



Durham
University

Combined Honours in Social Sciences (LMV0)

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Twitter and Facebook

Top 10

UK university

Ranked 6th, *The Complete University Guide*

Ranked 4th, *The Guardian University Guide*

What is Combined Social Sciences?

Our students talk about the programme in our new [video!](#)

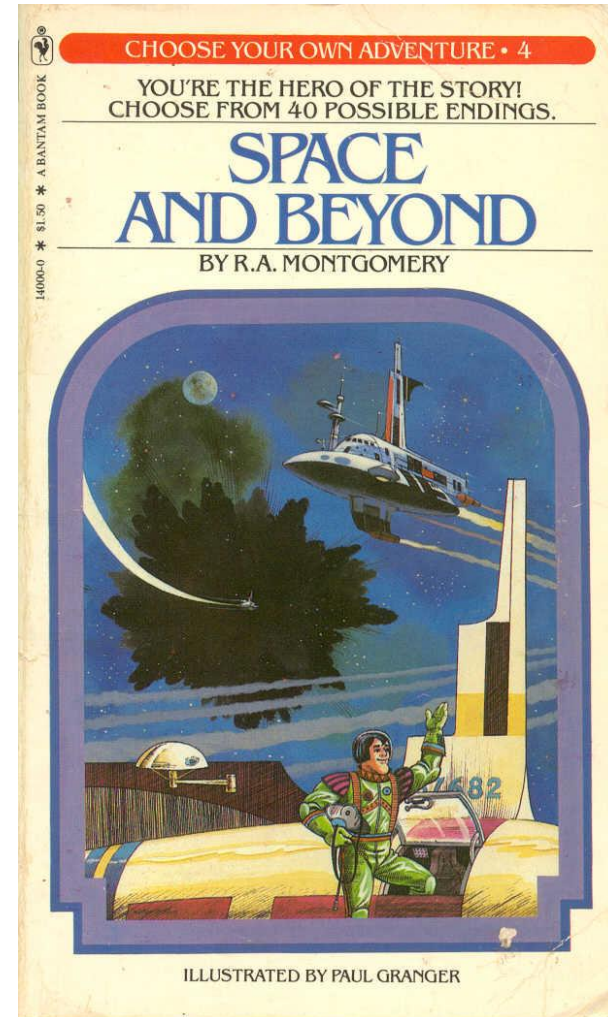
What is Combined Honours?

Academically ambitious degree programme

- Combined Honours is an undergraduate degree framework which gives you the opportunity to **design your own degree**, going beyond disciplinary boundaries.
- Suited to **individual interests**, strengths and career plans

Flexible & emphasises choice

- In Combined Honours programmes, you study two, three, or even four subjects, giving you far more choice and flexibility than within Single Honours or Joint Honours courses.



Multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary?



Life is inherently interdisciplinary

- “How much is an elephant worth?”
- “How to live in a pandemic”
- “What if the world was one country?”
- “Birth at a time of national emergency”



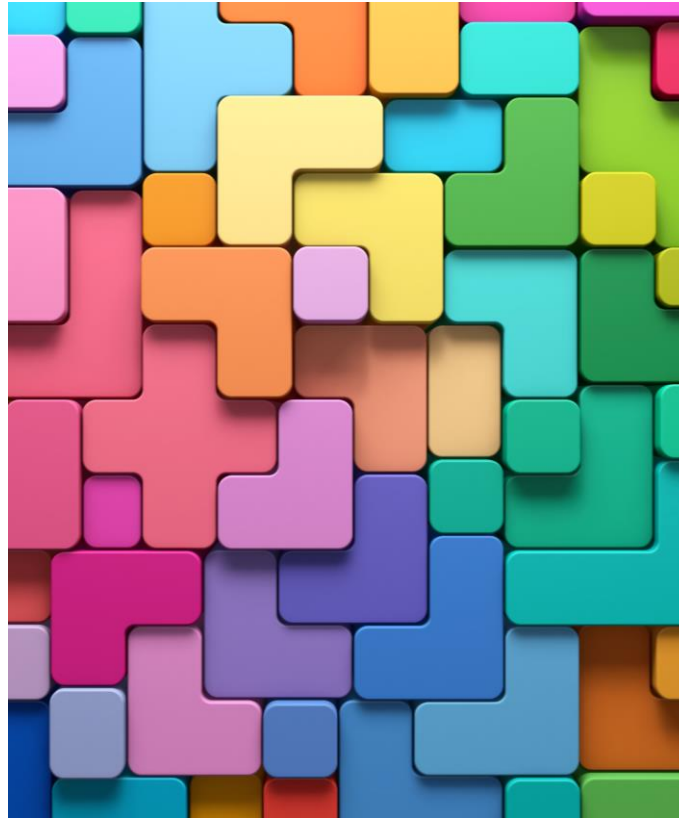
Build your own degree

Social Sciences subjects

Anthropology, Archaeology,
Education, Geography, Politics,
International Relations,
Sociology, Sport, Economics,
Management and Marketing

Arts and Humanities subjects

English Studies, History, Modern
Languages and Cultures (MLaC),
Visual Studies, Music,
Philosophy, Theology and
Classics



Combined Honours in Social Sciences

= Social Sciences

+ (some optional) Arts and
Humanities and/or Business

Liberal Arts

= Arts and Humanities

+ (some optional) Social
Sciences and/or Business

FSOC1011: Decolonising Knowledge & Power



- Introduces students to concepts and case studies related to decolonisation, with specific focus on the themes of knowledge and power.
- Introduces students to research methods and design from a decolonisation perspective.
- What does it mean to decolonise education and research?
- Promotes the value of a multidisciplinary and intersectional perspective: fieldtrips, film nights, novels, etc.

