BIC6014-A module descriptor	
Module Title	Social Institutions
Credit Level	10 credits (FHEQ Level 6)
Session	2026/7 academic year
BDA occurrence	Semester 1 available at University of Bradford
BDA occurrence	Semester 2 available at University of Bradford
BDA occurrence	Semester 3 available at University of Bradford
BDB occurrence	Semester 3 available at University of Bradford

Transparency notice

This specification for module code BIC6014-A has been generated automatically in advance of the academic year 2026/7. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes permitted by our Student Contract Terms and Conditions could be made in the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching; where changes impact the terms and conditions of an applicant's or student's offer, these are communicated to them as soon as possible.

BIC6014-A module aims

The module will introduce you to the concept of a social institution and the way in which social organisation and social structures influence human behaviour.

The module will provide you with an opportunity to explore institutional theory and help you to analyse and critique the role of 'social institutions' in both theoretical and real world/applied domains.

BIC6014-A module learning outcomes

No.	Students completing the module will be able to:
01	Evaluate and interpret concepts of a social institution in theoretical and applied contexts.
02	With reference to sociological concepts and theory, critically analyse the structure, function and culture of a social institution from multiple perspectives.

BIC6014-A module outline syllabus

What is a ‘social institution’? Exploring similarities and differences in definition and theory
Elements of social institutions: structure, function and culture (conventions, rules, social norms, roles and rituals)
Perspectives and theories on the functioning of social institutions
Linking the impact of institutions on organisations, individuals, society and culture
Institutional development and change
The significance of the healthcare system
Social institutions and theory in the domains of:
politics
law
healthcare
economics
technology/mass-media

Coming as they do from a range of backgrounds, students will be encouraged and expected to bring their own diverse perspectives to this module and consider different views and expectations regarding the organisation and functioning of social institutions.

For more information, visit the VLE (**Canvas**) page, go to our **Reading Lists webpage for this module** or search **https://bradford.rl.talis.com** for this module.

BIC6014-A module notional learning hours

- 50 hours Lectures
- 50 hours Directed Study

The overall expected hours may include contact time, scheduled learning activity, directed and independent study and any minimum expectations for placement learning. Most learning at the University of Bradford has some online content and sessions which are delivered fully by virtual means are labelled as "online".

BIC6014-A module learning, teaching and assessment

Groups are small and classes are student-centred and interactive.

The classroom approach is explicitly designed to help international students acquire new knowledge and skills, to build their confidence and enable them to become more independent learners. By doing this consistently and across all modules, the programme provides them with a strong foundation for further study in their chosen subject area.

The approach is inclusive and recognises that students come from different backgrounds with a range of previous learning experiences and associated expectations, beliefs and behaviours. Teaching and learning methods are clearly explained so students understand why (where appropriate) they need to engage in new ways of learning and why those they have used or relied on up to this point may be less suited to supporting their ongoing development and their chances of success in UK Higher Education.

Formative work is an integral part of the approach. In class, students are set tasks that require them to apply their knowledge and skills, to think critically and to solve problems. The level of challenge is gradually increased as the students grow in confidence and Tutors help them to see that experimentation, trial and error are central to the learning process, providing constructive feedback on both what has been achieved and how.

Formative work specific to this module will focus on the use of a series of case-studies to explore the way in which social institutions function and how they are viewed by their members and by outsiders. To help prepare them for their end-of-course assignment, the students will also be given skills practice focused on desk-research that will complement the language and skills development work that they are doing in parallel in their English for Master's Preparation module.

Students are also expected to engage in independent study, to reflect on their own performance and to discuss this with their module tutor or personal academic tutor, who will provide support and advice and, when necessary, draw the attention of Module and Programme Leads to a struggling student using the 'Students of concern' process.

The summative assessment for the module requires students to address the theoretical aspects of the module and relate them to concrete examples in real-world domains. Students will produce an essay analysing a social institution around a given domain covered during the module.

BIC6014-A mode of assessment

Type	Mode	Assessment description	Weight
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay exploring theory in relation to a real-world social institution (1500 words)	100%

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