Shaping society
Quantitative social science for the 21st century
Undergraduate Q-Step prospectus
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About Q-Step

Q-Step is promoting a step-change in quantitative social science training by funding eighteen universities across the UK to deliver specialist undergraduate programmes, including new courses, work placements and pathways to postgraduate study.

Q-Step was developed as a strategic response to the shortage of quantitatively-skilled social science graduates. It is funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

www.nuffieldfoundation.org/q-step

About the funders

The Nuffield Foundation is an endowed charitable trust that aims to improve social well-being in the widest sense. It funds research and innovation in education and social policy and also works to build capacity in education, science and social science research.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK’s largest organisation for funding research on economic and social issues. It supports independent, high quality research which has an impact on business, the public sector and civil society.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) distributes public money for higher education to universities and colleges in England, and ensures that this money is used to deliver the greatest benefit to students and the wider public.

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Welcome

Studying for a social science degree at a Q-Step Centre or Affiliate will enable you to ask important questions about society, and give you the necessary skills to answer them.

Why does life expectancy vary depending on where you live? Why do opinion polls sometimes get it wrong? Can we predict the next recession? Is the level of violent crime going up or down? Questions like these are raised all around us every day, in the news, on social media and in the classroom – you’ve probably got your own view on the answers. But how do you know whether your answer is the right one? Could you prove it? Do you want to know how?

We can’t address the regional discrepancy in life expectancy unless we know what causes it in the first place. Or put more simply, we can’t change the world if we don’t understand why it is the way it is. A Q-Step degree – with its focus on quantitative skills and methods – will give you the tools and confidence to do just that.

Why study social science?
Social science is the scientific study of society and the ways in which we relate to one another. It helps explain how society works – from the causes of unemployment or what drives economic growth, to how and why people vote, or what makes people happy. Social scientists are influential because the work they do helps determine government policy and can change how we interact with the institutions and environments that influence our behaviour, such as the legal system, social services, our neighbourhoods, schools and universities.

If you are interested in how and why people behave as they do, and enjoy solving problems, then there is a social science subject that is right for you. You don’t need to be studying social science at A level (or equivalent) to apply for a place on a Q-Step degree programme, and opportunities are available across the UK in a range of subjects including:

- Area studies
- Criminology
- Education
- Environmental planning
- Human geography and demography
- International relations
- Linguistics
- Management and business studies
- Political science
- Population health
- Social analytics
- Social anthropology
- Socio-legal studies
- Social policy
- Social sciences
- Social work
- Sociology

Why study at a Q-Step Centre?
Q-Step Centres and Affiliates are based at 18 leading universities across the UK and offer degree programmes in a range of social science subjects, all of which include developing your quantitative skills, or in other words, your ability to handle data and use numerical evidence. Developing quantitative skills, and your confidence in using them, will really enhance your insight and understanding of the key issues you encounter in your chosen field of study.

On a Q-Step degree programme, you can learn how to:

- Design surveys and experiments, and how to analyse and interpret the data they generate – essentially how to design and undertake your own research.
- Analyse and interpret data from other sources, such as social media data, data collected by government departments and agencies, and data from longitudinal cohort studies.
- Evaluate the quality of other people’s data collection and analysis, as well as developing an understanding of what constitutes good – and bad! – evidence and how you can use it to make decisions.

Equip yourself for a range of careers
Quantitative skills are interdisciplinary and transferable to a wide range of well-paid careers. For example, with a Q-Step degree you could:

- Pursue a career as a policy advisor or analyst in the public sector, in business or for a charity.
- Work in market research for a professional services company, local government or a trade union.
- Become an investigative or data journalist, an economist or statistician.
- Undertake postgraduate study and become a researcher in your specialist area in a university, think tank, or the civil service.
- Apply your skills in many different industries and services, such as healthcare, finance or education.

Social science can tackle everyday policy questions – how many children will need a school place in ten years’ time? – or pose more fundamental problems – what drives inequality? What stops societies falling apart? What does ‘freedom’ mean?

Understanding societies needs data. Information technology means we now have better and more exciting data than ever before. However ‘measuring’ societies is challenging, not just because of their size and complexity, but because many of their most important features are simply invisible. Have you ever seen happiness, democracy or economic growth?

Quantitative methods are the key to making sense of data. We can measure much larger populations by examining small samples. We can reduce a mass of data to the key stories it can tell. ‘Models’ of the present let us make predictions about the future. They empower us to cut through spin, prejudice or lazy thinking to the key evidence underneath.”
You might be working on a project to assess the impact of a smoking cessation policy, identifying the best site for a new airport, or developing a new financial services product. Whatever career you choose, your ability to use numerical evidence and to think critically will be highly valued. Employers tell us that social science graduates with quantitative skills have an advantage over those who don’t.

Many Q-Step degree programmes offer the opportunity for you to undertake work experience, and to take extra-curricular short courses to further develop your quantitative skills and explore the parts of your course that particularly interest you.

A unique opportunity with outstanding teaching

The 18 universities that host Q-Step Centres and Affiliates were selected because of their commitment to excellence in quantitative social science training. They have received funding to enhance their social science degree programmes and recruit additional specialist teaching staff.

The quantitative skills element of Q-Step courses is fully integrated, so you’ll be able to apply what you learn to contemporary issues within your field of study. You will learn how to identify the most appropriate research methods for addressing a particular question, including qualitative methods such as interviews, participant observation and open questionnaires. Q-Step Programmes deliver all the skills a 21st century social scientist requires to help tackle the big questions facing society.

The Q-Step approach emphasise the practical rather than theoretical – you’ll use the latest datasets and software – so when you graduate you’ll be ready to enter the workplace straight away. A Q-Step degree will also open doors to postgraduate study in a range of disciplines.

“Quantitative methods are a vital part of the research process but, for me, the idea of actually studying them was a little daunting. However, my university’s Q-Step course has managed to take fear out of the equation (literally!). It has taught me that quantitative research is not about endless statistical computations and number crunching detached from real life. Rather, it is about utilising numbers to research concepts and then translating the numbers back into concepts to make the findings available to, and understandable for, everyone.”

emmi_de vries
MA (Social Science) Sociology with Quantitative Methods University of Glasgow Q-Step Centre

“The focus on quantitative methods allows you to start a different conversation with employers – one about politics as an exciting, forward-thinking and data-driven degree. As a student competing to get a job at a top company, it has really helped me stand out from other applicants and to secure my position as Marketing Executive for [customer acquisitions company] MVF Global.”

james_potter
BA Politics (Applied Quantitative Methods), University of Essex Q-Step Affiliate

“My Q-Step internship at Ipsos Mori gave me the opportunity to apply and develop the knowledge I had gained in the first two years of my degree. I then embarked on a quantitative dissertation in my third year. My Q-Step experiences were a huge contributing factor in my selection for a graduate role at [leading professional services firm] PwC.”

amy_abbate
Criminology, Queen’s University Belfast Q-Step Centre

Frequently asked questions

Q. What are Q-Step Centres and Affiliates?

There are 15 Q-Step Centres based within UK universities, and all of them offer social science degree programmes with an emphasis on quantitative skills. The Q-Step Centres are part of a unique UK-wide programme of investment in quantitative social science training for undergraduates and have received funding to enhance their social science degree programmes and recruit additional specialist teaching staff.

