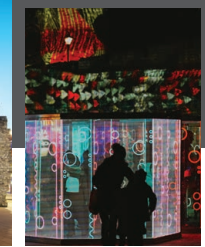
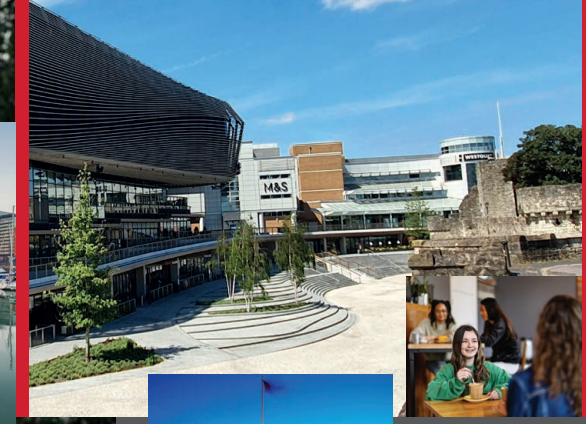
Library

Our library features a fully networked resource centre equipped with high-end Macs and PCs, and an extensive selection of both open-plan and private group working spaces. Solent's library offers access to over 150,000 books in print and online, and over 33,000 e-journals, to support your studies.



Ultra-modern sports complex

Our £28 million sports complex has a huge range of sport and physical activity facilities – with flexible, affordable gym memberships – that can be used by all Solent students, with dedicated teaching spaces for those on our sport-focused courses.



Our great city

With a population of over 250,000 – including 46,000 students – Southampton is a thriving city that has recently had a £1.6 billion injection of investment.

The city has a multitude of well-known and independent café's, restaurants and bars so you can catch up with friends. You can find live music throughout the city, from renowned venue The Joiners, which has launched many bands, to mainstream bands at the O2 Guildhall, and festivals at the common.

There is great shopping, as well as independent and state-of-the-art cinemas and theatres. You could take time to visit one of the city's art galleries, museums, walk around the waterfront or medieval walls of our historic city.

With the city being ranked 7th in the UK for having the most green space open to the public, and some of the best parks opposite the campus, you don't have to go far to get a boost from nature.

Why study criminology at Solent?

Study the criminal justice process, look at victimology to understand the impact of crime on individuals, even learn about cybercrime, which has expanded in a globalised world, and youth justice to help young people who need support.

- Courses ranked 31st in the UK for criminology (The Guardian League Table 2023).
- The course is designed, taught and assessed in partnership with social work practitioners, service users and carers, ensuring you are up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.
- You'll learn from experts with extensive links with local and national employers, such as Hampshire Constabulary, the National Probation Service, Portsmouth Adult Social Care, the National Crime Agency and various international organisations.
- Guest speakers include industry professionals who work within public health, the police, the probation service, cybersecurity and the military.
- You'll use our portable crime scene and courtroom during the Investigating Crime Scenes and Forensic Evidence modules.
- Benefit from a strong mentoring support network that has led students directly to employment.
- As well as key modules in understanding crime, you'll gain transferable skills through modules in psychology applied to crime and social change.
- Our portfolio of social and policy research is rich and diverse, with some of the most pressing societal concerns at the forefront of exploration – you will learn from experts in their field.

BSc (Hons)

Criminal Investigation with Psychology

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/CIN1

Understanding the motives behind criminal behaviour is key in investigating crime, to explain criminality and to deliver justice.

You'll examine the underlying social and psychological dimensions of crime and justice by studying the methods by which crimes are investigated and prosecutions secured, alongside the foundations of psychological inquiry and research. You'll learn about criminal justice institutions and processes, as well as how psychologists seek to understand human thought and interaction – and how thoughts and feelings motivate our actions in various settings.

Graduates have careers in/for:

the probation service, the security services, social services, the third sector (that is, supporting victims or working with people with addiction), youth services, forensics, the police, the information security services, human rights organisations, the courts.



“The course had a good balance of theoretical and historical theory, while keeping its finger on the pulse of modern and current crime and punishment issues facing society today. The topics and modules throughout the three years were varied and engaging. This gave me a hunger to continue my learning outside of the university premise and inspired me to take on criminology as a career.”

Kirsty Kearns, BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Forensic Psychology, 2020 – now known as BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Psychology



BA (Hons)

Criminology

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/M930

If you are curious about crime and justice, with ambitions to shape society, this degree opens career opportunities in a range of roles across prisons and court services, policing or investigation.

