



Programme Specification

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation}

[Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Criminology and Sociology {Foundation}

[Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs]

Highest award: BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology

Interim award: BA Criminology and Sociology

Interim award: DipHE Criminology and Sociology

Interim award: CertHE Criminology and Sociology

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: Yes

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: HAS Dept of Social Sciences, Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Sandwich

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2022

Programme code: ML3F-SEP-SW-FR-ML93

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology (with Foundation Year) combined honours is a four year (or a five year, with placement) programme. The programme aims to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the related disciplines of Criminology and Sociology. The BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology allows students to combine on an equal basis two subjects, offering a sound perspective on both subjects, with a good choice of option modules highlighting how these two disciplines interact. The BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology programme has been designed to provide an intellectually stimulating and practically relevant learning experience.

The BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology programme has the option to be entered via a thematically organised introduction to Social Sciences foundation year. At Level 0, the Programme aims to provide students with a grounding in social science academic and research skills and with a foundation in social, political, criminological and psychological concepts, theories and tools as they pertain to the disciplines of Criminology and Sociology. At Level 1, the Programme is designed to provide students with an introduction to the theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of the disciplines, with a particular focus on sociological and criminological theory, and the criminal justice system. Level 1 of the programme is also designed to develop critical thinking skills amongst students.

At Levels 2 and 3, the programme is designed to allow students to choose to major in criminology or sociology and to step off this programme onto the related Major/Minor combination, or to continue to study both subjects as a 50-50 option.

At Level 2, the joint honours programme is focused on the further acquisition of conceptual, theoretical and methodological skills with a particular focus on social inequality, social diversity and the police and prison systems. Level 2 of the programme is designed to develop research and employability skills amongst students. At Level 3 the programme is focused on the further acquisition of conceptual, theoretical and methodological skills and the application of these skills to specialised areas of criminological and sociological enquiry. This will be achieved

through students taking a project or a placement module alongside a module on critical criminology and a range of other specialised option modules in criminology and sociology.

Features of the programme: In particular the programme aims to:

Introduce students to the multidisciplinary nature of Criminology and Sociology as defined as part of a wider Social Science framework (the foundation year).

Offer a foundational pathway at Level 0 as part of the University's widening participation strategy.

Produce ready and able graduates. Graduates who are active citizens, making a real contribution to their communities, workplaces and society. Graduates with the skills, knowledge, attitude and confidence to create, critique, and make a difference to the world beyond university. Graduates who are prepared for lifelong learning, personal development, excellence and success in whatever fields they choose to work and participate. The core curriculum of the programme, in particular, is designed with this objective in mind.

Provide a general educational experience through which students will acquire a range of cognitive and analytical skills and general transferable skills in relation to critical thinking, research and employability that will provide a foundation for independent sociological research, further graduate studies and career development across a broad range of professions and occupations. Examples of these skills include judging and evaluating evidence, data collection and interpretation, synthesizing information and formulating reasoned arguments.

Foster critical study, collaborative, co-operative and, independent learning. This aim includes the encouragement of reflexive self-awareness in group oriented and individual research and writing tasks. Reflexive self-awareness is also encouraged in regard to the student's development as a competent and thoughtful social researcher.

Provide a programme enriched by research, scholarship and knowledge exchange and public engagement undertaken by members of the subject-groups.

Provide an educational experience that recognises the importance of digital media and digital technology in the contemporary world and that involves the application and utilization of digital technology to teaching and learning across the programme.

Provide students with the skills that will enable them to develop a practice-oriented approach to criminological and sociological enquiry including the ability to apply criminological and sociological theories and concepts to 'real world' issues, problems and processes.

Provide an outward facing set of educational opportunities that include the opportunity to engage with and provide support to a range of partners and stakeholders in the Bristol area through placements, partnerships and community-focused research.

Provide an inclusive programme that acknowledges the wide diversity of student learning styles, experiences and interests through the provision of a flexible and varied programme.

Educational Aims: In particular the programme aims to:

Introduce students to the multidisciplinary nature of Criminology and Sociology as defined as part of a wider Social Science framework (the foundation year).