Q-Step Centres were selected following an open competition because of their ability to provide dynamic, exciting and rigorous programmes of study that equip students with the quantitative skills that are increasingly in demand across many different careers.

Funding for Q-Step comes from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) – the UK’s largest funding body for social science research – as well as the Nuffield Foundation – one of the UK’s largest independent funders of social science research – and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

In addition to the 15 Q-Step Centres, there are three Q-Step Affiliates, also based at UK universities. Although Q-Step Affiliates have not received the same level of funding as
Q-Step Centres, they have demonstrated their commitment to delivering a step-change in quantitative social science training for undergraduates, which is the main aim of Q-Step.

Q. What subjects are offered at Q-Step Centres and Affiliates?
Q-Step degree programmes are available in area studies, criminology, education, environmental planning, human geography and demography, linguistics, management and business studies, political science, population health, international relations, social analytics, social anthropology, social policy, social sciences, social work, socio-legal studies and sociology.

Not all subjects are available at all Q-Step Centres/Affiliates. Each Q-Step Centre and Affiliate has a dedicated section in this prospectus where you can see the individual degree programmes they offer, and there is a full list of all Q-Step degree programmes and their UCAS codes on page 44.

Q. How do I apply?
The application process for a Q-Step degree programme is through UCAS. Page 44 has a full list of all the Q-Step Centres and Affiliates, the degree programmes they are offering, and their UCAS codes. This information will also be available in each individual university prospectus and on their website.

Q. What are the entry requirements?
Enter requirements for a Q-Step degree vary according to the subject and Q-Step Centre/Affiliate. Each Q-Step Centre/Affiliate has their own section in this prospectus, which includes a link to their website where you can find detailed entry requirements.

Q. How long does it take?
Like most undergraduate degree programmes, the majority of Q-Step degrees are three years. The exceptions are those offered by the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, which are four years (like all undergraduate degrees offered by Scottish universities).

Q. Do I need to be studying a social science subject at A or AS level (or equivalent) to apply for a Q-Step degree course?
No. You don’t need to be studying a social science subject at A or AS level (or equivalent) to apply for a Q-Step degree course.

Q. Do I need to be studying maths to apply?
All Q-step Centres/Affiliates encourage applications from students who enjoy maths and/or other science and technology subjects, but only the University of Edinburgh Q-Step Centre requires applicants to have a or AS level or Scottish Higher maths (or equivalent). If you can understand a percentage or a proportion, and make sense of a simple graph, you have the skills you need to start.

In common with studying most subjects at degree level, you will usually need to have at least a grade C in GCSE maths (or the equivalent for other qualifications). The GCSE/National 5 or Standard Grade level required may vary between Q-Step Centres/Affiliates, so check the entry requirements on the relevant website.

Q. I’m studying advanced maths – will a Q-Step degree enable me to use and develop my maths skills?
Yes, it will. The quantitative element of Q-Step courses is different to learning maths at school or college, but you will use and develop some of the same skills in order to apply your knowledge in a practical context. For example, you’ll use numbers to develop logical, consistent rules for evaluating evidence in your chosen field of study.

If you enjoy maths and want to continue to develop and apply your quantitative skills, then Q-Step offers the perfect opportunity to do that in a social science context. It’s also a good option to consider if you want to continue using maths in a less abstract way than at A level (or equivalent). Similarly, if you are studying science and technology subjects and enjoy designing experiments and working with numbers, then a Q-Step degree programme will have a lot to offer you.

With thanks to Helen Dorfman, Nick Bull and Y13 students at Burntwood School in Wandsworth, and to Rebecca Bade at UCAS, for their feedback and insights.
The University of Bristol is a world leader in quantitative expertise and teaching. Our Q-Step Centre offers both standalone courses and integrated degree programmes to enhance your knowledge of quantitative methods and applied data analysis in the social sciences. Our goal is not to replace disciplinary learning but to enhance it, leaving you better equipped to engage with ideas, debates and research in your chosen subject.

We offer five units for students in childhood studies, geography, politics, social policy and sociology to take during their undergraduate studies. These are:

- Convincing Stories? Numbers as Evidence in the Social Sciences
- Segregation and Inequality (measurement and debate)
- Principles of Quantitative Social Science
- Conducting a Research Project using Secondary Data
- Spatial Modelling

These units can be combined with a dissertation in an area of quantitative research to graduate in one of our five flagship courses:

**Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods (BSc/MSci)**

**Geography with Quantitative Research Methods (BSc/MSci)**

**Politics with Quantitative Research Methods (BSc/MSci)**

**Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods (BSc/MSci)**

**Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods (BSc/MSci)**

With quantitative research methods’ programme because the numbers out there don’t add up. From supermarket promotions to SATs to health interventions, numbers persuade me to take a particular course of action.

I wanted to understand how to get behind those numbers, what they mean and how truthful they are, because an awful lot can ride on them. Having taken and thoroughly enjoyed the first and second year units, I can now make better sense of numbers – a crucial skill given that most decisions in life will be based on numerical data at some level.”

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For further information, please see: www.bris.ac.uk/qstep

Our Q-Step student Tomos has been a great asset to our team. Working with staff and volunteers, he has set up a system for recording social policy and campaigns issues that is linked to our client database, where we can easily retrieve client evidence on specific issues such as the impact of welfare reform or the shortage of affordable housing in the city.

Temos has also supported our research work by helping to pull together statistical information for Citizens Advice reports and delivering training sessions to advisers and caseworkers on using our evidence collection systems. Working with Q-Step has really helped us develop our research capacity.”

Lindsay Chaplin
2nd year BSc Childhood studies with QRM

Ann Vink
Campaigns & Communications Manager, Bristol Citizens Advice
The Cardiff Q-Step Centre is based in the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University. The School offers a dynamic and engaging teaching and research environment to over 150 academic staff and around 1,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, providing an interdisciplinary setting for students interested in themes that cut across the social sciences such as inequality, gender, and ethnicity.

Our Q-Step programme, BSc Social Analytics, has been designed in collaboration with external organisations and features a guaranteed work placement.

**BSc Social Analytics**

**A unique opportunity**

BSc Social Analytics is a unique opportunity to combine social science modules including Sociology, Criminology, Social Policy, Social Psychology or Education with cutting-edge training in quantitative research methods and a guaranteed work placement. The programme is characterised by a core focus on the critical consumption, analysis and production of quantitative research and data within the social sciences, from deconstructing statistics and figures quoted in the media, to redesigning a social survey in collaboration with an organisation such as the Office for National Statistics.

You will be trained in scientific method and have the opportunity to analyse social media, learn specialist software for quantitative methods and develop advance skills in data manipulation. You will also have the opportunity to select optional modules from a wide range of social science disciplines that reflect your own academic and career interests.

**Real World Research**

In your second year you will be given the opportunity to work with an employer as part of the Real World Research module. You will negotiate and co-produce a research project with a local organisation. The following are just some of the organisations we are working with to develop placement opportunities: the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Big Issue Cymru, Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES), Colegau Cymru/Colleges Wales, Diverse Cymru, Innovate Trust, Institute of Welsh Affairs (IWA), National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Pact Cymru, People 1st, Rethink, Royal Voluntary Service, Shelter Cymru, Voluntary Community Service (VCS) Cardiff, Wales Cooperative Centre and Wales & West (Ta) Housing.