Move from subject to theme



- First years tend to choose modules by the **subjects** they have liked at school.
- Second and third years start to think about modules in a more **thematic** way so that they can build a programme of study around areas such as the Cold War; social policy; social inequality; belonging and identity; development.

What kind of programme is CHSS?

Build your own JH programme

- You can combine subjects where there is no alternative programme
- (e.g. Politics/History)

Create a parallel programme

- You can combine subjects where there *is* an alternative programme
- (e.g. PPE) but in a more flexible way

Flexible bespoke programme

- You can combine up to 4 subjects to pursue a tailor-made degree
- (e.g. Economics, Geog, Spanish, or Sociology, Politics, Education, Business)

Variety of dissertation options



Every CHSS student is required to complete a dissertation in their final year.

You can conclude your studies with a dissertation from one of our programme departments, *or* pursue an interdisciplinary project.

Different directions... but not too many!



Programme regulations summary

Level	Options
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 120 credits from 2, 3 or 4 subjects• At least 60 credits in Social Sciences
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 120 credits from 2, 3 or 4 subjects• At least 60 credits in Social Sciences
Possible year abroad or placement year	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dissertation (normally 40 credits)• 80 credits from 2 or 3 subjects (inc diss subject)• At least 60 credits in the Social Sciences

Year Abroad or Placement Year Opportunities

- CHSS students who study a **modern language** can transfer to a four-year version of their programme, which includes a **Year Abroad**, during which they will study at a university, or teach English in schools, or undertake internships in companies or other organisations.
- CHSS students who **don't study a language** can also transfer to a four-year version of their programme, including the Year Abroad, if they secure a place to study at one of Durham's partner universities via the **Overseas Exchange programme**.
- We also have a **placement year** variant for students who wish to undertake a 40 week paid work placement between their second and final year.



What restrictions are there?

- Programme regulations (minimum 60 credits p.a. Social Sciences)
- Module availability
- Timetable constraints
- Director approval
- Module pre-requisites and co-requisites
- Some modules have subject-specific entry requirements (History, English, Music, MFL, Economics)



What support is there?

- Weekly office hours with CHSS Director/Deputy
- Weekly office hours with lecturers
- SharePoint page for CHSS and fortnightly eBulletin
- Academic advice/guidance from departments
- Combined Coordinator in all Soc Sci depts
- CHSS Student Social Society
- CHSS peer mentor scheme
- College support



CHSS student social society

- Every CHSS student is automatically a member
- Aims to create a social community
- Freshers' welcome events
- Returners' events
- Mentor events
- Support during induction week
- CHSS peer mentor scheme for all freshers



Student representatives



- Many ways to get involved with the department
- Range of support by students for students

Peer mentors



- Running scheme since 2018
- Every CHSS fresher is matched with a mentor taking a similar combination of subjects
- Cohort identity
- Belonging
- Social opportunities



Entry requirements: typical offer

GCE A level A*AA

IB 38 points (666 at higher level)

We don't accept the EPQ as part of our entry requirements, but this project is a great way to evidence experience of interdisciplinarity in your school studies so do mention it in your personal statement if you're taking it.

Substitute personal statement

Many applicants apply to a range of single honours courses alongside a combined honours application.

If this is the case for you, and you're wondering how to tailor your personal statement accordingly, Durham has the option for you to submit a substitute personal statement.

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/ucas/personalstatement/substitute/>



Subject entry requirements

- **Economics**

A at A level (or equivalent) in Mathematics (IB Higher level 6, Standard level 7)

- **English Literature**

A at A level (or equivalent) in English Literature [or in English Language and Literature]

- **History**

A at A level (or equivalent) in History

- **Music**

A at A level (or equivalent) in Music

Subject entry requirements continued

- **Languages (as principal subjects) – advanced:
French / German / Spanish / Italian / Russian**

A at A level (or equivalent) in the relevant language

- **Languages (as principal subjects) – *ab initio* (1):
German / Spanish / Italian / Russian / Arabic**

A at A level (or equivalent) in any modern language

- **Languages (as principal subjects) – *ab initio* (2):
Chinese / Japanese**

A at A level (or equivalent) in any modern language desirable but not essential, since this is not required for the Chinese and Japanese Studies programmes


Employment prospects



- Destination figures for 2022 are excellent with 90% of CHSS leavers securing employment and/or going on to further study within 15 months of graduating. This exceeds the university average of 89%.
- The average salary of our graduates is £31,350, which also exceeds the university average of £30,480.
- Employers like the Combined degree - for the obvious reason that graduates come out with a range of skills from the different subjects they have studied.
- We run CHSS careers/CV workshops to support you each year.


Graduate Destinations

- Some of the recent graduates of our programmes have gone on to:
 - Masters and PhD programmes at a range of places including Durham, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, St Andrews, LSE, UCL.
- Over a third of our graduates go on to PG study each year.
- PGCEs, Law conversion courses, and other graduate programmes, relating to journalism, financial services, and management.
- Careers in teaching, banking, auditing, marketing, public relations, human resources, publishing, retail management, the civil service, arts management, public administration, and the voluntary sector.



In 2013, The Independent reported that Durham University is thought to have the highest rate of inter-student marriages in Britain. Roughly 72% of students will marry a fellow Durham alumnus, a third of couples starting a relationship only after graduation. This is by far the highest percentage of any UK university, with the national average typically standing at 18-20%.

(Palatinate, Feb 7, 2019, “Meeting the real 70%”)



Further information

Thank you!

Q&A

For information on the Combined Honours in Social Sciences programme:

- phone: 0191 334 1000
- website: www.durham.ac.uk/chss/
- Use the [Ask Us – Durham University](#) form

For the programme regulations and outlines of all modules:

- see the Programme and Module Handbook:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2025/UG>