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Programme Learning Outcomes:

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

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Criminology: Major concepts and theoretical perspectives in Criminology in relation to offending, victimization, the social construction of crime, deviance and victimization and responses to them
- A2. Criminology: The impact of various forms of social diversity and social divisions on the social construction of crime and victimization, as well as responses to crime and deviance
- A3. Criminology: History, key institutions, cultural norms, and human rights issues of the criminal justice system
- A4. Criminology: How crime and victimization are socially constructed (by media, public opinion and state agencies)
- A5. Criminology: Relationship between theory, evidence, practice and methods in criminological research
- A6. Criminology: Value of comparative analysis in both historical and contemporary contexts
- A7. Criminology: Nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in relation to social investigation and criminological issues
- A8. Criminology: Distinctive character of disciplines of criminology (sociology, psychology, media studies and social policy) in relation to other forms of understanding
- A9. Criminology: 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)
- A10. Sociology: The key concepts and theoretical approaches that have developed and are developing within sociology
- A11. Sociology: The social context of social diversity and inequality and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups

- A12. Sociology: The value of comparative analysis, in both historical and contemporary contexts
- A13. Sociology: The social nature of the relationship between individuals and groups
- A14. Sociology: The social processes underpinning social change and social stability
- A15. Sociology: The nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in gaining sociological knowledge
- A16. Sociology: The relationship between sociological argument and evidence
- A17. Sociology: The distinctive character of sociology in relation to other forms of understanding in everyday life

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Criminology: Appreciate the complexity and diversity of criminological theory and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the different theories
- B2. Criminology: 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. Criminology: Employ quantitative and qualitative research methods in the investigation of criminological issues, and to reflect on their advantages and limitations
- B4. Criminology: Evaluate competing theories and concepts in criminology, criminal justice policies and practices
- B5. Criminology: Compare and contrast the social construction of crime and victimization, crime trends, victimization levels, and responses to crime and deviance in different historical and national contexts
- B6. Criminology: Make an informed contribution to group discussions of criminological issues
- B7. Criminology: Review, assess and synthesize empirical evidence and research data related to the social construction of crime and deviance
- B8. Criminology: Evaluate theoretical perspectives as they apply to criminological issues
- B9. Criminology: Orally and visually present information in support of an argument or thesis

- B10. Sociology: The ability to appreciate the complexity of human behavior, social situations and events and assessing the merits of competing explanations
- B11. Sociology: The ability to gather, retrieve and synthesize information
- B12. Sociology: The ability to review and evaluate evidence
- B13. Sociology: The ability to develop a reasoned argument and critically interpret evidence

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. Criminology: Identify criminological problems, understand the nature of criminological questions and investigate them
- C2. Criminology: Demonstrate competence in utilizing criminological theory and concepts to understand crime, victimization, representations of crime, and responses to crime
- C3. Criminology: Identify human rights issues in responses to crime and delinquency
- C4. Criminology: Recognize distinctive criminological approaches to particular problems
- C5. Criminology: Analyze, assess methodologically, and communicate information and empirical research findings in relation to criminological (and related discipline) phenomena
- C6. Criminology: Identify and evaluate criminological patterns of thought, behavior, and experience
- C7. Criminology: Examine relevance of criminological work with regard to issues of social, public and civic policy
- C8. Criminology: Pose, operationalize and critique research questions
- C9. Criminology: Identify and utilize 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. Criminology: Show awareness of ethical principles and approval procedures and act in accordance with these
- C11. Sociology: The ability to investigate sociologically informed questions

- C12. Sociology: The ability to report empirical sociological findings
- C13. Sociology: The ability to use different methods of sociological enquiry
- C14. Sociology: The ability to identify the ethical issues in social research
- C15. Sociology: The ability to undertake and present scholarly work
- C16. Sociology: The ability to examine the relevance and application of academic and practical sociological work to issues of social, public and civic policy

