



University of the  
West of England

# **UNDERGRADUATE MODULAR PROGRAMME**

## **FDA CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

Validated 2008

University of the West of England

## Programme Specification

Section 1: Basic Data

Version 2.1

<b>Awarding institution/body</b>	UWE
<b>Teaching institution</b>	UWE Cirencester College
<b>Faculty responsible for programme</b>	Health and Life Sciences
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Highest award title</b>	FdA Criminology and Criminal Justice
<b>Default award title</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Interim award title</b>	Cert HE Criminology and Criminal Justice
<b>Modular Scheme title (if different)</b>	Undergraduate
<b>UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)</b>	Criminology and Criminal Justice (FdA/CCJ) with jacs code MM92 at institution B80
<b>Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</b>	Criminology
<b>On-going/valid until* (*delete as appropriate/insert end date)</b>	Ongoing
<b>Valid from (insert date if appropriate)</b>	September 2013

**Authorised by...**

**Date:...**

### Version Code

*For coding purposes, a numerical sequence (1, 2, 3 etc.) should be used for successive programme specifications where 2 replaces 1, and where there are no concurrent specifications. A sequential decimal numbering (1.1; 1.2, 2.1; 2.2 etc) should be used where there are different and concurrent programme specifications*

## **Section 2: Educational aims of the programme**

- To provide for students a generally enriching and interesting educational environment and experience.
- To promote critical, creative and analytical thinking.
- To assist students realise their potential.
- To teach academically challenging and vocationally relevant modules in Criminology and Criminal Justice.
- To assist students acquire a broad range of discipline specific, cognitive and general transferable skills, which provide them with a sound basis for further study and for the world of work.
- To provide a foundation in criminological knowledge that is relevant to a career in the criminal justice system.
- To 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 disciplines.
- To encourage scholarship and to foster the virtues of objectivity, reflection, judgement, critical study, and independent learning (individual and collaborative).
- To provide this educational experience, in part, through work based learning – thus further enhancing vocational relevance.

### Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: ...

#### A Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

#### A Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Major theoretical traditions in criminology.
2. Methodological issues in criminology
3. Relationship between theory, evidence and methods of criminology
4. Social policy implications and applications and historical social contexts of criminological perspectives.
5. Social, economic, historical, legal, cultural, political and social-psychological dimensions of crime and crime control.
6. Origins and development of key institutions of law enforcement and criminal justice.
7. The relationship between Criminology and Criminal Justice and relevant work based contexts

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

Students acquire knowledge and understanding through a variety of teaching and learning methods and strategies. These include: lectures; seminar discussion groups; oral, visual and written presentations; computer workshops; independent library studies (individual and collaborative); and independent assessment preparation.

Knowledge and understanding of the range of theoretical approaches within criminology will be provided by the Level 1 compulsory module *Introduction to Criminological Theory*. This module also provides students with a knowledge and understanding of the contexts and policy applications of criminological theory and of the political culture and historical roots of key institutions of criminal justice and of their relationships to stratification systems. A deeper and thoroughgoing knowledge and understanding of the institutional dynamics and legal and political norms that comprise the UK criminal justice system will be provided by the Level 1 compulsory module *Introduction to Criminal Justice*. Here too the relationship between the UK criminal justice system and the state and government will also be addressed. Knowledge and understanding of research methodology and of methodological problems within criminology is provided by the Level 2 compulsory module *Research Criminological Research and Investigation*. This module will foster key research skills, and promote critical reflections on research methods.

This is the spine of the programme. Throughout these modules students will become knowledgeable of the relationships between theory, evidence and methods in criminology and will acquire a critical understanding of the processes by which crime is socially constructed and apprehended and processed. Optional modules will be offered, which will provide students with a deeper understanding of the social, psychological, economic, historical, legal and political dimensions of crime, justice and crime control.

