

Social Research (Business) MA

This programme aims to provide students with a solid foundation in a broad range of social science research methods as well as basic research skills.

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)
 (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Taught

Study Options: Full time, part time

Duration: 2 years PT; 1 year FT

Start date: September/October

Contact

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Details

This programme aims to provide students with a solid foundation in a broad range of social science research methods as well as basic research skills.

Students will acquire a general overview of the philosophy of social research, and understand how this informs research design, methods of data collection and analysis. They will also develop an ability to use a range of research methods, to communicate research findings effectively and an understanding of the potential use of and impact of their research within and beyond academia.

Programme content

The core modules you will take are:

- **[Introduction to Social Science Research](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/introduction-social-science-research.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/introduction-social-science-research.aspx>) (20 credits)
- **[Research Design](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/research-design.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/research-design.aspx>) (20 credits)
- **[Social Research Methods I](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-1.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-1.aspx>) (20 credits)
- **[Social Research Methods II](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-2.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-2.aspx>) (20 credits)

You will then take a minimum of four elective modules from the following list (10 credits each):

- **[From Multiple Linear to Logistic Regression](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/from-multiple-linear-to-logistic-regression.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/from-multiple-linear-to-logistic-regression.aspx>)
- Overseas Research Methods
- Introduction to Geographical Information Systems
- **[Documentary Research](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/documentary-research-in-education-history-and-the-social-science.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/documentary-research-in-education-history-and-the-social-science.aspx>)
- **[Factor Analysis](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/factor-analysis.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/factor-analysis.aspx>)
- **[Narrative Research](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/narrative-research.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/narrative-research.aspx>)
- **[Policy Evaluation](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/policy-evaluation.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/policy-evaluation.aspx>)
- **[Secondary Data Analysis in Social Research](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/secondary-data-analysis-in-social-research.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/secondary-data-analysis-in-social-research.aspx>)
- **[Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis \(using NVivo\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/advanced-qualitative-data-analysis.aspx)** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/advanced-qualitative-data-analysis.aspx>)
- Handling Cluster Randomised Samples
- Researching Language and Literacy

In addition, you will write a 14,000-word dissertation (60 credits).

Fees and funding

Standard fees (</postgraduate/pgt-fees/fees.aspx>) apply

Learn more about **fees and funding** (</postgraduate/pgt-fees/fees.aspx>)

Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships may be available. International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home

Entry requirements

Learn more about [entry requirements](#) ([/postgraduate/requirements-pgt/index.aspx](#))

International students

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about [international entry requirements](#) ([/postgraduate/requirements-pgt/international/index.aspx](#))

[Standard English language requirements](#) ([/postgraduate/requirements-pgt/international/index.aspx](#)) apply

How to apply

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the [How to apply pages](#) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx>)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COSo16.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COSo16.htm)

Learning and teaching

Many core elements of the programme are delivered by the College of Social Sciences, so you will be undertaking the modules with other students from across the College. However, your dissertation will be undertaken and supervised within the Department. In addition, there is an induction programme during the first two weeks of the term, which is compulsory, but non-assessed and a programme of skills training which is delivered at University-level, mainly by the Staff Development Unit, throughout the year. You are encouraged to attend all the modules in the programme which are appropriate to you. You must discuss your skills training needs with your designated supervisor in the first week of the first term.

This MA is recognised by the ESRC for the provision of research methods training as Year 1 of a '1+3' programme of doctoral study. It is also available as a stand-alone Masters. Home/EU students may enter into a departmental competition to be nominated for the ESRC open competition for '1+3' or '+3' funding (the '1+3' award covers the MA and provides three years' further funding for PhD research; for '+3' funding you must already have an ESRC-recognised research methods MA degree or equivalent).