Exploring issues concerning the definition, nature and incidence of crime and explanations for criminal behaviour, you'll engage in debates on the nature of justice, examine a range of perspectives on policing, prosecution and punishment, and consider the effectiveness, fairness and consequences of various institutional approaches to crime. You'll look at the experience of crime victims, examine media representations of social problems, and discuss the effect of modern communications technology on the processes of law.



“All the lecturers had their own unique way of teaching and a wealth of real-world experience, which meant that they could tell or show us how the theories we covered worked in practice. This meant that when it came to finding a job after graduating, I had a better understanding of challenges in the real world and how to tackle them.”

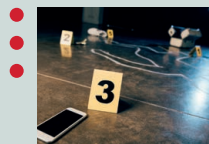
Evelyn Eggleston, BA (Hons) Criminology, 2020

Graduates have careers in/for:

the probation service, the Home Office, human rights organisations, local authorities, the police, the third sector (that is, working with victims and dangerous offenders).



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BSc (Hons)

Criminology and Psychology

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/CAP1

Explore the world of crime, and get behind the psychology of criminology and social justice, on this degree accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS).

You'll develop key industry skills in analytical thinking, crime scene investigation, presentation of evidential studies and critical thinking, along with the key knowledge of psychological and criminological theory to prepare you for a career in relevant fields and sectors. The course is designed and constantly refreshed with current thinking, thanks to a lecturing staff with plenty of experience and current connections within the criminal justice and criminology arena.

Graduates have careers in/for:

the criminal justice system, the police, the probation services, youth work and victim support services, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Home Office.



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“The course was amazing – I really liked the Police, Law and Community module, which was extremely helpful for me when it came to applying for different jobs, and also when I went to an interview. The course as a whole was very interesting, and the lecturers were always willing to help and take extra time to explain anything. Overall, the course definitely prepared me for a career in this field”.

Chloe Ford, BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology, 2020

BA (Hons)

Criminology and Sociology

UCAS tariff: 112–128

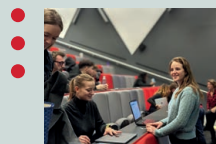
Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/CAS1

This degree helps you develop critical perspectives on social behaviours, exploring justice, crime and inequality, to prepare you for a successful career and to make a meaningful contribution to society.

On this course, you'll study crime, social behaviours, media, social inequalities, migration, and race and ethnicity. You'll develop scientific approaches to researching key issues, applying concepts from sociology and criminology. You'll also acquire a range of key skills which will help you become analytical and enable problem solving. You'll become an excellent communicator, with a good understanding of empathy. This degree emphasises the practical application of criminology and sociology, with real-world assessments integrated throughout.

Graduates have careers in/for:

the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Home Office, the border and immigration service, mental health support services, third sector organisations, journalism, public relations.



Nasima Khalique

BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology, student

What's the best thing about your course lecturers?

As it had been a long time since I was in education, I was a little bit apprehensive about going back to university, but as soon as I started my studies and met my lecturers, I realised how supportive and understanding they were, and that they were always willing to help.

What's life like as a Solent student?

Being a mature student, I have many responsibilities outside my university life. I have two young children and work part-time as a pharmacy dispenser, so for those reasons I have not joined any sports teams or societies. However, I have met some amazing people and made great friends. We keep in contact over chat groups. I've also met some amazing lecturers who I would consider supporters and even friends.

Has the University given you any support when you needed it?

Yes! My lecturers have helped me with my assignments. The Student Hub has been a great support too, as well as the library staff. The overall support has been excellent, and the staff at the University have made me feel very welcome.

What's the most important thing you've learned so far?

It's not too late to study, and how supportive people in my field of study can be. I've learnt a lot about criminology and sociology subjects and how they are connected, and have been able to refresh my writing style through the summative assessments.

What do you think you're going to take away from your time at Solent University?

I feel very lucky to study at Solent University and have always felt valued by the academic team. I would like to use this experience to show my children how rewarding it is to study at degree level, and hopefully be a role model to encourage them to go to university in the future.

“I feel very lucky to study at Solent University and have always felt valued by the academic team.”

BSc (Hons)

Psychology and Sociology

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/PAS1

Explore the fascinating behaviours of individuals, as well as the cultural and political issues that shape collective experiences, on this BPS-accredited degree.

Why Solent?