**A unique opportunity to combine social science modules with cutting-edge training and a guaranteed work placement.**

“I chose to study Social Analytics because it offered such a wide area of study while being very practical at the same time. It has enabled me to pursue the subjects I enjoy but also to learn a lot of new analytical skills and techniques. Employers want you to have analytical skills, which this course develops, and the placement will be invaluable!”

aled_goodwin BSc Social Analytics

“Studying BSc Social Analytics was the best decision I ever made! The guaranteed work placement in my second year was something I was particularly drawn to, as I thought that this would aid my future career considerably. The teaching staff are very supportive and my favourite first year module – Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics – taught me a lot of skills that I can transfer into my later studies and future career.”

ed_dunn Deputy Director, Office for National Statistics

“This course has reignited my passion for learning and studying. I even want to apply for a PhD – something I never thought I would do. I would highly recommend this course to students that want the freedom to choose a mix of social science subjects while also gaining specific analytical skills that are valued by employers. I can’t wait to start my second year!”

jodie_luker BSc Social Analytics

“As a key employer of researchers, statisticians, economists and data scientists, we welcomed the development of Q-Step to ensure UK universities are able to maintain and improve the supply of the skilled workforce we require. We worked with Cardiff Q-Step Centre to help develop the content of its BSc in Social Analytics so that it reflects our needs and gives students a real world insight. We are excited to be working with students on the second year survey skills module.”

For further information, please see: www.cardiff.ac.uk/qstep
Choosing a degree that includes quantitative data literacy

City Q-Step Centre works with the Sociology and International Politics departments within the university. If you study any degree within either department you will develop highly transferable data literacy skills. You will do hands-on work, producing and making sense of social data, from the first week of your first year. You will explore the ways that numbers are used, and sometimes misused, within the media, society and politics, and find out how to ask and answer your own social research questions.

The following degrees include quantitative data literacy:

- BSc Criminology*
- BSc Criminology and Sociology*
- BSc International Politics
- BSc International Politics and Sociology
- BSc International Political Economy
- BSc Media, Communication and Sociology*
- BSc Politics
- BSc Sociology*
- BSc Sociology with Psychology*

Choosing a specialist Quantitative Methods pathway

If you study on any of the programmes marked with a star, you can apply to join a ‘with Quantitative Methods’ degree pathway at the end of your first year of undergraduate study. This gives you an opportunity to find out what you can do with quantitative skills and whether you enjoy working with quantitative data before you decide to specialise. Once you enrol on a ‘with Quantitative Methods’ pathway you will continue to spend most of your time studying criminology, sociology, media and communication or psychology (depending on your programme), but you will also discover innovative ways to study these topics using quantitative data. All students enrolling on a ‘with Quantitative Methods’ pathway do a term-long quantitative data work placement with a prestigious and high-profile employer.

We offer the following ‘with Quantitative Methods’ pathways:

- BSc Criminology with Quantitative Methods
- BSc Criminology and Sociology with Quantitative Methods
- BSc International Politics with Quantitative Methods
- BSc Media, Communication and Sociology with Quantitative Methods
- BSc Sociology with Quantitative Methods
- BSc Sociology with Psychology and Quantitative Methods

You will do hands-on work, producing and making sense of social data, from the first week of your first year.

"The practical skills I learnt in class mean that I can use the tools of data analysis. Also, the work placement is an opportunity like no other, especially in today’s market, where work experience is valued very highly. Bonus: it is your module and part of degree and you do not need to do it in your own time! I worked at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), who work on one of the largest surveys in the UK. I learnt many new skills in just a few days, such as writing syntax commands to compute, recode and de-bug variables. These skills are priceless for me and will help me significantly with next year’s dissertation."

"The Q-Step students worked on projects including cleaning health survey data, running analysis on how the public feel about their finances, and working with our communications team to disseminate findings on levels of support for the monarchy. We really valued their contributions and, as an employer, have found being part of the Q-Step programme to be a positive experience. We’re looking forward to welcoming more students to NatCen next year."

For further information, please see: www.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate
The University of Edinburgh Q-Step Centre offers five degree programmes that integrate quantitative skills training with the teaching of social science disciplines. By taking one of these degrees you will acquire deep knowledge of your subject as well as the ability to handle data and use numerical evidence systematically.

One quarter of your study time will be devoted to quantitative methods. In addition, our degrees offer you the opportunity to gain valuable experience by participating in internships with selected high-profile employers.

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**MA Government, Policy and Society with Quantitative Methods**

This interdisciplinary programme is ideal for students who are interested in the content of policies and the governmental processes that produce them; and who want to focus on the practical implications of government decisions.

**MA International Relations with Quantitative Methods**

You will look at the origins and evolution of the state system and the changing nature of state power. You will learn about the driving forces behind cooperation and conflict and explore security and prosperity in the international system.

**MA Politics with Quantitative Methods**

You will explore the origins and present day contexts of domestic and international conflicts about power and resources. You will also study the morality of political action, the limits of freedom and justice, and the processes of governance.

**MA Social Policy with Quantitative Methods**

You will study society and how this changes through political debate and policy making. Social policy influences many aspects of our lives, such as education, crime, health, housing, employment, family support, and child protection.

**MA Sociology with Quantitative Methods**

You will explore how we interact and relate to one another, including how people organise collectively around common goals, and how they share knowledge and beliefs about the world.

"I chose to add Quantitative Methods to my degree because it’s a very valuable skill for anyone studying social sciences to have. It really adds another element to your research, and to the quality of the conclusions that you can make when writing papers. Secondly, I really like the way that it combines maths and the social sciences – it was never something I thought about or considered before Q-Step."

-douglas_clark
International Relations with Quantitative Methods

"With quantitative data we can understand more about the people who live in our society, their characteristics, their circumstances, their experiences, and how these things are changing over time. We need graduates with skills to interpret these data sources so that we can understand what makes society tick and how we can make things better for people.

Graduates with an understanding of quantitative research design, questionnaire design, and sampling are very well suited to fulfil the roles in ScotCen’s survey research centre, and that will put them at a great advantage compared with other graduates who don’t have those skills."

-paul_bradshaw
Head of ScotCen

For further information, please see: www.q-step.ed.ac.uk
The University of Essex is a world leader in social science. We offer ‘Applied Quantitative Methods’ (AQM) pathways in the departments of Government, Sociology, and Essex Business School. The pathways embed a substantial amount of additional quantitative methods in your degree to develop your ability to gather, analyse, and present data.

The flexibility of the pathways mean they can be incorporated into over 30 of our degree programmes, embedding quantitative knowledge into your chosen subject. The successful completion of the specified modules will entitle you to receive the qualifier (‘Applied Quantitative Methods’) at the end of your degree title.

