



The Interchange Portfolio (module SOCI303)

Short Interchange Project (module SOCI311)

Interchange is a registered charity (No. 1038129) based in the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology at the University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice, which mediates between students and local voluntary and community organisations (VCOs).

We offer 3rd year students an alternative to a dissertation, in the form of a research project in collaboration with one of our partner VCOs. This includes:

- Evaluation reports
- Feasibility studies
- Social policy reviews
- Community development activities
- Documentary and oral histories
- Identification and exploration of knowledge gaps

VCOs will meet your basic travel expenses and pay for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, if required.

SOCI303: The Interchange Portfolio | 30 credits, Sep-May

SOCI303 gives students the opportunity to engage in a social research project or work-based learning project in collaboration with a VCO, via primary research.

In this full-year module, students actively participate in 'shared conversations' in both the university-based workshops that support the module, and in active collaborations with their VCO. A participatory/collaborative approach is encouraged to engage in a way that involves a process of action and reflection.

Students will be expected to think about the practical problems that this sector is trying to solve and to effect change that will empower individuals and communities. Essential to this is the principle that students are not working *for* the VCO but *with* the VCO.

Towards the end of the academic year, students will produce for their VCO a 6000-word report including the background of the organisation, an analysis of findings from the research, and recommendations to take forward.

Projects may also include the production of promotional material, websites, directories or handbooks.

SOCI311: Short Interchange Project | 15 credits, Sep-Jan

SOCI311 gives students the opportunity to examine legislation, social policy, or a gap in knowledge pertinent to a VCO, via desk research.

Towards the end of semester one, students will produce for their VCO a 4000-word report including an overview of the organisation, a review of a specific social policy/piece of legislation/knowledge gap, the impact of the issue, analysis of how it fits in to the organisation, and recommendations to take forward.

VCOs working with Interchange in 2022-23:					Be Free Campaign	Caring Connections	CELLS Project
Deafness Resource Centre	Employability Solutions	Everton Free School	Feeding Liverpool	Ferries Family Group	Halton Sensory Services	Happy Times Activities	Incredible Edible Knowsley
Kaalmo Youth Development	KnifeSavers	Liverpool Access to Advice Network	Liverpool Community Advice	Magenta Living	Merseyside Youth Association	Moving on with Life & Learning	n-compass
National Youth Advocacy Service	Phoenix Community & Youth Project	Plaza Community Cinema	The Positivitree	Raise	The Reader	Resilient NW	St. Helens Mind
Together Liverpool	Tomorrow's Women Wirral	Transition Liverpool CIC	The Venus Charity	Walton Youth & Community Project	Wirral Unplugged	Woodvale & Ainsdale Community Association	The Wren Project

Testimonies 2021-22

“Interchange made my degree feel truly worthwhile as it extended the focus of my studies beyond campus to have a real positive impact on the local community.” – Ryan Briers, 2022 Sociology graduate

“Choosing Interchange was one of the best decisions I’ve made in university. My project allowed me to do something to help young girls in the local area access the support they might need. Not only did it teach me research skills that will be useful after university, it helped me gain confidence in my own ability as a research student. Thanks to the support provided by staff, I have now graduated with a first-class degree and received a first in my report.” – Molly Owen, 2022 Sociology graduate

“Interchange have provided us with a fantastic piece of research we can utilise across our services. We are able to look at the quantitative data for funding bids and use the qualitative data for our induction to the service. Our student was easy to get on with and understood our ethos, and also the benefits he could bring.” – Carlie Machell, link worker at the Venus Charity

“LYCC has been involved with Interchange for a number of years now. Every research project we are part of is conducted in an efficient, professional and timely manner. There is clear support for the students by the university and all students are enthusiastic to learn about our organisations. Interchange should be extremely proud of the service it provides for organisations like us and I hope you know all your hard work and dedication doesn’t go unnoticed.” – Amy Johnston, link worker at Litherland Youth & Community Centre

Contact Interchange

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