- You'll learn from an academic team with a vast industry and teaching experience, and experts from the sector through guest lectures.
- Access our range of specialist facilities, including experimental cubicles, psycho-physiological recording equipment and eye-tracking facilities.
- This degree emphasises the practical application of psychology and sociology, with real-world assessments integrated throughout.
- You'll have the option to undertake work-based learning as part of your studies.
- Opportunity to present at psychology conferences, and to work for professional organisations, with mentoring, training and live briefs for students.

Through research-informed teaching, you'll cover key areas of psychology and sociology, including education; crime; social behaviours; therapy and counselling; power, politics and identity; education; media; social inequalities; migration; and race and ethnicity.

You'll also carry out intensive study of scientific approaches to psychology. These topics, which include research methods, problem-solving and manipulation of data, provide useful tools for careers in healthcare, law enforcement, finance, research and IT.

Graduates could work in areas such as:

mental health support, clinical psychology, therapeutic practice, children's health and more.



Mason Joseph-Williams

BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology, student

What do you enjoy about your course?

Being on the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology degree has opened up my eyes to how I view the world that we live in. From the small everyday things we do in life to larger aspirations for the future, I now look at and analyse every scenario and come to terms with it from either a psychological or a sociological perspective.

What is the favourite thing you have studied so far?

I would have to say social inequalities. Every week we have covered a very interesting topic, ranging from gender and class to defining social problems. We have also covered topics such as nationality, sexual orientation and universal basic income (which is probably my favourite topic so far).

What do you like about Solent University?

Along with the online learning via Solent Online Learning (SOL), my lecturers have been amazing. They have made me feel comfortable enough to approach them if I have any issues, and have really gone the extra mile to try engaging and educating us.

What are your career aspirations for after university?

I am considering taking the extra step and possibly deciding to do a master's in either psychology or sociology. I am really enjoying my course and would like to further my knowledge. Due to the current climate that the world finds itself in, mental health is becoming even more of a serious issue, and I would like my future career to have mental health as its core focus.

“Every week we have covered a very interesting topic, ranging from gender and class to defining social problems.”

BA (Hons)

Social Work

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/L501

Make a positive change and pursue a fulfilling career in social work. On this degree, accredited and approved by Social Work England, you'll gain the knowledge and practical experience that are key in making a difference to the lives of vulnerable people.

Why Solent?

- This is a Social Work England accredited and approved degree, which means that you'll be eligible to apply for registration as a social worker on successful completion of your degree.
- The course is led and taught by qualified and registered social workers.
- The course is designed in partnership with social work practitioners, service users and carers, ensuring you're up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.
- It is the only social work degree in the south that offers a part-funded extracurricular international work placement. This four- or five-week work experience will allow you to enhance your CV.
- You'll complete two significant periods of work experience thanks to our partnerships with local authorities, as well as many other social care organisations. Students have recently completed work experience at No Limits, the Society of St James, the Prince's Trust and the YMCA.
- We use research as evidence to guide social work practice as a cornerstone of our teaching, and we hold an annual social work research conference.
- We co-chair a regional social work education network (SHIP/SWEN).
- Suicide prevention first-aid training is embedded within the curriculum.
- We have strong connections with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW).

- Learn from experts from areas of contemporary social work practice including gangs, county lines, female genital mutilation (FGM), stabbings, and so on.

In your first two years, you'll learn the basis of social work theory as well as looking at subjects such as law and sociology. In your final year, you can choose to specialise in adults or children and families support to help focus your career path upon graduation. You'll complete two significant periods of work experience in either local authorities or voluntary, private and independent organisations in the region.

Graduates have careers in/for:
social work, therapeutic practice, youth services, health, education.



Ricky Mo

Social Worker, Southampton City Council

BA (Hons) Social Work, 2017

How did Solent prepare you for your career?

Solent University prepared me for my career in social work by teaching me about legislation, social work theories and methods, and interpersonal skills that would underpin my practice. The social work lecturers were always available to offer support and to impart their knowledge and experience to draw the best out of me.

Tell us a little about your career story so far.

As my third-year placement was coming to an end, I was asked by a senior practitioner from a different department if I would like to work for them on a three-month contract. After two weeks, I was called into the office and told that they were not going to renew my contract as the learning disabilities team had requested that I work with them, carrying out Care Act assessments – I happily accepted the position. After a month of working with them, a permanent post came up and I was asked to apply. I got the job and began working with them full-time before I even graduated.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

A typical working day generally consists of responding to emails and making telephone calls to clients, other professionals and service providers. All communication needs to be case-noted so that there is always a record of progress and outcomes. Sometimes it is required to visit a client to assess their care and support needs. Once this is done, the assessment needs to be typed up, followed by creating a support plan and a package of care to meet any identified needs.