Some of the most popular programmes taken with the AQM pathway are:

**Department of Sociology**
- BA Sociology (Applied Quantitative Methods)
- BA Sociology and Social Psychology (Applied Quantitative Methods)
- BA Sociology and Criminology (Applied Quantitative Methods)

**Department of Government**
- BA Politics (Applied Quantitative Methods)
- BA International Relations (Applied Quantitative Methods)
- BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Applied Quantitative Methods)

**Essex Business School**
- BSc Finance (Applied Quantitative Methods)
- BSc Banking and Finance (Applied Quantitative Methods)
- BSc Accounting and Finance (Applied Quantitative Methods)

This title will appear on your transcript and degree certificate, giving evidence to employers of your enhanced quantitative skills. You don’t need to apply for our AQM pathways before starting your degree as you can choose to take this option after your first year.

**Q-Step paid work placements**

We also offer you the opportunity to take up a paid work placement for up to ten weeks in an external organisation. These placements have an emphasis on using quantitative skills and take place in the summer between your second and third year. You apply to organisations directly, but we help you with this process, finding placements opportunities, preparing you for the working environment and supporting you while you are there. Importantly, you will receive a Q-Step bursary to fund your placement.

**The benefits**
- Gain valuable work experience to develop your quantitative and professional skills sought by graduate employers.
- Learn about a particular sector, company or job role, helping you to choose your career after Essex.
- Apply your academic knowledge in a practical working environment.

**Over 30 of our degrees can be taken as an Applied Quantitative Methods pathway.**

The University of Essex is a Q-Step Affiliate.

**“SAGE Publishing hosted an Essex Sociology student in our Editorial department in 2015. It was a wholly positive experience. The student was bright and engaged and quickly became an asset to the team working on online research methods products. In a clear testament to the success of the programme, we are also welcoming back our 2014 student this year! He impressed us so much that we invited him to return and help us with some additional projects.”**

*bronia_flt*  
Commissioning Editor, SAGE Publishing, London

**“The AQM pathway allowed me to start a different conversation with employers – one about politics as an exciting, forward-thinking and data-driven degree. As a student competing to get a job at a top agency, AQM has helped me stand out from other applicants. On my placement at Colchester Borough Council, I worked with huge datasets, learned a new programming language, and made an end product that I was proud of. The placement has helped me make decisions about what I want to do in life.”**

*james_potter*

BA Politics (since completing his degree, James has secured a job as a Marketing Executive for customer acquisition company, MVF Global)

**“The AQM pathway has given me practical experience in statistical analysis and report writing, which are very important for my final year project and my future career prospects. The team at SAGE Publishing has been very supportive and friendly; a truly fantastic opportunity!”**

*angella_denman*

BA Criminology and Social Psychology

**“Being part of the Q-Step programme at the University of Essex has enabled me to develop my data analysis skills in many ways. I had first-hand experience of managing and analysing Government, Social and third year. You apply to organisations directly, but we help you with this process, finding placements opportunities, preparing you for the working environment and supporting you while you are there. Importantly, you will receive a Q-Step bursary to fund your placement.**

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*angella_denman*

BA Criminology and Social Psychology

**“Being part of the Q-Step programme at the University of Essex has enabled me to develop my data analysis skills in many ways. I had first-hand experience of managing and analysing Government, Social and third year. You apply to organisations directly, but we help you with this process, finding placements opportunities, preparing you for the working environment and supporting you while you are there. Importantly, you will receive a Q-Step bursary to fund your placement.**

**The benefits**
- Gain valuable work experience to develop your quantitative and professional skills sought by graduate employers.
- Learn about a particular sector, company or job role, helping you to choose your career after Essex.
- Apply your academic knowledge in a practical working environment.

**Over 30 of our degrees can be taken as an Applied Quantitative Methods pathway.**

The University of Essex is a Q-Step Affiliate.
The Exeter Q-Step Centre builds on the core disciplines of Politics and International Relations, Criminology, and Sociology; our programmes aim to increase the number of students undertaking quantitative methods training in social science by embedding research skills into substantive degree programmes and modules.

For students who are interested in quantitative methods but not taking one of the Q-Step BSc programmes, we also offer a Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis. Students successfully passing a minimum of 60 credits of Q-Step modules may have the words “with Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis” added to their degree title, for example: BA Politics with Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis.

From September 2017 we will offer a MSc in Data Analytics and, as part of the South West Doctoral Training Centre, a MSc in Advanced Quantitative Methods, a route to a PhD degree.

Our programmes are truly interdisciplinary and give you the opportunity to choose from an impressive range of modules across the university.

Students are offered the option to undertake a work placement with one of our partners in the second year, supported by a bursary of up to £2,000.

BSc in Politics and International Relations

This distinctive programme combines the study of the major areas of politics and international relations with training in quantitative methods and research design.

BSc in Criminology

This programme combines a range of different perspectives on crime and deviance. You will be trained in applied research and data analysis skills. These skills will help you investigate the nature of crime, by analysing crime survey data or the types of information used to inform intelligence-led policing and offender profiling.

BSc in Sociology

A programme designed to help you develop an understanding of how societies, institutions and practices came into being, how they work, and how they might change in the future. This degree is particularly concerned with social transformation in contemporary society.

For further information, please see: socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/q-step/

"I have taken enough Q-Step modules to qualify for the Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis. These have definitely been the most interesting, relevant and enjoyable modules that I have done. I learned how to interpret empirical papers for my literature review, and how to conduct survey and secondary data analysis, which are the core of my thesis. If I were to do it again, I would have taken more Q-Step modules and definitely the Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis.

"It may sound like a cliché, but I couldn’t have made a better decision. It’s true that data analysis can be a bit challenging, but the amount of support available is fantastic. There are drop-in sessions and extra workshops.

All the data analysis modules have been, to my relief, at a steady enough pace for me to understand everything, but also fast enough to feel I’m learning something new. If you’re worried about how much maths you’d need to know, I can reassure you that you needn’t worry: it’s all basic algebra and following formulae (and you get to take a formulae card in the exam!)."

adina_pintilie
BSc Politics and International Relations

"I have taken enough Q-Step modules to qualify for the Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis. These have definitely been the most interesting, relevant and enjoyable modules that I have done. I learned how to interpret empirical papers for my literature review, and how to conduct survey and secondary data analysis, which are the core of my thesis. If I were to do it again, I would have taken more Q-Step modules and definitely the Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis.

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james_harman
BA Politics and Sociology with Proficiency in Applied Data Analysis

My involvement with Q-Step has made the difference between a good degree and a great degree."
The University of Glasgow Q-Step Centre offers five degree programmes that integrate quantitative skills training within the School of Social and Political Sciences. All of these programmes aim to engage you with meaningful ways of understanding the social world. We will teach you how to understand and analyse quantitative results, as well as how to present your own, and how to discuss their substantive implications. These are essential skills for understanding quantitative evidence presented in academic literature, but also for interrogating data in public media and government reports.

Around one quarter of your study time will be devoted to quantitative methods. And our degrees also offer you the possibility to gain valuable experience by participating in internships with selected high-profile employers.

MA (Social Science) Central and East European Studies with Quantitative Methods

You will study the history, economics, politics and sociology of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. You will chart developments including processes of economic and territorial change, aspects of social and cultural diversity, migration and the role of the media. In addition, you will have the opportunity to study Hungarian, Czech, Polish, or Russian.

MA (Social Science) Economic and Social History

Economic and Social History is the study of the way societies change in their economic activities and social organisation. You will study how people in the past lived and worked, and how this has affected the development of today’s world.