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Criminology: Written, oral and visual communication skills, including clear presentation of research procedures, academic debates, and their own arguments
- D2. Criminology: Computer literacy and ITC skills – competence and confidence in using a variety of software
- D3. Criminology: Ability to use numerical, statistical and other forms of data, particularly in the context of presenting and analyzing complex data sets
- D4. Criminology: 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. Criminology: Capacity to present and analyze data and evidence in an appropriate format for a variety of audiences
- D6. Criminology: Ability to formulate researchable problems within a general area of concern, and to evaluate evidence of various kinds, and draw appropriate conclusions
- D7. Criminology: Research design, methodology, data collection skills – including surveys, experiments, case studies, sampling techniques, qualitative and quantitative methods, interview designs and strategies, evaluative techniques, etc
- D8. Criminology: Written, oral and visual communication skills, including clear presentation of research procedures, academic debates, and their own arguments
- D9. Sociology: Learning and study skills
- D10. Sociology: Written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts and modes

- D11. Sociology: Statistical and other quantitative techniques
- D12. Sociology: Information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources of information
- D13. Sociology: Communication and information technology skills; skills of time planning and management; group work skills

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 modules 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:

Part B: Programme Structure**Year 1**

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQRUX-30-0	Essentials of Academic Practice 2021-22	30
UZQRUY-30-0	Exploring the Social World and the Problems of Crime 2021-22	30
UZQRV9-30-0	From Plato to Nato 2021-22	30
UZQRVA-30-0	People and Social Science 2021-22	30

Year 2

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYEF-15-1	Critical Thinking (sociology and Criminology) 2022-23	15
UZSNLF-30-1	Foundations in Social Theory 2022-23	30
UZSK9P-15-1	Introduction to Criminal Justice 2022-23	15
UZSNLD-30-1	Introduction to Criminological Theory 2022-23	30
UZSST3-15-1	Sociological Practice - Becoming a Social Scientist 2022-23	15

UZSST9-15-1	Understanding Crime 2022-23	15
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Year 3

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 90 credits from the modules in Compulsory modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY78-30-2	Contemporary Perspectives in Criminology 2023-24	30
UZSY6V-30-2	Theorising Social Life 2023-24	30

Year 3 Compulsory Modules Choice A

The student must take 15 credits from the modules in Choice A.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY65-15-2	Nature and Use of Research (Criminology) 2023-24	15
UZSY5H-15-2	Nature and Use of Research (Sociology) 2023-24	15

Year 3 Compulsory Modules Choice B

The student must take 15 credits from the modules in Choice B.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5S-15-2	Criminology in Action: Engaging in the Real World 2023-24	15
UZSSTR-15-2	Developing Self and Society (Sociology) 2023-24	15

Year 3 Optional Modules

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules.

A number of optional modules from the lists below will be available each year.

Also available at the discretion of the Programme Leader:

The following optional Independent study modules may be made available to students to facilitate participation in, and completion of, study abroad exchange schemes:

UZQY33-15-2

UZQY34-15-2

UZQY35-15-2

UZQY36-15-2

UZQY37-15-2

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSNMX-30-2	Angels or Demons? : Understanding and Managing Youth Offending 2023-24	30
UZSNMB-30-2	Beliefs and Society 2023-24	30
UZSY7E-15-2	Contemporary Issues in Policing 2023-24	15
UZSYGF-15-2	Crime Prevention 2023-24	15
UZSY75-15-2	Crime, Media and Culture 2023-24	15
UZSNNC-30-2	Criminal Psychology 2023-24	30
UZSY79-30-2	Difference': 'race', Ethnicity and Diversity in Contemporary Society 2023-24	30
UZSKFT-15-2	Drugs, Crime and Society 2023-24	15
UZSNRC-30-2	Gender and Society 2023-24	30
UZSYGE-15-2	Mental Health, Crime and Criminal Justice 2023-24	15
UZSY74-15-2	Prisons 2023-24	15

UZSNU-30-2	Transgression 2023-24	30
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Year 4

The student must take 15 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules Placement Year

Year Out: We recommend that students take this opportunity to do a year long placement. For students wishing to take a sandwich year, the module UZSY5D-15-3 Social Sciences Placement Year must be taken. Please consult with your Programme Leader for further details.

