



Programme Specification

Criminology [Frenchay]

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Validated

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Criminology [Frenchay]

Highest award: BA (Hons) Criminology

Interim award: BA Criminology

Interim award: DipHE Criminology

Interim award: CertHE Criminology

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: Yes

Sandwich year: Yes

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Social Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time, Sandwich

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 September 2022

Programme code: M90000

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: Criminology is a vibrant, multifaceted and multidisciplinary subject. The Criminology programme at UWE has been designed to provide an intellectually stimulating and relevant learning experience that will produce graduates who are ready and able to realise their full potential, make a positive contribution to their communities, workplaces and society and play their full part in a global society and knowledge economy. The programme aims to develop in its graduates the skills, knowledge, attitude and confidence to create, critique and make a difference to the world beyond university, and graduates who are prepared for lifelong learning, personal development and success in whatever field they choose to work and participate. The core curriculum of the programme, in particular, is designed with this objective in mind. The programme at UWE is distinctive for supplying students with placement opportunities across the criminal justice field, with research led teaching clearly embedded into the course as well as practitioner/professional based guest lectures.

Features of the programme: The Criminology programme at UWE has a distinctive applied focus, with a focus on the application of theoretical and evidence-based knowledge on crime, offenders, victims and state responses to crime. This bridge between theoretical and applied knowledge in real world settings helps to foster in students a keen interest and engagement in the subject and primes them to think about the applicability of theory to context and the generalizability of research findings. The applied focus of the programme is demonstrated not only in the curriculum but also in the research outputs of staff of staff involved in the Centre for Understanding Social Practice as well as the Centre for Legal Research. Further, staff research is infused into the curriculum with the result that the programme is also distinctive for research-informed teaching with Staff research being embedded throughout the course in Core modules as well as option modules. For example, research active staff module lead and teach in the Introduction to Criminal Justice [L4] and Nature & Use of Research (L5) we have staff giving lectures based around their past as well as ongoing research and how it links to the criminal justice system. Also, the programme has evidence based, research led and practice orientated teaching from stakeholders and related practitioners across all four years.

The programme is distinctive through its commitment to fostering ready and able graduates, who are well-equipped for the world of work; this is accomplished by a compulsory work-based learning module in Y3 as well as support for career planning in the final year of the programme, as well as a focus on supporting students to learn employment relevant skills throughout the course.

The Criminology programme has a strong commitment to the use of TEL to enhance teaching and support student learning as well as to increase accessibility for students.

Central to the Criminology programme is the ongoing dedication to providing a positive student experience. This is accomplished through a number of features, both criminology specific and UWE wide, including ongoing cycles of student feedback, formal and informal, which enable staff to work proactively with students to ensure the best possible learning experience.

Sandwich Students Placement Year:

Students opting for the Sandwich award are enrolled on the level 3 module Social Sciences Placement Year (UZSY5D-15-3). This optional year is designed to enable students to gain valuable work experience in an area of their choice, or to engage in a study abroad programme.

Sandwich Students Placement Year: Study Abroad

Students enrolled on this programme may be provided with the opportunity to study abroad in their third year between levels 5 and 6 of study. Students would be expected to undertake a relevant programme of learning agreed with their programme leader in advance. However, as this would not be directly replacing UWE modules and credit, the student would be able to expand their study beyond their immediate degree discipline. The study experience and developmental reflection would be captured and assessed as part of the Level 6 Social Sciences Placement Year module UZSY5D-15-3. On completion of the placement year students would

return to UWE and undertake their final year of degree study.

Sandwich Student Placement Year: Work-based placement (Employer-based or Entrepreneurial)

Students enrolled on this programme may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a work-based placement in their third year between levels 2 and 3 of study. Students would be expected to identify a relevant placement opportunity and to apply with the support of careers, academic staff and where appropriate enterprise support. If successful the student would undertake the placement during their third year and be provided with a visiting tutor. The placement experience and developmental reflection would be captured and assessed as part of the Level 3 Social Sciences Placement Year module UZSY5D-15-3. On completion of the placement year students would return to UWE and undertake their final year of degree study.