A major strength of this programme is that students will be introduced to Criminology and Criminal Justice in a work based context through the *Criminal Justice Work Based Learning* modules at Levels 1 and 2. The student will be provided with guidance and support whilst on the work placement and with the development of the portfolio of work. Students are to Identify and agree aims, objectives and work related targets with their placement hosts, through a learning contract. This will then form the focus for the completion of a portfolio in which the students will offer evidence for the completion of the tasks set and the relevant Line Manager/Mentor of the work placement will complete a report indicating the performance of the student during the work experience.

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

**Assessment:**

Testing of knowledge and understanding takes place through a range of assessed coursework and examinations. Coursework includes essays, web-based assignments, portfolio work, and seminar exercises. Examinations can include the conventional written tests plus oral and visual presentations.

Assessments in compulsory Level 1 modules test students' knowledge and understanding of the full range of theoretical perspectives and debates in criminology, and of the history and institutional dynamics of modern agencies of criminal justice and law enforcement. Assessments in the compulsory Level 2 module test students' knowledge and understanding of methodological issues and debates in criminology and criminal justice research. However, 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.

## B Intellectual Skills

<b>B Intellectual Skills</b>	<b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b>
<p>Students should develop the capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appreciate the complexity and diversity of criminological theory and the merits and demerits of alternative paradigms.</li> <li>2. Apply theoretical perspectives in criminology and sociology to the study of recent trends in criminal justice and law enforcement.</li> <li>3. Appreciate the relevance of a range of research skills and methods in criminology</li> <li>4. Understand the advantages and limitations of a variety of data on crime and victimisation (media reports, political representations, official statistics, victimisation surveys, self-report surveys).</li> <li>5. Explore the historical development and institutional dynamics of modern institutions of law and criminal justice and their likely future trajectories.</li> <li>6. Develop a scholarly and reasoned argument in essay form.</li> <li>7. Make an informed contribution to group discussions of criminological issues.</li> <li>8. Gather, retrieve and synthesise information.</li> <li>9. Review and assess empirical evidence and research data related to the social construction of crime and deviance.</li> <li>10. Orally and visually present information in support of an argument or thesis.</li> <li>11. Understand the relevance of such knowledge to a work environment</li> </ol>	<p>Intellectual skills (1-10) are developed by the examples set by academic staff in lectures and seminars, through seminar discussion and debate, independent reading, research exercises, assessment writing, and tutors' feedback on students' work.</p> <p>Library and skills and IT induction sessions at the start of Level 1 are standard practice at Cirencester College. The compulsory modules at Level 1 devote seminar sessions to the development of academic skills (essay-writing, revision guides, information gathering and retrieval, web-based research techniques). At all levels staff provide detailed written feedback on all aspects of assessed work (structure, presentation, evidence, substance, argument, logic, etc.), and it is also policy for staff to offer guidance on essay plans. Staff will also endeavour to generate and sustain seminar discussion, and also to encourage students to initiate debate. All of this is designed to provide students with a sound foundation (including practical experience) in data gathering, retrieval and synthesis (skill 8), in reviewing and evaluating evidence (skill 9), in critical writing skills (skill 6) and the confidence to express, explore and present ideas (skills 7 and 10).</p> <p>The Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminological Theory</i> will allow students to develop the capacity to appreciate the diverse strands of criminological theory and their relevance to analysing or explaining contemporary crime patterns and the trajectory of criminal justice systems in late modern/post-modern societies (skills 1 and 2). The Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminal Justice</i> will enable students to explore in depth the constitution and dynamics of the UK legal-justice and penal systems (prisons, young offenders' institutions, magistrate and crown courts, probation and parole services, police, etc.) and connect these to issues of governmentality (skills 2 and especially 5). The Level 2 module <i>Criminological Research and Investigation</i> will enable students to acquire a foundational knowledge of the merits and problems associated with a range of data used in criminological research (especially crime statistics) – and will equip students with knowledge of methodology and practical skills to engage in criminological research projects (skills 3 and 4).</p>

The *Criminal Justice Work Based Learning* modules will equip students with an understanding of the relevance of criminology to a work environment. See above for teaching and learning strategies

**Assessment**

As already noted, a variety of assessment methods are employed. These include formal unseen written examinations, essays, individual oral/visual presentations, group presentations, data analysis, web-research and library-based projects. In combination, these assessment methods motivate students to develop intellectual skills (1-10) and hone these skills in the light of their preparatory reading and feedback from tutors. Students understanding of The relevance of criminology to a work based environment (11) will be assessed through portfolios and reflective diaries on the *Criminal Justice Work Based Learning* modules.