However, it is not necessary to take a sandwich year, and students can enter the fourth year immediately after year 3.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5D-15-3	Social Sciences Placement Year 2024-25	15

Year 5

The student must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSNQK-30-3	Transnational Crime and Comparative Criminology 2025-26	30

Year 5 Compulsory Modules Choices

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Choices.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5L-30-3	Criminology Partnership Project 2025-26	30
UZSY5T-30-3	Criminology Project 2025-26	30
UZSY5K-30-3	Sociology Project and Placement Module 2025-26	30

Year 5 Optional Modules

The student must select 45 credits from the lists of Sociology and Criminology modules, taking into account the following information:

Students undertaking Sociology Project and Placement Module (UZSY5K-30-3) must take 30 credits of Sociology modules and 15 credits of Criminology modules from the lists below.

Students undertaking Criminology Placement (UZSY5L-30-3) or Criminology Project (UZSY5T-30-3) must take 45 credits of Sociology modules from the lists below.

A number of option modules from the lists below will be available each year.

Also available in discussion with the programme leader: UZSY7N-15-3 Independent Study.

Year 5 Optional Modules Criminology Options

Students undertaking Sociology Project and Placement Module (UZSY5K-30-3) must take 15 credits of modules from Criminology Options.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSSJN-30-3	Protest, Policing and Public Order 2025-26	30
UZSY7D-30-3	Gender, Sex and Social Control 2025-26	30
UZSKFV-15-3	Green Criminology: Environment, Crime and Justice 2025-26	15
UZSY7C-30-3	Hate Crime: Offenders, Victims and the Criminal Justice System (CJS) 2025-26	30
UZSYC5-15-3	Organised Crime 2025-26	15

Year 5 Optional Modules Sociology Options

Students undertaking Sociology Project and Placement Module (UZSY5K-30-3) must take 30 credits of Sociology modules from Sociology Options.

Students undertaking Criminology Placement (UZSY5L-30-3) or Criminology Project (UZSY5T-30-3) must take 45 credits of Sociology modules from Sociology Options.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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UZSSJQ-30-3	Digital Media and Society 2025-26	30
UZSYNE-30-3	Sociology of Human, Non-Human and Environmental Rights 2025-26	30
UZSYJD-30-3	Sociology of Sexes, Genders, and Sexualities 2025-26	30
UZSNQH-30-3	Stop, Look, Listen! A Sociology of Culture 2025-26	30
UZSY6W-30-3	Sustainable Futures: Environment and Society in an Age of Crisis 2025-26	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Criminology and Sociology are contemporary, multi-faceted and applied subject areas. Criminology focuses on the social construction of crime and on criminal justice policy from a range of perspectives (victims, offenders, the state and institutions). Sociology focuses on understanding social institutions, social relations and social inequalities in a contemporary, historical and comparative perspective. At UWE, throughout their degree students will experience a range of learning (online/offline), teaching (lectures, seminars, workshops and TEL) and assessment (essays, exams, reflective assignments, case studies, presentations) techniques. A criminology and sociology degree opens graduates up to a range of graduate level positions, including in the criminal justice system, social work, teaching, public administration, personnel management, the Third Sector, and the business, finance and information sectors.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The QAA subject benchmark statements for Criminology and Sociology have informed the design of the BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology programme. The benchmarks 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.

The UWE Bristol Strategy 2020 policies is 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 BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology programme is practice-oriented and applied in orientation and aims to deliver an outstanding learning opportunity supported by advanced digital technologies. The BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology programme aims to produce graduates ready and able to realise their full potential, make a positive contribution to society and their chosen field of employment or further study, and play their full part in the development of a sustainable global society and knowledge economy.

The research, scholarly and knowledge exchange activities and interests of staff have shaped the wide ranging criminological and sociological provision at all levels of the programme. In particular the influence is evidenced by the varied and stimulating choice of option modules at level 3. Feedback from student surveys and feedback from student representatives in a variety of deliberative fora have contributed to the design of the programme and this is reflected in the assessment, delivery and content of modules. Through consultation with careers and related services, the BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology programme has been designed to incorporate key skills and attributes identified by employers. Further opportunities to develop engagement with employers are pursued through growing networks established through core features of the curriculum; notably work-based and community learning activities aimed at developing students' transferable skills, professionalism, self-confidence, civic leadership, and other attributes described under our core educational aims.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.