MA (Social Science) Politics with Quantitative Methods

Politics is the study of the way power and influence are distributed within society and how this affects decision-making within and among countries and states. You will study the ideas which inform and explain political activity alongside political institutions and behaviour.

MA (Social Science) Social and Public Policy with Quantitative Methods

Social and Public Policy focuses on social problems such as poverty, homelessness and ill-health. The programme applies ideas from political science, sociology and economics to explore how governments shape their responses, and to understand the impacts of public policy on society.

MA (Social Science) Sociology with Quantitative Methods

Sociology studies the ways that people organise their lives together, the constraints within which they do so, the patterns of their social behaviour, and the causes and consequences of social inequalities. Sociology at Glasgow combines sociological, criminological and anthropological perspectives.

“Quantitative methods are a vital part of the research process but, for me, the idea of actually studying them was a little daunting. However, my University’s Q-Step course has managed to take fear out of the equation (literally!). It has taught me that quantitative research is not about endless statistical computations and number crunching detached from real life. Rather, it is about utilizing numbers to research concepts and then translating the numbers back into concepts to make the findings available to and understandable for everyone.”

osama_macdonald
MA (Social Science) Sociology with Quantitative Methods

“"The QM course has quickly become my favourite subject, both because of the interesting lectures which link into the other social science subjects we are taking, and the hands-on experience we get coding at the computer in R [a programming language and software environment for statistical computing and graphics]. The Q-step programme has opened up a new area of interest for me, and it is one which I would like to develop into a career.”

emmi_de_vries
MA (Social Science) Sociology with Quantitative Methods

For further information, please see: www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/q-stepcentre/
The University of Kent’s Q-Step Centre offers six degree programmes across a wide range of subject areas. Studying for one of our Q-Step degrees will give you a unique and sought-after combination of rigorous quantitative skills and in-depth social sciences knowledge:

**BBA Business Administration with Business Analytics**

**BA Criminology with Quantitative Research**

**LLB Law with Quantitative Research**

**BA Politics and International Relations with Quantitative Research**

**BA Social Policy with Quantitative Research**

**BA Sociology with Quantitative Research**

**Change minds and change the world**

Our Q-Step degree programmes provide you with the skills needed to conduct quantitative analysis in the social sciences, and to interpret yours and others’ results. We place a special focus on communicating numbers – giving you the skills to use your research to change minds, and to change the world!

These skills are in high demand by employers in a huge range of fields, and will provide a substantial boost to your employability. We strike a balance between these applied skills, and the social sciences theories and subject knowledge that complement and underpin them, giving you a broad and rounded understanding of the social world.

At Kent, we offer a wide range of social sciences modules, giving you the flexibility to tailor your programme to your own interests. Our programmes reflect the University’s international reputation for critical social research; whatever your area of interest, you are taught by leading experts in the field.

**Work placements**

You will have the opportunity to complete a work placement, conducting a complete quantitative research project on-site at an external business or organisation. This allows you to hone your skills and gain valuable workplace experience.

**Teaching technology**

We use exciting teaching technology that allows you to access a range of professional statistical software packages from your laptop or tablet. You will have data and analysis programmes at your fingertips in workshops and seminars, and you can also complete coursework without leaving the house!

**Kent self-study**

The Kent self-study project is developing a dataset drawn from surveying Kent students themselves about many aspects of their lives. In your classes and coursework you can conduct research about your fellow students, their lifestyles and their attitudes, uncovering trends and spotting changes over time.

**Active community**

Kent’s Q-Step Centre boasts an active social community, hosting regular events attended by both students and staff. This includes our famous pubTALK series – academic seminars and discussions held at the local watering hole!

You will gain a unique and sought-after combination of rigorous quantitative skills and in-depth social sciences knowledge.

For further information, please see: [www.kent.ac.uk/qstep/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/qstep/)

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“ I found the course intellectually stimulating. It is a great opportunity for students across all subject areas. The skills you gain are transferable and very valuable for your future employment, for example in teamwork, critical thinking, accuracy, organisation, communication and research skills. You learn to use datasets and programs like SPSS and Excel. Developing a group project is challenging but you’re supported by supervisors daily. I am more than thankful to the staff for providing this opportunity!”

tracy_asafo-adjei
University of Kent
Q-Step student

“I really enjoyed the summer school because it opened my eyes to numbers in ways that I never thought of before. I am happy I took the opportunity to take part. The experience has been great and the staff are amazing and friendly.”

kinga_stabryla
University of Kent
Q-Step student

For further information, please see: [www.kent.ac.uk/qstep/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/qstep/)
Q-Step degree programmes at the University of Leeds are available across three Faculties: Business, Education, Social Science and Law (ESSL), and Environment. By taking one of these degrees, you will acquire a detailed, critical insight into your subject area and gain expertise in generating, using and analysing numerical data. You will also have access to a range of other exciting and valuable Q-Step opportunities:

- A paid summer placement scheme, including opportunities with leading regional employers.
- Statistics and data boot camps.
- Workshops, skills courses, and masterclasses.
- Q-Step summer school.

### Degrees ‘with Quantitative Methods’

We offer two different types of Q-Step degree programme. Within the School of Politics and International Studies, we offer the opportunity to transfer to bespoke ‘with Quantitative Methods’ variants at Level 2 on four degrees.

- BA (Hons) International Development with Quantitative Methods
- BA (Hons) International Relations with Quantitative Methods
- BA (Hons) Politics with Quantitative Methods
- BA (Hons) Politics and Parliamentary Studies with Quantitative Methods

On all programmes in the School of Politics and International Studies you will receive initial quantitative skills training at Level 1. You can choose to enrol for other modules in your second and final years. Alternatively, you can transfer onto the ‘with Quantitative Methods’ pathways above in your second year (subject to satisfactory performance on key modules in your first year). On the ‘with Quantitative Methods’ pathways, around one-third of your degree will be devoted to quantitative methods.

### Degrees with quantitative content embedded within course content

We also offer a range of degrees that have training in quantitative skills and research methods embedded within the course content.

- BA Sociology
- BA Social Policy
- BA Human Resource Management
- BA Management and the Human Resource
- BA Management
- BSc International Business
- BA Criminal Justice and Criminology
- BA Geography

The proportion of your time spent on quantitative methods and skills will vary according to which degree programme you choose. All students have the opportunity to select quantitative-based modules, such as Understanding Data, as their choice of ‘Discovery modules’ each year.

By taking one of these degrees, you will acquire a detailed, critical insight into your subject area and gain expertise in generating, using and analysing data.