Educational Aims: The BA (Hons) Criminology programme aims at UWE Level 1 to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the core discipline of Criminology, whereas at UWE Levels 2 and 3 the programme is designed to help students develop an in-depth and detailed understanding of Criminology. The Criminology programme aims to highlight how multi-disciplinary (i.e., incorporating sociology, psychology, media studies and social policy) and applied (i.e., the impact that criminology has on criminal justice policy, practice and discourse) the subject area is and therefore how it directly links to employment opportunities.

In particular the programme aims to:

Provide a foundation in criminological knowledge that is relevant to a career in the criminal justice system.

Develop an understanding of the relationships between criminological theory and its application to a range of experience and behavior – including of offenders, victims, and agents of criminal justice.

Teach academically challenging and vocationally relevant criminology modules.

Clearly demonstrate how Criminology applies to and interacts with the real world, through a series of teaching innovations (TEL) and practical/practice based initiatives (placements, work based learning and invited speakers).

Impart a broad range of skills, discipline specific, cognitive and general transferable skills, which provide the student with a sound basis for further study.

Present multiple perspectives in criminology in a way that fosters critical comparison and evaluation.

Provide for students a generally enriching and interesting educational environment and experience; promote critical, creative and analytical thinking; and assist students to realise their potential.

Acknowledge and accommodate the wide diversity of student needs and interests through the provision of a flexible programme, which enables students to choose between a variety of modules, and which fosters their individual development.

Encourage scholarship and to foster the virtues of objectivity, reflection, judgement, critical study, and independent learning (individual and collaborative).

Provide a general foundation for the world of work by equipping students with the broad range of skills, understanding and knowledge employed in a wide range of vocations.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Major concepts and theoretical perspectives in Criminology in relation to offending, victimisation, the social construction of crime, deviance and victimisation and responses to them
- A2. The impact of various forms of social diversity and social divisions on the social construction of crime and victimisation, as well as responses to crime and deviance
- A3. History, key institutions, cultural norms, and human rights issues of the criminal justice system
- A4. How crime and victimisation are socially constructed (by media, public opinion and state agencies)
- A5. Relationship between theory, evidence, practice and methods in criminological research
- A6. Value of comparative analysis in both historical and contemporary contexts
- A7. Nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in relation to social investigation and criminological issues
- A8. Distinctive character of disciplines of criminology (sociology, psychology, media studies and social policy) in relation to other forms of understanding
- A9. Application of criminological theory to real -world situations and problems, both in class (lectures, seminars, workshops and assessments) and outside of class (placement, TEL, work based learning)

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Appreciate the complexity and diversity of criminological theory and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the different theories
- B2. Apply theories and concepts in criminology to the study of historical and recent developments in criminal justice policy, law enforcement, and criminal justice institutions
- B3. Employ quantitative and qualitative research methods in the investigation of criminological issues, and to reflect on their advantages and limitations
- B4. Understand the advantages and limitations of a variety of criminal justice policies as well as practices.
- B5. Evaluate competing theories and concepts in criminology, criminal justice policies and practices

- B6. Explore the historical development and institutional dynamics of modern institutions of law and criminal justice and their likely future trajectories
- B7. Compare and contrast the social construction of crime and victimisation, crime trends, victimisation levels, and responses to crime and deviance in different historical and national contexts
- B8. Make an informed contribution to group discussions of criminological issues
- B9. Review, assess and synthesise empirical evidence and research data related to the social construction of crime and deviance
- B10. Orally and visually present information in support of an argument or thesis
- B11. Evaluate theoretical perspectives as they apply to criminological issues