## C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

<b>C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills</b>	<b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b>
<p>On successful completion of the award students will be able to demonstrate the following skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding of the subject matter and the discipline of criminology.</li> <li>2. Application of knowledge of the historical development and institutions of the UK criminal justice system in relations to politics and government</li> <li>3. Ability to investigate questions relevant to the discipline of criminology</li> <li>4. Understand the need to use appropriate social scientific methods for the study of crime, deviance, and social control.</li> <li>5. Show awareness of ethical issues in criminological research.</li> <li>6. Understand the potentially application of such skills in the context of a related occupation.</li> </ol>	<p>Lectures and seminars throughout the programme convey understanding of the subject matter of the discipline, its concepts and theories. Methods in criminology will be introduced in the Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminological Theory</i> and these methods (together with key research skills) will then be developed or fostered in the Level 2 compulsory module <i>Criminological Research and Investigation</i>. Knowledge of the inner workings and mechanisms of UK criminal justice (indispensable to those who wish to pursue a career or further training in a criminology-related discipline) is provided by the Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminal Justice</i>.</p> <p>A major strength of the programme will be the opportunity for students to understand the potential application of criminological knowledge and skills in a related occupation. This will take place through the <i>Criminal Justice Work Based Learning</i> modules. See above for teaching and learning strategies.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Skills 1 and 2 (understanding of the subject matter of the discipline, its concepts and theories, and knowledge of the history and institutions of the CJS) is assessed through essays, written exams, oral/visual presentations, and portfolio work. Skill 3 (investigation of questions relevant to the discipline) is demonstrated by student performance in coursework where learners have considerable latitude to propose and negotiate the topic of their own assignments. Skill 3 (using appropriate social scientific methods to the study of crime and social control) is especially honed and tested by means of exercises on the Level 2 compulsory module. Skill 5 (awareness of ethical issues in criminological research) will also be demonstrated by means of exercises integrated into the Level 2 compulsory module. Skill 6 (potentially apply such skills in the context of a related occupation) will be assessed through the <i>Criminal Justice Work Based Learning</i> module assessments – portfolios and reflective diaries.</p>



## D Transferable Skills and other attributes

<p><b>D Transferable skills and other attributes</b></p> <p>On successful completion of the award students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communicate ideas confidently, clearly and concisely.</li> <li>2. Organise and present information analytically and yet accessibly.</li> <li>3. Use information technology and other learning resources effectively.</li> <li>4. Learn and work independently or as part of a team.</li> <li>5. Self-manage and self-motivate work commitments.</li> <li>6. Potentially apply such skills in an occupational context.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Students' oral communication is developed through seminar discussion and presentations. Written communication skills are developed generally by means of the practical exercise of written assignments and tutor feedback on these assignments. Sessions on both Level 1 and 2 compulsory modules are devoted to essay preparations.</p> <p>Students receive an introduction in the use of IT and library resources in their inductions at the beginning of the first year. Students are encouraged to use Blackboard UWE on-line system to obtain and work with learning materials. Students are encouraged to explore and evaluate library resources beyond those recommended by tutors and lecturers in course handbooks and to use the world wide web by the inclusion of named sites in module handbooks.</p> <p>Team work is promoted through seminar discussion, work shops, project work, group presentations, and in students' assumption of specific seminar obligations on behalf of their seminar groups.</p> <p>Students' development as learners is enhanced through guidance from tutors in lectures, seminars, module handbooks and coursework assessment feedback. The Disability Centre facilitates learning for students with special needs.</p> <p>Self-management and self-motivation is encouraged through the choice given to students' choice of modules, through selection of subjects for seminar discussion, through the onus placed on students to initiate discussion in seminars and prepare for them in advance, to research essays and the project.</p> <p>A major strength of this programme is the opportunity to develop skills in the application of criminology in a work context – through the <i>Criminal Justice Work based</i> modules. See above for teaching and learning strategies.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>All modules involve written assessments. All assessed written coursework after term 1 has to be word-processed.</p> <p>Students become progressively independent and reflective as they move through ascending levels</p>
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	<p>of the programme.</p> <p>Team work is monitored and evaluated especially by means of group presentations at Level 2.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Application of criminological expertise in an occupational context will be assessed through portfolios and reflective diaries.</p>
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## Section 4: Programme structure

