Study opportunities in survey methodology are offered jointly by the University’s Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) and Department of Sociology, whose combined research excellence has contributed to making Essex a prime destination for social science.

ISER is also home to Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study, the world’s largest panel survey.

You will be taught by leading survey researchers and practitioners in courses designed to provide the in-depth knowledge of technique and practice needed for students to embark on a career in quantitative social research.

Our Survey Methodology programmes teach skills with a strong theoretical underpinning and are ideally suited to students in the social sciences and marketing.

The demand for graduates in this field is high; our alumni have gone on to successful careers in international corporations, government agencies and academia.
MSc in Survey Methods for Social Research

The curriculum for the MSc has been strengthened and updated to include new courses that offer more rigorous survey methods training in cutting-edge areas.

The one-year curriculum includes the courses:

• Introduction to Survey Design and Management
• Applied Sampling
• Survey Measurement and Questionnaire Design
• Dealing with Coverage and Nonresponse in Surveys
• Introduction to Quantitative Analysis
• Panel Data Methods

Students will also gain practical experience by attending an interviewer briefing conference, accompanying a survey interviewer in the field and completing a two-week placement at a major UK survey organisation. Past hosts include Ipsos MORI, GfK NOP, TNS BMRB, the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys (European Social Survey) and ISER.

The best students on our MSc will be encouraged to consider further study on our PhD in Survey Methodology programme.

PhD in Survey Methodology

Our PhD programme offers you the opportunity to be supervised by world-leading researchers in the field, possibly carrying out innovative survey methods research on Understanding Society through its ground-breaking Innovation Panel, or conducting research in collaboration with professional partners like TNS BMRB and Ipsos MORI.

There are a number of funding opportunities available for PhD study including ‘Advanced Quantitative Methods’ studentships from the UK Economic & Social Research Council. These are competitively awarded but are open to international as well as UK and European Union applicants.

Those without a related MSc, can apply for ‘1+3’ studentships which fund the student for four years to complete both our MSc in Survey Methods for Social Research and PhD in Survey Methodology.

Some of our students have had the opportunity to apply for funding to spend time visiting research departments abroad such as the University of Michigan’s Program in Survey Methodology.

For more information please visit www.iser.essex.ac.uk/study