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. Identify criminological problems, understand the nature of criminological questions and investigate them
- C2. Demonstrate competence in utilizing criminological theory and concepts to understand crime, victimization, representations of crime, and responses to crime
- C3. Identify human rights issues in responses to crime and delinquency
- C4. Recognize distinctive criminological approaches to particular problems
- C5. Analyze, assess methodologically, and communicate information and empirical research findings in relation to criminological (and related discipline) phenomena
- C6. Identify and evaluate criminological patterns of thought, behavior, and experience
- C7. Examine relevance of criminological work with regard to issues of social, public and civic policy
- C8. Pose, operationalise and critique research questions
- C9. Identify and utilise a range of different research strategies and tools, and conduct empirical studies involving a variety of methods – including observation, questionnaires, interviews, case studies, data analysis (quantitative and qualitative), evaluation, etc
- C10. Show awareness of ethical principles and approval procedures and act in accordance with these

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Written, oral and visual communication skills, including clear presentation of research procedures, academic debates, and their own arguments
- D2. Computer literacy and ITC skills – competence and confidence in using a variety of software
- D3. Ability to use numerical, statistical and other forms of data, particularly in the context of presenting and analysing complex data sets
- D4. Ability to work productively in a group and as part of a team – including ability to engage in academic debate in a professional and collegiate manner
- D5. Capacity to present and analyse data and evidence in an appropriate format for a variety of audiences
- D6. Ability to formulate researchable problems within a general area of concern, and to evaluate evidence of various kinds, and draw appropriate conclusions
- D7. Research design, methodology, data collection skills – including surveys, experiments, case studies, sampling techniques, qualitative and quantitative methods, interview designs and strategies, evaluative techniques, etc

Assessment strategy: A range of assessment methods are employed to monitor student attainment of the full range of Learning Outcomes. Assessment incorporates the Department's assessment strategy and The QAA Code of Practice on Assessment of Students. The principles, procedures and processes of assessment for each module are described in each module handbook, which is provided to each student (online) at the start of the module. All 30 credit modules will have assessments spread across the academic year whereas the optional 15 credit will typically have semester based delivery as well as assessments.

Effective learning is achieved by employing a range of assessment approaches across the suite of modules that recognize differential approaches to learning. The development of a flexible, inclusive and accessible curriculum ensures a high quality learning experience for all students. These assessments include:

Essays

Literature reviews

Annotated bibliographies

Web-based assignments

Reflective journals and exercises

Portfolios

Oral, written and visual presentations

Observational Reports

Book reviews

Tasks undertaken under examination conditions (closed or open-book)

Assessments are not intended simply to 'objectify' or measure student understanding, but also to facilitate student knowledge and understanding. Written coursework assignments are designed to ensure that students critically explore and evaluate key issues and ideas ('deep' rather than 'surface' learning), and opportunity is provided for them to negotiate their own written assignments in accordance with their own interests.

Students become progressively independent and reflective as they move through ascending levels of the programme.

Teamwork is monitored and evaluated especially by means of group presentations.

Self-management and self-motivation is required through the enforcement of deadlines for all coursework assessments, and in the independence required to

manage self-selected essay and project assignments.

Quality Processes:

The methods used to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning throughout the academic year include student feedback measures (student representatives, module feedback questionnaires and focus groups), standard university monitoring methods, reviews and consultation with external stakeholders and external examiners, and a series of strategic management meetings throughout the year to synthesize programme data/feedback and formulate/review action plans.

Student support: A key focus of the programme is to ensure a positive student experience. This is fostered by integrated and consistent student support offered across all years of the programme. This menu of support includes:

An Induction Programme for incoming first years to support orientation and study skills.