"I was very impressed with the level of training we received. Specialists in various aspects of both quantitative and qualitative analysis provided us with in-depth information about choosing appropriate methods and applying them. During the training week I also learnt to use computer software that has provided me with a strong set of tools which will be a great advantage going into my final year. The quality and delivery of the training week was very impressive."

second_year_student
Summer placement scheme, 2015

"The internship has been a great experience for me and I am more than happy to have chosen it. I would recommend it to any undergraduate student. I think I have gained a lot, both in terms of academic knowledge and enrichment as a person."

second_year_student
Summer placement scheme, 2015

"Working with Q-Step has given us access to strong students with good quantitative skills, who want to put these skills in practice. The Q-Step placement scheme is an excellent way that we can work together with social science students at the University of Leeds to undertake joint projects on important issues for the Yorkshire region."

mark_goldstone
Head of Business Representation and Policy, West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
Quite often as an employer I get people who are really good at maths but perhaps aren’t quite so able at communicating ideas, or I’ll get people who are really good on the politics side of things but not so good at maths. Q-step allows those people who aren’t so good at maths or who have forgotten some of it, to re-engage with it and see how relevant numbers are to the real world. Through Q-step we had one of the strongest, most talented and capable interns we’ve ever had.”

The University of Manchester Q-Step programme helped shape my career. Before completing my Q-Step internship in 2014 with AudienceNet I had never considered a career in market research. Two years later I’m still working for AudienceNet and now training the next cohort of Q-Step interns. Through my experiences I have come to really enjoy working with and using data to make a positive impact on the world, through projects including how to engage youth with politics and on changing public perceptions of the refugee crisis.”

You can build your quantitative skills gradually over three years, and by the end of your degree you will be confident working with a wide range of social data and software.
Manchester Metropolitan University Q-Step Centre offers undergraduates the opportunity to specialise in quantitative data analysis within the study of specific social science disciplines.

Alongside the development of subject-specific knowledge, you will gain a range of skills that will enhance your understanding of numerical evidence, the construction of theories based on such evidence, and how it is used and abused.

All our Q-Step students have the opportunity to undertake a work placement in their final year, during which they conduct a piece of research on behalf of one of our partner organisations. Our Q-Step Community Partnerships Programme has over 25 partners based in a range of organisations across Greater Manchester.

We offer three different Q-Step degree programmes, all of which will enable you to develop specific skills in data analysis and management that are directly transferable to a range of careers. Quantitative skills are in short supply and high demand.

Half of your study time on these programmes will be devoted to qualitative methods.

BSc Sociology with Quantitative Methods

You will study society and the social world. You will examine theories relating to individuals and their relationship to wider social groups, and you will also explore the relationships between culture, power, identity and community.

BSc Criminology with Quantitative Methods

You will study crime as a social phenomenon and examine theories relating to the causes of crime alongside ideas concerning control, power and inequality. You will also explore the relationships between crime and social and economic policy.

BSc Criminology and Sociology with Quantitative Methods

This programme combines the study of crime as a social phenomenon alongside the study of society and the social world. You will examine the relationships between crime, individuals and wider society. You will also explore the relationships between crime, power, community and identity.

You will gain a range of skills that will enhance your understanding of numerical evidence, and how it is used and abused.

For further information, please see: www.mmu.ac.uk/qstep

"I really enjoyed my Q-Step placement working alongside a charity, which gave me great experience of working with and analysing data. I believe my placement opportunity was the reason that I had three graduate job offers within six weeks of finishing my studies. I am now on a graduate scheme with RBS."

sarah_bates
MMU Q-Step graduate 2015

"The best thing about this degree course, aside from the excellent lab sessions, is the enthusiasm displayed by the Q-Step team. All staff are very supportive and the guidance given is fantastic. I loved the experience of working alongside real researchers on my placement, which also provided me with networking opportunities I hope will be beneficial in my career."

final_year_student_2016
BSc in Sociology with Quantitative Methods

"HM Inspectorate of Probation were pleased to be able to partner with Manchester Metropolitan University through the Q-Step programme. We have built up large datasets containing information on the quality of work with offenders combined with demographic details and outcomes data. We were pleased to supply students with this real world data for their projects, and to be able to help them understand the context in which that data was collected, the processes involved in research, and to deepen their understanding of the broader criminal justice field."

oliver_kenton
Research Officer, HM Inspectorate of Probation
The University of Nottingham’s Q-Step Affiliate status has been awarded in recognition of our commitment to developing students’ quantitative expertise.

What does this mean for you?
By choosing to take a specialised module pathway in Quantitative Methods as part of your course, you will graduate with a degree that demonstrates your evaluative and analytical skills.

The modules will equip you with the ability to evaluate evidence, analyse data, and design and commission research.

You will enhance your employability, at a time when the UK is experiencing a shortage of social scientists with quantitative skills.

To find out more about which degrees offer the Quantitative Methods pathway, please visit our website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/social-sciences/q-step

Which schools are participating in Q-Step?

**The School of Sociology and Social Policy**
We rank among the top 10 Russell Group universities for sociology in the Complete University Guide, 2017, and our teaching is underpinned by high-quality research.

**The School of Politics and International Relations**
Our courses are taught by leading academic experts and we are the top university in the East Midlands for politics, in the Complete University Guide, 2017.

**The School of Geography**
We are ranked 39th in the world for geography, in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject. Our exciting and challenging courses are some of the most flexible in the country and our range of modules span the full spectrum of the discipline.

**The School of Law**
We are one of the top law schools in the country (5th in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2017), and our graduates are highly sought after by employers.

You will enhance your employability, at a time when the UK is experiencing a shortage of social scientists with quantitative skills.
The University of Oxford offers enhanced quantitative skills training as an integral part of three of its most prestigious social sciences undergraduate degree courses.

**Enhanced quantitative skills training**

- BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- BA History and Politics
- BA Human Sciences

The aim of our Q-Step degree programmes is to teach students how to back up theoretical statements with empirical evidence. Students are provided with a basic understanding of statistical modelling and computing. These skills deepen their understanding of academic work, but also of the reporting and use of data more widely.

Oxford Q-Step Centre also offers students a programme of data-focussed internships which focuses on applying these skills. And students are encouraged to attend talks on the wider application of data analysis which are run across the university.

Q-Step teaching is through a programme of lectures, practical data sessions in a purpose-built data suite, and in small college-based tutorials. We have a world-class academic team.

**Course content**

In our PPE and History and Politics degree programmes, quantitative methods training is embedded in each year of undergraduate study:

**First year:** The core ‘Political Analysis’ course introduces key concepts in social science research, including measurement, case selection and multivariate regression, using data from published research. Assessment is through coursework.

**Second year:** ‘Political Analysis II’ is taught within the optional ‘Comparative Politics’, ‘International Relations’ and ‘Political Sociology’ papers.

**Third year:** Dissertation – students may choose a 15,000-word dissertation, using quantitative methods, as one of their eight subjects for Finals.

In our Human Sciences degree programme, we are redesigning the methods curriculum along similar lines to PPE and History and Politics, but with its own applications. It is not essential to have maths beyond GCSE level, but some knowledge of statistics is desirable.

Q-Step adds an exciting dimension to Oxford’s undergraduate social science teaching, and equips students with a sought-after skill-set for further research or the workplace.

