Melinda Chiment graduated with a PhD in Sociology. She is now the Director of Program Development at AjA Project in San Diego, California. The AjA Project is a not-for-profit organisation utilising art to help recently resettled refugee and immigrant youth process experiences of displacement, migration and resettlement. Melinda said she found her experience at UQ was better than she could have imagined – “The UQ team – from the administrative staff to my PhD advisors – were always there to support, guide and challenge me throughout my candidature”.

Studying at UQ provided Melinda the opportunity to engage with her research partners and not only refine her research skills but to put her research skills into practice. Melinda attributes her success in securing her current position to the many practical skills she acquired through studying at UQ and said “through the research, applied and professional development skills acquired at UQ, I felt more than prepared to meet the demands of the workforce, in my chosen field”. Melinda also said that during her time at UQ she developed personal and professional relationships that will last a lifetime, and that even now, in the United States, she reaches out to colleagues in Brisbane to gain their thoughts on refugee resettlement related issues.
Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociologists study all aspects of our life as social beings and how this is shaped by factors such as gender, social class and ethnicity.

Studies in sociology include health, families and households, work, globalisation and development, culture and communication, research methods, environment, and social policy.

**Career Opportunities**
Graduates can pursue careers in policy analysis, statistics, research or social planning in government, or in market research and analysis in the private sector.
Career areas include:

| Government Departments (e.g. Communities, Health, Natural Resources, Tourism, Emergency Services) | Policy Advisor | Policy Researcher | Social Planning Officer | Research Officer |
| Communications and Public Relations | Market Researcher | Industry Analyst | Media Relations Advisor | Public Relations Consultant |
| Media and Advertising | Marketing Consultant | Project Manager | Event Manager |
| Health Provision | Health Services Manager |
| Community Services | Counsellor | Lobbyist |
| Consultancy Firms | Ethics Advisor | Evaluation Officer | Applied Research Officer |
| Health | Medical Anthropologist (cross-cultural health issues) |
| Education | Teaching Sociology and Social Science (in conjunction with education qualifications) | Education Administrator |

**Courses and Programs**
The School of Social Science offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in sociology, relating to topics such as communities, family, health, culture, social disadvantage, development, natural resource management, and social change.

Undergraduate students can complete a single or extended major in sociology within the Bachelor of Arts program, or undertake courses as electives in another program.

The introductory courses are:
- Introduction to Sociology
- Gender, Sexuality and Society
- Introduction to Health, Illness and Society

Examples of advanced courses are:
- Sociology of the City
- Families, Households and the Life Course
- Media, Culture and Society

Postgraduate students can undertake a fourth-year honours program or a higher degree by research (PhD or MPhil). Alternatively, students can study sociology within a cross-disciplinary program such as the Master of Development Practice.

More detailed information on majors and programs is available on the School website: [www.social-science.uq.edu.au](http://www.social-science.uq.edu.au)