Academic Personal Tutors across all four years of the programme

Student support mentors, graduate interns and PALs across all four years of the programme

A core social science curriculum designed to deliver key skills in critical thinking, employability and research methods with placement opportunities for all students

Extensive specialist library as well as access to interrelated libraries with relevant material

On-line learning resources (Blackboard, library resources etc), internet, intranet and email access

Dedicated office hours for all staff

Professionally trained support staff equipped to aid students with issues related to both academic progression and personal development

Early Assessment in Year 1 modules to encourage retention and progression

A strong emphasis on developing analytical and critical skills

Graduation development planning

Access to developmental opportunities such as placements and study abroad years that are recognized within, and contribute to, the programme

Faculty study skills advisors who offer drop in sessions and individual support

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYEF-15-1	Critical Thinking (sociology and Criminology) 2025-26	15
UZSK9P-15-1	Introduction to Criminal Justice 2025-26	15
UZSNLD-30-1	Introduction to Criminological Theory 2025-26	30

UZSY7F-15-1	Researching Crime and Society 2025-26	15
UZSSLG-30-1	Social Issues and Social Problems 2025-26	30
UZSST9-15-1	Understanding Crime 2025-26	15

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSK9P-15-1	Introduction to Criminal Justice 2025-26	15
UZSNLD-30-1	Introduction to Criminological Theory 2025-26	30
UZSST9-15-1	Understanding Crime 2025-26	15

Year 2

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 90 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY78-30-2	Contemporary Perspectives in Criminology 2026-27	30
UZSY5S-15-2	Criminology in Action: Engaging in the Real World 2026-27	15
UZSY65-15-2	Nature and Use of Research (Criminology) 2026-27	15
UZSYJ3-30-2	Policing and Crime Prevention 2026-27	30

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYEF-15-1	Critical Thinking (Sociology and Criminology) 2026-27	15
UZSY7F-15-1	Researching Crime and Society 2026-27	15
UZSSLG-30-1	Social Issues and Social Problems 2026-27	30

Year 2 Optional Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSNMX-30-2	Angels or Demons? : Understanding and Managing Youth Offending 2026-27	30
UZSY75-15-2	Crime, Media and Culture 2026-27	15
UZSNNC-30-2	Criminal Psychology 2026-27	30
UZSY79-30-2	Difference': 'race', Ethnicity and Diversity in Contemporary Society 2026-27	30
UZSNR8-30-2	Drugs, Crime & Society 2026-27	30
UZSYGE-15-2	Mental Health, Crime and Criminal Justice 2026-27	15

Year 3

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Full time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Full Time)

Full time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5T-30-3	Criminology Project 2027-28	30
UZSNQK-30-3	Transnational Crime and Comparative Criminology 2027-28	30

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY78-30-2	Contemporary Perspectives in Criminology 2027-28	30
UZSY5S-15-2	Criminology in Action: Engaging in the Real World 2027-28	15
UZSY65-15-2	Nature and Use of Research (Criminology) 2027-28	15

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5D-15-3	Social Sciences Placement Year 2027-28	15

Year 3 Optional Modules (Full Time)

Full time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSN7H-15-3	Cyber Crime 2027-28	15
UZSN7E-30-3	Hate Crime, Victims and Intersectionality 2027-28	30
UZSY7D-30-3	Gender, Sex and Social Control 2027-28	30

UZSKFV-15-3	Green Criminology: Environment, Crime and Justice 2027-28	15
UZSYC4-15-3	Missing People: Lost Identities and Social Harm 2027-28	15
UZSYC5-15-3	Organised Crime 2027-28	15
UZSYNF-30-3	Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights 2027-28	30
UZSY7A-15-3	Risk and Risk Management 2027-28	15
UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2027-28	15

Year 4

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Sandwich students must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Part-Time)

Part time students must take the 30 credit Compulsory Module

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYJ3-30-2	Policing and Crime Prevention 2028-29	30

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5T-30-3	Criminology Project 2028-29	30
UZSNQK-30-3	Transnational Crime and Comparative Criminology 2028-29	30