For further information, please visit: [www.qc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.qc.ox.ac.uk)

"I enrolled in the Q-Step course in my first year of PPE. I now know the basics of coding, which has involved a lot less maths than I thought; the computer does it for you. I also understand the importance of critically analysing the conclusions of political theorists, rather than assuming they’re right; and I’ve learned the value of finding something out for yourself. The highlight for me was being given raw data from a set text, then working out a theory based on the regressions I chose to run."

ellie_mae_macdonald
BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics

"My Q-Step internship took place during the Labour Leadership Election 2015. Our main project was to try to engage less politically-minded survey recipients. I developed my quantitative skills by learning how to use SPSS. This software allows users to add additional demographic breakdowns as crossbreaks (an analysis of part of a poll’s result), including party preference, age, gender, social grade and region. I saw the need to try to boost under-represented groups within a survey to be able to add important crossbreaks. At the end of my internship I was asking my own questions on Daily Polling which goes out several times a week to around 1,500 people."

sarah_bosworth
BA History and Politics
The Q-Step Centre at Queen’s University Belfast is integrating and enhancing quantitative skills training in a range of disciplines such as criminology, social policy, politics and sociology. In addition, we are developing new degree opportunities. We currently offer the BSc Sociology with Quantitative Methods, which combines the curiosity of social inquiry with the advanced quantitative skills required to collect and analyse social data.

Why Queen’s?
Queen’s is an historic campus university in the heart of Belfast, ranked the most affordable student city in the UK. We are a research-intensive university, which means what you’re taught is directly linked to the latest discoveries and innovations. Sociology at Queen’s offers a unique opportunity to study important global issues, such as peace, security and justice, as well as understanding the patterns and processes of social inequalities.

The Sociology team’s diverse research interests translate into an exciting and dynamic programme, with opportunities to study a diverse range of subjects, from new religious movements through to environmental crime.

**BSc Sociology with Quantitative Methods**

Sociology is often described as ‘the science of society’. It explains how societies work. One way of understanding social trends is to count people, activities and events, and societies are now awash with data on every aspect of people’s lives. Sociologists need to become specialists in making sense of this data. Our Sociology with Quantitative Methods degree offers a unique opportunity on the island of Ireland to gain specialised skills in quantitative research methods.

The Sociology team’s diverse research interests translate into an exciting and dynamic programme, with opportunities to study a diverse range of subjects, from new religious movements through to environmental crime.

**Degrees with additional quantitative content**

In addition to the new BSc Sociology with Quantitative Methods, we also offer a range of degrees that include significant training in quantitative research skills. You may also be eligible to apply for a work placement and further develop your quantitative skills through a final year project. The degrees include:

- BA Sociology
- BA Sociology and Social Policy
- BA Criminology
- BA Criminology and Sociology
- BA Sociology and Social Policy
- BA Politics

**Work placements**

Our Sociology with Quantitative Methods degree provides opportunities to tackle quantitative research in a professional environment through paid summer work placements provided with national and international organisations, from market research companies to government bodies.

**Awards for student research**

Sociology at Queen’s offers an exciting research environment and students are able to undertake independent research in their final year, celebrated at graduation with Q-Step Awards.

**Opportunities for postgraduate study**

You can further develop your research training at postgraduate level, supported by competitive Q-Step bursaries.

**Career opportunities**

Sociology graduates with quantitative skills are highly sought after in a broad range of careers in business, charities, politics, academia and the public sector. Given the growing volume of data in contemporary society, the need for good data skills is increasingly recognised by employers and the new degree provides the opportunity for a broad range of career options.

The need for good data skills is increasingly recognised by employers and the new degree provides the opportunity for a broad range of career options.

For further information, please see: www.qub.ac.uk/QStep

- "Without Q-Step, it’s a simple fact that I would not be where I am right now – doing a fully funded quantitative PhD. Q-Step took the fear factor out of stats, showed how stats can be useful, and supported me alongside the university department. The Q-Step programme funded an internship and my dissertation – high points on my CV. Q-Step really helped me stand out." – Karl Ferguson, BA (Hons) Sociology graduate 2015 and winner of a Q-Step Dissertation Award for research design. Karl is now a PhD student at the University of Glasgow.

- "Ipsos Mori gives me the opportunity to apply and develop the knowledge I had gained in the first two years of my degree. I then embarked on a quantitative dissertation in third year. My Q-Step experiences were a huge contributing factor in my selection for a graduate role at [leading professional services firm] PwC." – Amy Abbate, BA (Hons) Criminology graduate

- "Ipsos Mori carries out research for a variety of clients and quantitative skills are essential for our business. We need graduates with a good understanding of quantitative research, from data collection to complex analysis. Being able to demonstrate these skills to an employer such as Ipsos MORI makes a graduate very attractive." – Fiona Rooney, Managing Director, Ipsos Mori NI
The University of Sheffield Q-Step Centre offers a range of learning opportunities that combine quantitative research methods with social sciences subjects and their application in the real world. The communication, analytical and reasoning skills gained by learning with us are demanded by a wide range of employers.

**BA Quantitative Social Sciences**

Our BA in Quantitative Social Sciences delivers innovative, cutting edge training in quantitative research methods to gather and interpret data, and spot trends and relationships. Using the latest software, students apply their analytical skills to their choice of subjects such as geography, criminology and management.

**BA/BSc Applied Social Sciences**

Our BA/BSc in Applied Social Sciences breaks through traditional social science boundaries by combining a number of subjects like politics, geography and sociology. The course allows students to follow their interests, while providing the knowledge to investigate through quantitative and qualitative research methods training - the important issues faced by society today.

**Postgraduate opportunities**

Q-Step graduates can continue onto a range of postgraduate programmes, including the MA in Social Research, designed to develop highly-skilled researchers in the social sciences to world class standards as defined by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

**Free online short course**

‘Making Sense of Data in the Media’ is a free online short course open to all. Increasingly, we’re bombarded with all sorts of data about how society is changing, and this course enables students to examine ways of cutting through the confusion in order to identify what the numbers really tell us, and when and why they (sometimes deliberately) mislead. [www.futurelearn.com/courses/media-data](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/media-data)

**Summer school**

Designed for social sciences undergraduate students, DataFest brings together leading experts in data analysis in the social sciences in a free four-day summer school. Students graduate from DataFest with a range of practical, technical and critical thinking skills that enhance quantitative skills and employability.

The communication, analytical and reasoning skills gained by learning with us are demanded by a wide range of employers.
At Southampton, we have a long-term commitment to improving the quantitative abilities of undergraduates and producing graduates who can tackle the global issues of today. We have one of the highest concentrations of social scientists using quantitative methods in the country.

**Q-Step Affiliate degree programmes**

We offer Q-Step Affiliate degree programmes within three Divisions of our Social Sciences Department:

- Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology
- Politics and International Relations
- Social Statistics and Demography

We ensure that all students who enrol on degree programmes within these Divisions have a high level of quantitative knowledge on graduation. We do this by offering specific research methods courses and by embedding quantitative teaching and examples throughout the curriculum.

**Large-scale datasets**

Our teaching staff have recognised expertise in the collection and analysis of large-scale survey datasets, and will help you to develop your skills in this area. With training from our staff, you will learn to analyse complex datasets and obtain robust results which are relevant to contemporary issues within social policy. You will learn what to consider before analysing real-life datasets, and how to identify and use the most appropriate software. These are highly desirable skills for employers.

**Dissertation support and prize**

We offer additional final-year support for students writing quantitative dissertations, as well as a prize for the best quantitative dissertation. We also offer support for attendance at relevant vacation short courses in other universities and Q-Step centres.