Mental capacity assessments may also need to be carried out if there is reason to believe a person lacks capacity to make a particular decision at a particular time due to a cognitive impairment.

I also complete Community Deprivation of Liberty applications made to the Court of Protection when a person who resides in a community setting has been assessed as lacking the capacity to consent to their care/treatment arrangements, are under continuous supervision and not free to leave.

Finally, my job requires me to complete continuing healthcare checklists where someone may have health needs that require interventions that are above what the local authority are able to provide and attend multi-disciplinary team meetings to determine whether this is met by the local authority, the NHS or joint funded by both.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

- Document everything – if it is not recorded, it did not happen.
- Look at your tasks daily and prioritise accordingly.
- You will need to develop your emotional resilience – situations can become quite challenging, so you need to have strategies in place to maintain your own health and wellbeing.
- Ask if you don't know – don't feel embarrassed if you don't know what to do.
- Take full advantage of any training – it is crucial to aid your continuing professional development.
- Make sure you take supervision – this is a good time to reflect on your practice, raise any concerns and be supported to gain some perspective on your workload.

BA (Hons)

Sociology

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: www.solent.ac.uk/S001

Sociology challenges the world in which we live. On this degree, you will explore topics such as politics, media and crime. You'll also research issues related to popular culture, inequalities and social identities. This degree has built-in work experience with charities and professional research organisations.

Why Solent?

- Our academics have PhDs and publish research papers (books, book chapters and journal articles), making the quality of your provision first-class.
- Embedded throughout the curriculum, modules focus on employability and analyses of workplace policies – the skills that employers are looking for.
- The course has a strong research focus and you'll be encouraged to undertake research activities from day one.
- You will work for a research or charity organisation as part of the course, gaining valuable experience for your CV.
- Our lecturing staff are active within the industry and have strong connections that can lead to employment opportunities.
- Gain transferable skills and develop communication and analytical skills and cross-cultural understanding, which can be utilised in a number of employment opportunities.
- Part-time option available.
- Social research and policy, one of Solent's key research areas, embodies research-related activities associated with improving individual and community wellbeing through practice, provision and policy – you will learn direct from leading experts in their field.

Covering issues of politics and identity, the sociology of work, media and power, social inequalities and popular culture, you will develop knowledge of key areas, applying sociological theories and drawing on social research methods that will enable you to critically understand the causes of social inequality and routes towards social justice.

Graduates have careers in:

government agencies, education, journalism, public relations, human resources, the police, not-for-profit organisations, research and politics.



“ I loved my course lecturers' ability to connect with the subject matter. Each lecturer hosted seminars and lectures on topics which they were passionate about, and that really shone through.”

Luke Resoun, Individual Giving and Relationships Manager, not-for-profit organisation, Vancouver (Canada),
BA (Hons) Sociology, 2023



Chloë Pearson

BA (Hons) Sociology, student, 2023

Why did you choose to study at Solent?

I chose to study at Solent because I loved the buzz of everything around me. The enthusiasm of the lecturers, the new buildings and the course were all very exciting.

What did you enjoy about your course?

I loved the sociology course because you have so much freedom to study what you are interested in. You can choose what you want to focus on for assignments, which makes it exciting and suits exactly what you want to study.

What was the favourite thing you studied?

The favourite thing I studied was social inequalities. It was so interesting uncovering new perspectives and angles regarding the society we live in that I had never thought about before.

What did you like about Solent University?

Solent University feels new and exciting. It offers so many opportunities to get involved and develop skills, employability and character.

What are your career aspirations?

After university, I would like to be able to use my degree to help others in society. There are so many jobs available with a sociology degree, which is great for both keeping options open and specialising.

“ Solent University feels new and exciting. It offers so many opportunities to get involved and develop skills, employability and character.”

Social Sciences Foundation Year

UCAS tariff: **48**

Course page: www.solent.ac.uk/social-sciences-foundation-year

UCAS codes:

- Sociology with Social Sciences Foundation Year – SOO3
- Criminology and Sociology with Social Sciences Foundation Year – CAS3
- Psychology and Sociology with Social Sciences Foundation Year – PAS3

If you don't have the academic qualifications (A-levels, BTECs) or grades you need – or would like to refresh your academic skills – and want to study a social sciences-related degree, our Social Sciences Foundation Year is designed for you.