Year 4 Optional Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSNMX-30-2	Angels or Demons? : Understanding and Managing Youth Offending 2028-29	30
UZSY75-15-2	Crime, Media and Culture 2028-29	15
UZSNNC-30-2	Criminal Psychology 2028-29	30
UZSY79-30-2	Difference': 'race', Ethnicity and Diversity in Contemporary Society 2028-29	30
UZSNR8-30-2	Drugs, Crime & Society 2028-29	30
UZSYGE-15-2	Mental Health, Crime and Criminal Justice 2028-29	15

Year 4 Optional Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 45 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSN7E-30-3	Hate Crime, Victims and Intersectionality 2028-29	30
UZSN7H-15-3	Cyber Crime 2028-29	15
UZSY7D-30-3	Gender, Sex and Social Control 2028-29	30
UZSKFV-15-3	Green Criminology: Environment, Crime and Justice 2028-29	15
UZSYC4-15-3	Missing People: Lost Identities and Social Harm 2028-29	15
UZSYC5-15-3	Organised Crime 2028-29	15
UZSYNF-30-3	Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights 2028-29	30
UZSY7A-15-3	Risk and Risk Management 2028-29	15

UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2028-29	15
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Year 5

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSNQK-30-3	Transnational Crime and Comparative Criminology 2029-30	30

Year 5 Optional Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYNF-30-3	Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights 2029-30	30
UZSN7E-30-3	Hate Crime, Victims and Intersectionality 2029-30	30
UZSN7H-15-3	Cyber Crime 2029-30	15
UZSY7D-30-3	Gender, Sex and Social Control 2029-30	30
UZSKFV-15-3	Green Criminology: Environment, Crime and Justice 2029-30	15
UZSYC4-15-3	Missing People: Lost Identities and Social Harm 2029-30	15
UZSYC5-15-3	Organised Crime 2029-30	15
UZSY7A-15-3	Risk and Risk Management 2029-30	15

UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2029-30	15
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Year 6

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 6.

Year 6 Compulsory Modules Choices (Part Time)

Part time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules Choices (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5T-30-3	Criminology Project 2030-31	30

Year 6 Optional Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSN7E-30-3	Hate Crime, Victims and Intersectionality 2030-31	30
UZSN7H-15-3	Cyber Crime 2030-31	15
UZSY7D-30-3	Gender, Sex and Social Control 2030-31	30
UZSKFV-15-3	Green Criminology: Environment, Crime and Justice 2030-31	15
UZSYC4-15-3	Missing People: Lost Identities and Social Harm 2030-31	15
UZSYC5-15-3	Organised Crime 2030-31	15
UZSYNF-30-3	Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights 2030-31	30
UZSY7A-15-3	Risk and Risk Management 2030-31	15
UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2030-31	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Criminology is a contemporary, multi-faceted and applied subject area. Criminology focuses on definitions and understandings of crime as well as criminal justice from a range of perspectives (victims, offenders, the state and institutions). Criminology, especially the criminology taught at UWE, focuses on theoretical learning as well as the application of this knowledge to real world situations. Throughout their degree criminology students will experience a range of learning (online/offline), teaching (lectures, seminars, workshops and TEL) and assessment (essays, exams, case studies, presentations) techniques. Consequentially, a criminology degree opens graduates up to a range of graduate level positions, including, in the criminal justice system and related charitable sectors.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The QAA subject benchmark statements for Criminology have informed the design of the programme from the outset. The benchmarks, and the external examiner, were consulted during the planning process and at each stage of the design and development of the programme. They have influenced the selection of the educational aims and learning outcomes against which the teaching, learning and assessment processes have been specified.

University teaching and learning policies are embedded in the educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme. The University's commitment to promoting a diverse, integrated and flexible learning experience is reflected in the rich range of teaching, learning and assessment methods and strategies in evidence on the programme.

The research, scholarly and knowledge exchange activities and interests of staff have shaped the wide ranging sociological provision at all levels of the programme. In particular the influence is evidenced by the varied and stimulating choice of option modules at UWE levels 2 and 3.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.