**New BSc for 2018**

In addition to our current Q-Step offer, we are developing a new BSc in Quantitative Social Sciences which will be available for 2018 entry (subject to validation). This degree programme will provide students with high level quantitative training alongside a substantive understanding of a range of social science issues.

**With training from our staff, you will learn to analyse complex datasets and obtain robust results which are relevant to contemporary issues within social policy.**

"There is great emphasis placed on quantitative methods on my degree programme, and this reflects the high-level quantitative expertise in the department. Studying at a Q-Step Affiliate has given me opportunities to develop important and transferable skills, both at Southampton and at other institutions, including financial support to attend courses elsewhere. These courses have been a great opportunity to perfect the technical skills I’ve learned in class, as well as good preparation for future modules."

**bradley_tombleson**
Second year BSc Population and Geography

"Southampton’s Q-Step Affiliate status meant that I was able to get funding to attend the Essex University summer school to study ‘Making Numbers Count’. This was really interesting and exciting – teaching me some very valuable skills and techniques that have enhanced my ability to conduct research. The summer school was a great supplement to the quantitative modules that I have taken at Southampton which stimulated my interest in the area. I am looking forward to writing my quantitative dissertation on the subject of drug-taking, supported by Q-Step."

**ellie_jacobs**
Second Year BSc Criminology and Psychology

For further information, please see:
www.southampton.ac.uk/socsci/undergraduate/qstep/page
Following UCL’s world-leading, interdisciplinary approach, our Q-step degree programmes engage with the big policy challenges facing society, both in the UK and globally. Along with expertise in their chosen subject, we provide students with advanced and highly transferable skills in research design, data analysis and visualisation using state-of-the-art statistical computing tools.

We offer a range of summer short-courses and competitive, paid internships, drawing on our extensive links with government, think tanks, business and industry. Data science skills from UCL Q-Step give our students a competitive advantage – whether choosing postgraduate study or employment.

Geography with Quantitative Methods BA

This programme provides students with a solid basis in social statistics as well as the mapping and analysis of geographic data. Such tools and techniques are essential to answering important social, political and economic policy questions from a geographical perspective.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) BSc

The PPE programme provides breadth and depth in understanding social phenomena, including the principles informing, and consequences following, policy choices. Our ‘applied’ focus means students leave with the skills to shape UK and global public policy.

Population Health BSc

Our undergraduate degree in Population Health uses social science methodologies to study factors shaping our health, including social and physical environments, the way we live, health care systems and our genes. It will prepare you for careers in the health sector and beyond.

Social Sciences with Quantitative Methods BSc

Our Social Science degree programme provides an understanding of the social and economic forces shaping our world combined with rigorous training in the quantitative techniques and data analysis skills needed to examine them. These techniques and skills are highly valued in the graduate labour market.

European Social and Political Studies BA Q-Step Pathway

This challenging, flexible and diverse programme offers specialisation in humanities and social sciences, combined with a broad base in European history, law, philosophy and politics, fluency in a European language, and quantitative methods.

For further information, please see: www.ucl.ac.uk/q-step

"Learning the statistical programming language R at the UCL Q-Step Centre has been a revelation, opening up the vast and incredibly dynamic world of technology and computing for me. It has stimulated an interest in these fields, which led me to attend a technology festival Campus Party in the Netherlands and an education ‘hackathon’ at UCL. I feel closer to the cutting-edge of entrepreneurship and innovation, and I am approaching my forthcoming career choices with confidence."

vivek_shah
PPE student

"The UCL Q-Step Centre has helped me gain valuable insights into various disciplines of data sciences and has broadened many aspects of my knowledge. The Centre consistently provides high-quality opportunities for students, including internships, data and analytical skills workshops and educational activities. I have become more prepared for a competitive workplace in the future through engaging in activities led by Q-Step."

shing Ju
Geography with Quantitative Methods

Along with expertise in their chosen subject, we provide students with advanced and highly transferable skills.
**BA Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods**

The critical analysis of political ideas and global politics, coupled with excellent training in quantitative methods, are central to this degree. You will examine a variety of theories and empirical evidence that confront contemporary and historical issues in international relations. Training in quantitative methods will enable you to engage more fully with opinion surveys, government statistics, large datasets, and other aspects of the fast-developing digital society.

By taking a Warwick Q-Step degree, you will:

- Learn traditional quantitative skills as well as cutting-edge computational and digital methods and visualisation techniques.
- Learn through a carefully staged programme of activities offering students the chance to experience ‘live’ research driven by real-world problems.
- Apply your skills practically during a four-week paid work placement after the second year of your degree, enhancing your employability when you graduate.
- Attend an annual Spring Camp that brings together undergraduates and postgraduates.
- Gain a strong employability advantage nationally and internationally.
- Work in ways that help you to understand, participate and intervene in today’s data-driven digital society.

In addition to the undergraduate degrees, we also offer three postgraduate courses:

- MA Politics and Big Data
- MSc Quantitative Social Research
- MSc Big Data and Digital Futures

Critical analysis of political ideas and global politics, coupled with excellent training in quantitative methods, are central to this degree.

“Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods is a unique and hugely enjoyable course unlike any other! The best thing about it is the variation in topics that I am able to study. In a typical week I go from having lectures in political theory and world politics, to studying qualitative methods and statistical topics. Not only is this engaging but I also feel that it will give me a range of skills applicable to the work place.”

**kate_lennon**
BA Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods

“Being able to have a larger focus on quantitative methods is really interesting for me, especially in the modern day where data exists everywhere. I chose this programme as I was looking to try something a bit different at university and I liked the fact that Warwick had a degree dedicated to quantitative skills. Employers are currently experiencing a shortage of graduates with these quantitative skills, allowing you to really stand out in the job market. Although some people may feel apprehensive about a course which is statistics-based, you needn’t worry. Lecturers start with the very basics, allowing you to build up statistical knowledge throughout the course of the year.”

**gemma_ford**
BA Sociology and Quantitative Methods

For further information, please see: www.warwick.ac.uk/q-step
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Essex Q-Step Centre</td>
<td>BSc Sociology with Quantitative Methods — L630</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Essex Q-Step Centre</td>
<td>BA Sociology and Social Psychology — L630</td>
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<td>BA International Relations (Applied Quantitative Methods) — L630</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Essex Q-Step Centre</td>
<td>BSc Finance, Banking, and Financial Economics (Applied Quantitative Methods) — L630</td>
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<td>University of Essex Q-Step Centre</td>
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<td>University of Essex Q-Step Centre</td>
<td>BSc Accounting and Finance (Applied Quantitative Methods) — L630</td>
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<td>City University London Q-Step Centre</td>
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<td>University of Edinburgh Q-Step Centre</td>
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<td>University of Essex Q-Step Centre</td>
<td>MA Government, Policy and Society with Quantitative Methods — L630</td>
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<td>University of Leeds Q-Step Centre</td>
<td>MA Business Administration with Business Analytics — L630</td>
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<td>University of Leeds Q-Step Centre</td>
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<td>BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics — L630</td>
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<td>University of Sheffield Q-Step Centre</td>
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</tr>
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<td>MA Social Research — L630</td>
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<td>University of Southampton Q-Step Centre</td>
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Quantitative social science
for the 21st century
Undergraduate Q-Step prospectus