You'll spend a year building up essential study skills and a strong foundation of knowledge, before moving straight onto one of our social sciences-related undergraduate degree programmes the following year.

Why Solent?

- You'll learn to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems.
- Explore contemporary subjects highly relevant to the study of social sciences.
- Teaching is delivered by an experienced and approachable team.

Find out more:

www.solent.ac.uk/foundation-years/social-sciences-foundation-year



“The foundation year helped me ease into the full degree programme and gave me the opportunity to network with people studying in the same sector. Completing the foundation year also made my first year of university less daunting.”

Aisha Fiaz, Foundation Year Student

“Life as a Solent student is just brilliant. Everyone's really friendly. All the lecturers are really helpful and actually understanding; I'm a first year student, so they really take the time to make sure that I'm on track. Plus it's really amazing to connect with other students that have the same interests as me; that's a big part of student life at Solent, to socialise and be a part of the community. There's so many societies and events, people are really connected.”

Roman Lawson

BA (Hons) Sociology, student



Research at Solent

At Solent, research is for everyone. Studying with us, you're part of an active research community – not just learning from researchers in every field, but incorporating that research into your studies.

The way we teach is informed by the latest research, inspiring and encouraging you to ask questions, investigate problems, propose solutions and create new knowledge. And ensuring you'll be at the forefront of industry thinking when you graduate.

It's an opportunity to deliver real-world impact in our communities and our society.

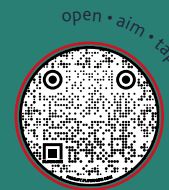
Our areas of focus

Across all of our courses we deliver a unique curriculum shaped around inspiring industrial partnerships, ground-breaking professional insights, knowledge exchange and research – divided into four key areas of focus:

- **Environment and engineering**
Safe and sustainable energy, transport, and material systems.
- **Social research and policy**
Improving individual and community wellbeing through practice, provision, and policy.
- **Human function and health**
The evaluation of human function, health and the social context.
- **Media, culture and the arts**
Communication, cultural and media studies, creative arts and practice.

Social Research and Policy

Research is embedded into our sociology undergraduate degree, and you are encouraged to get involved in research projects from the very beginning. Most recently, our students have conducted research for a report – Beyond Waste: Essential Skills for a Greener Tomorrow – for the Chartered Institute of Waste Management for England and Wales (CIWM), as well as research around landlord renting practices for Toynbee Hall, a London-based community organisation that provides services and advice for people facing poverty and injustice. Our students are also invited to get involved with Solent's Identities and Inequalities Research Group.



Social Work

Research in social work at Solent is very much about co-creation with those affected by or experiencing a particular issue, whether that be people with lived experience of social work, their carers, local authorities, community groups and even our student colleagues, to find novel and innovative ways of making a positive difference in terms of well-being and outcomes.

Recent research projects conducted by students and staff at Solent analysed:

- the challenges of the COVID-19 virus experienced by social work students in practice placement.
- the resettlement experience of young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), who have been released from the youth custodial estate.
- the dearth of men now engaged in social work training.

“ I feel confident that the opportunities that Solent University and the criminology and psychology course have given me have prepared me for the future. Even though I am passionate about criminal profiling and cybercrime, this degree has also given me the knowledge and skills to allow me to enter other professions in areas such as health and social care, as well as research sectors.”

Rena Chalil Stecura,
BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology, 2019

Course list

Course	UCAS tariff points	Work placement opportunity	Foundation Year available
BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Psychology	112–128	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Criminology	112–128	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology	112–128	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology	112–128	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology	112–128	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Social Work	112–128	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Sociology	112–128	-	Y
Social Sciences Foundation Year	48	-	-

Postgraduate study at Solent

Solent University also offers a range of postgraduate courses, meaning that if you decide to continue your studies after your undergraduate degree, there are many options available to you.

Whether you are looking to progress in your current career or enter a new area, we offer a variety of courses to help you reach your goals.

MA Social Work

This is a two-year course for those who want to get into social work who didn't study it at undergraduate level. Upon successful completion you will gain a professional qualification, meaning you'll be eligible to apply for registration as a social worker.

