



# APPENDIX

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## Plan of study for the Sociology Programme at Aalborg University




### General principles

Following the statutory rules for education in sociology from the Ministry of Education (covering Copenhagen and Aalborg Universities), and starting from 1997, Aalborg University offers a full bachelor's and master's programme in sociology (as well as a PhD programme).

Admission is restricted to 55 students a year.

The programme consists of three main parts:

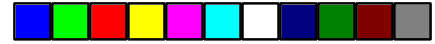
1. The 'Basic Year' in social science, common to all social science students at the Faculty of Social Science (1st and 2nd semester).
2. The BA programme in sociology (3rd - 6th semester), completed with a BA degree.
3. The master's programme in sociology (7th - 10th semester), completed with a candidate degree (cand. scient. soc.).



The course of the programme is one of gradual specialisation, from general social science and a sample of various sub-disciplines such as sociology, political science, economics, law, history and philosophy of science the first year; through basic sociology in theory and method in the bachelor's programme; to advanced theory and method, optional specialisations, practice and minor subjects at the post-graduate level.

Furthermore, the method of teaching and learning is through an equal mixture of courses/seminars and problem-oriented project work. The students, individually or in groups, practice theory and methods on specific sociological problems which they choose within a general theme each semester. These projects are supervised by a teacher with special knowledge within the field.

Some basic courses are examined directly through written papers, but most are examined and graded through a presentation and examination of the



projects, group by group, including the bachelor's and the master's dissertations.

Through an agreement, there is free transfer of graduate students between the programme in Copenhagen and the programme in Aalborg.

## **The programme in detail**

*1st and 2nd semester:*

*The Basic Year of Social Science*

This is a cross-disciplinary and subject-specific introduction to social science, including its major disciplines. There are courses in sociology, political science, economics, law; in methods, statistics and informatics as well as in philosophy and history of the social sciences. And there is project work within the themes of 'Conditions of Work and Life' (contemporary national perspectives) and 'Economic, Political and Social Change' (national and international perspectives).

*3rd semester:*

*Classic Sociological Theory and Method*

Two large courses are offered, one on 'Classic Theory,' ranging from historical materialism to structural functionalism and phenomenology; and one on 'Classic Methods', covering basic epistemological and methodological issues such as subject-object, values and ethics in science, operationalisation, measurement, interpretation-explanation, probability, verification, quantitative-qualitative methods, project design etc. - often illustrated through examples from the classic tradition.

*4th semester:*

*Culture and Everyday Life*

Two minor courses, one entitled 'Everyday Life' and one 'Qualitative Methods', support project work within the main theme, covering topics such as

'ways and forms of life' and 'morality, norms and deviance' in relation to class, ethnicity, gender, age etc.

In addition, there is in this or the next semester, an optional course in an adjacent field such as demography, history, psychology, philosophy or political science.

*5th semester:*

*Changing Structures*

The semester requires two courses/seminars; one on 'Macro Relations and Structures,' covering such things as modernity-postmodernity, differentiation-integration-mobility, power-participation, family-gender-age etc., and one on 'Quantitative Methods', covering, e.g., cross-section and longitudinal analysis, sampling-questionnaire-survey analysis, statistic register analysis, test in theory and practice. Both courses support the project work within the main theme, covering such things as marginalisation, internationalisation, integration etc.

*6th semester:*

*BA project and Micro-Sociology*

Two-thirds of the time is reserved for the BA project, produced individually or in groups, comprising empirical and theoretical analysis of a sociological problem of the student's own choice.

The rest of the time is occupied by 'Micro-Sociology and Social Psychology', a course on intrapersonal relations and processes, socialisation, identity etc.

*7th semester:*

*Advanced Sociological Theory and Method*

Two-thirds of the semester is occupied by a seminar on 'Advanced Sociological Theory', focusing in part on specific themes and topics in the tradition, and in part on recent theory and recent so-

cial problems and tendencies.

One-third is reserved for a seminar on 'Advanced Sociological Method', with a focus on specific techniques such as theory construction, modelling, index and test construction, biographical analysis, text analysis etc.

*8th and 9th semester:*

*Specialisations and Optional Subjects*

This year of study can, within limiting guidelines, be composed freely by the students with the following elements:

*Sociological specialisation(s)*, large or small, including project work, and last at least one semester's duration in themes such as social policy, sociology of education, sociology of work, political sociology, sociology of gender, sociology of health and disease, special theoretical and methodological topics etc.

*Optional subjects* are offered by other programmes at the university, such as Political Science, Economics, History, Philosophy; or Practice in a private or public (research) institution. The duration of either option is for a minimum of two-thirds of a semester and a maximum of one semester.

Both the sociological specialisation and the optional subject/practice may be replaced by a cross-disciplinary Study Year offered by the university, such as the International Year, the Year of Tourism and the Planning Year. And both can be studied abroad, on exchange or otherwise, or at another university in Denmark.

*10th semester:*

*Master's Dissertation*

The students, individually or in small groups, can choose their subject freely within the broad sociological field, thus strengthening their specialisation or their general sociological qualifications.

### **Teaching staff at the programme (in part)**

Associate Professor Ann-Dorthe Christensen (Youth and Gender Studies, Political Sociology)

Associate Professor Ruth Emerek (Statistics, Gender Studies, Labour Market)

Associate Professor Dorte Gannik (Methods, Sociology of Health and Disease)

Assistant Professor Lars Skov Henriksen (Modern Theory, Social Policy)

Associate Professor Feiwei Kufperberg (Theory, Cultural Studies, Biography, Innovation)

Associate Professor Erik Laursen (Micro Theory, Socialisation and Education, Methods)

Associate Professor Peter Nielsen (Methods, Labour Market)

Associate Professor Susanne Thorbek (Gender, Culture and International Studies)

Professor Jens Tonboe, Director of Studies (Theory, Methods, Urban and Regional Sociology)