All modules are 30 credits unless otherwise stated

<b>level 1</b>	<p><b>Core/Compulsory modules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Criminological Theory UZSNLD-30-1</li> <li>• Introduction to Criminal Justice UZSNLE-30-1</li> <li>• Criminal Justice Work based Learning 1 UZSNLK-30-1</li> <li>• Introduction to Human Rights for Criminology UZSNLJ-30-1</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optional modules</b></p> <p>There are no option modules.</p>	<p><b>Interim Awards:</b></p> <p><b>Cert HE Criminology and Criminal Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit requirements</li> </ul> <p>120 credits</p>
<b>level 2</b>	<p><b>Core/Compulsory modules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminological Research and Investigation UZSNMW-30-2</li> <li>• Policing and Prisons UZSSMU-30-2</li> <li>• Introduction to Criminal Law UZSNNJ-30-2</li> <li>• Criminal Justice Work Based Learning 2 UZSNNK-30-2</li> </ul>		<p><b>Final Award:</b></p> <p><b>FdA Criminology and Criminal Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit requirements</li> </ul> <p>240 credits</p>
	<p>Graduation or continue to BA (Hons) Criminology</p>		

## **Section 5: Entry requirements**

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of UWE for foundation degrees with specific requirements as listed below:

All candidates must have:

GCSE Levels

Maths/Statistics, English

In addition candidates should have one of the following:

A & AS Levels

Normally tariff points at least within the range of 100 -140 – from at least 1 A level.

BTEC – An appropriate National Diploma - merit, pass, pass.

Irish Highers – with equiv grades.

Access Courses – Validated access course in appropriate subjects.

Baccalaureate – European with minimum 60%. International with 24 points.

(It should be noted that placement opportunities available to students may be restricted by conditions imposed by employers providing work based learning opportunities).

In some cases the above may be waived if the candidate has work experience judged to be equivalent – though additional interviews and/or entry examinations may be employed.

## **Section 6: Assessment Regulations**

In accordance with Academic Regulations and Procedures

## **Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support**

- Induction Programme for orientation and study skills
- Detailed student handbooks and module guides.
- Extensive specialist libraries.
- On-line learning resources, internet, intranet and email access.
- Dedicated office hours for all staff, student email system, trained counsellors for both pastoral and academic support.
- Specialist equipment, resources, and technical and instructing staff for media production.
- A wide range of teaching and learning strategies and a varied range of assessment modes.
- Access to Cirencester College's [Security] Academy which offers placement support and develops employer relationships.
- A lively relationship between theory and practice.

## **Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks**

- The published benchmarks for criminology apply to BA/BSc single honours programmes. These benchmarks have limited application to this programme – and have been used, therefore, for general guidance only.
- Foundation degrees in Criminology are not widespread – but those that do exist have been studied for general guidance. They differ widely in structure – but the overall content of such programmes (aside from specialist options) does not, in general, differ significantly from the programme proposed.
- University teaching and learning policies
- University assessment policy
- Faculty teaching and learning policy
- The following guidelines were also referred to: QAA FHEQ, The QAA Foundation Degree Qualification Benchmark and the QAA Code of Practice.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Administrator.