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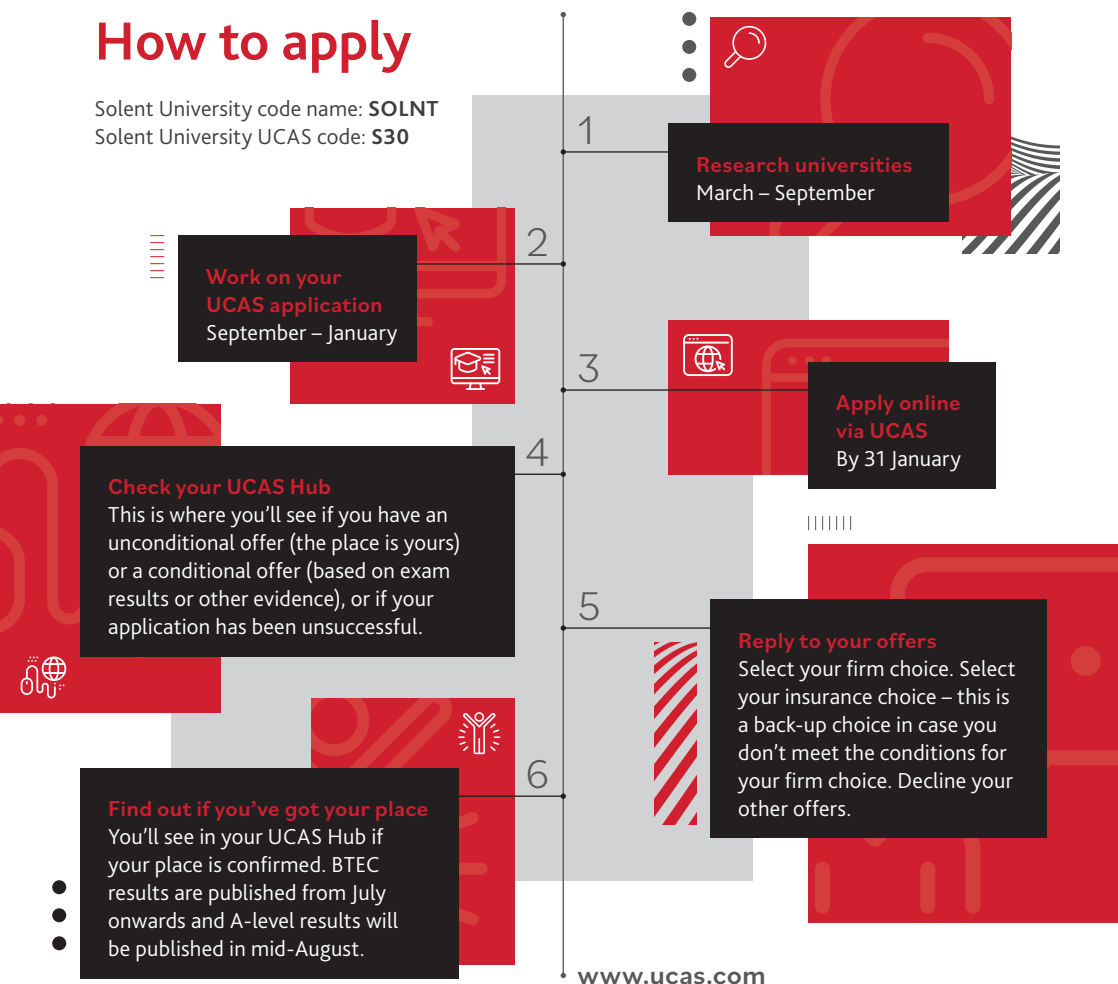
Runs alongside the MA, this can be completed in 18 months' full-time as it excludes the dissertation.

MRes

Our MRes is designed for you to pursue your research passion in your chosen area. This allows you to get a master's in your specialist subject and can be a stepping stone to a research career.

How to apply

Solent University code name: **SOLNT**
Solent University UCAS code: **S30**



Unsure what to do with your future?

Confused about the university application process?

Follow our award winning **52 Things To Do** guide, designed to help you every step of the way.

From thinking about the degree that's right for you to writing a personal statement, we've got it all covered – with handy advice and tasks designed to take no more than an hour each week.

Visit www.solent.ac.uk/52-things



Solent University, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO14 0YN

Course enquiries: +44 (0)23 8201 3039

Main switchboard: +44 (0)23 8201 3000

Email: admissions@solent.ac.uk

www.solent.ac.uk

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