

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA Criminology
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time.
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a> :	<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/.../Subject-benchmark-statement-Criminology-14.pdf">www.qaa.ac.uk/en/.../Subject-benchmark-statement-Criminology-14.pdf</a>
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2016
Valid for cohorts :	2016/17 level 4/5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader	David Manlow
UCAS code and URL:	M211 <a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>

## What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

[westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

## Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Criminology degree has been designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of Criminology as an interdisciplinary subject area. Criminology draws on a wide range of human and social science disciplines. As set out in the subject area benchmark statements (QAA, 2014) Criminology is concerned with:

- processes of criminalisation and victimisation whether by or of individuals, groups, family, community, institutions or the state;
- social, legal and cultural meanings of crime, deviance and stigmatised differences;
- causes and organisation of crime and deviance at individual, group, family, community, institutional and state levels;
- practical and political processes of preventing and managing crime;
- understanding the intersectionality of deviance and crime in relation to: class; gender; race and ethnicity, religious faith and sexuality;
- official and unofficial responses to crime, deviance, and social and/or environmental harm;
- representations of crime, deviance, offenders, victims, and agents and agencies of control in the media, popular and high culture and official discourses, whether these be public or private.

The course aims to provide you with a range of personal attributes, qualities of mind and modes of behaviour which will make you a highly employable and valuable member of the community.

Through a range of core and option modules, the degree offers the opportunity to examine all of the above in depth, although this course is organised around three distinctive themes: justice, human rights and crime in its local and global contexts.

You will progress through your studies via a well-defined series of Levels from Four to Six,

with increased specialism and option choice throughout. Modules at Level Six are very specialised and are delivered by staff who are themselves actively researching the subject matter. The course is also vocationally relevant and you will also have the chance to take a work-placement module in your final year of study.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU);
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA);
- **Professional and personal-practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP);
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (KTS).

### Course Learning Outcomes at Level 4

4 On the successful completion of Level 4, students should be able to:

- 4.1 describe a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in criminological analysis;
- 4.2 discuss criminological topics with an appreciation of criminological theory, of evidence, and of relevance to current debates, and present conclusions in a variety of academic formats;
- 4.3 recognise patterns of social diversity and inequality and their effects in relation to crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance;
- 4.4 give appropriate examples of basic research tools in relation to theoretically driven, exploratory or evaluation research;
- 4.5 summarise the findings of empirical criminological research including the identification of the theoretical and methodological frameworks used;
- 4.6 select appropriate criminological evidence and data in support of arguments;
- 4.7 recognise and practice appropriate learning strategies in terms of becoming (supported) independent learners.

### **Course Learning Outcomes at Level 5**

- 5 On the successful completion of Level 5, students should be able to:
  - 5.1 describe and examine a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within criminology and evaluate their application;
  - 5.2 examine critically the values, practices and processes of governance, including human rights and social injustice that underpin the treatment of lawbreakers within criminal justice systems;
  - 5.3 assess the relationship between criminological evidence and criminal-justice policy formation;
  - 5.4 recognise the use of discretion in relation to justice processes, including issues of discrimination and diversity;
  - 5.5 appraise critically political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in light of criminological theories and evidence;
  - 5.6 distinguish between a range of criminological research strategies and methods;
  - 5.7 identify appropriate research strategies for specific criminological research questions;
  - 5.8 study with a high degree of supported independent learning.

### **Course Learning Outcomes at Level 6**

- 6 On the successful completion of Level 6, students should be able to:
  - 6.1 formulate and investigate criminological questions across a range of specialist areas of criminological study;
  - 6.2 draw on materials from a range of sources and demonstrate an ability to synthesise and integrate these to develop logical and coherent arguments;
  - 6.3 evaluate competing explanations within criminology and draw logical conclusions;
  - 6.4 gather appropriate qualitative or quantitative information to address criminological questions in relation to crime, victimisation, responses to crime and deviance, and representations of these;
  - 6.5 design and use appropriate research strategies for data collection using quantitative and qualitative methods;
  - 6.6 design and complete a substantial research project informed by current understandings of the discipline;
  - 6.7 appraise the ethical principles governing criminological research;

6.8 work independently, show signs of intellectual originality and become producers of criminological knowledge and to be equipped to become reflective, self-managed lifelong learners.

### **How will you learn?**

Teaching and learning in Criminology at Westminster are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course and to fulfil your potential. We encourage students to become active learners, taking increasing responsibility for your own learning as you move through the levels with appropriate support.

You will be provided with detailed documentation for each module which explains what the module is designed to achieve, and the means to attain it. You will also be given clear guidance on module structure, on the nature and amount of assessment, assessment and grading criteria, guides on how to tackle different forms of assessment, and on how to follow correct academic procedures and conventions.

Most modules are structured around lectures or lecture-type arrangements, which are designed to capture your interest and excite your curiosity. They also provide a broad framework to define the module, while introducing you to its main themes, debates and interpretations.

However, much learning takes place in seminars which allow informal student-led discussion of the issues raised in the lectures, provide opportunities for supervised group work (such as presentations), and are also used to allow practice in the key skills for assessment preparation. Seminars are designed to improve your understanding rather than at the acquisition of knowledge *per se*. This type of student-centred interactivity helps boost your self-confidence, oral communication and debating skills and to provide a self-critical but tolerant approach to criminological discussion.

As well as offering a unique curriculum, which you cannot study at any other UK university, some distinctive features of the Criminology degree at Westminster are our use of London as a teaching and learning resource, and our commitment to offering you the chance to experience other cultures through fieldwork. A number of modules make use of Westminster's central London location to facilitate 'off-site' learning, with visits to the High Court of Justice and theatres, and for field walks. One of the 'core' modules at Level Six includes a field trip to Berlin, while other modules at levels five include field walks around London and prison visits.

But life at university is less about teaching than about learning, and the great majority of your time will be spent working independently, reading, thinking and writing. A standard 20-credit module will normally involve round 200 hours of study time of which over three quarters will be independent study. Criminology is a literary and discursive discipline, and you must expect to undertake a great deal of reading and of writing. You will be guided, encouraged and facilitated by your tutors and lecturers, but the responsibility for undertaking the work lies with you.

By year three, you are expected to be a self-confident trainee criminologist with a variety of skills and competencies at your disposal and there is a wide variety of quite narrowly-

focused and specialist modules at level six to allow you to study your chosen subjects in some depth. In addition, you will write a 10,000-word dissertation on a subject of your own choosing. You will be supported throughout by a dissertation supervisor, but the dissertation represents your opportunity to demonstrate that you have acquired the skills of the criminologist and social scientist. It is the culmination of your three years' hard work and will be your crowning achievement.

### **How will you be assessed?**

The course offers students a variety of assessment methods which aim to nurture as well as assess your academic development. Assessment helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, debates, criminal-justice policy analyses, individual and group presentations, examinations, statistical analyses and the dissertation. The assessments all aim to enhance your learning, not merely to test it. They help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study initiative.

“Synoptic” assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper and more connected grasp of the subject as a whole. You will also be given “formative” assessments, which means you will be given guided work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those “summative” assessments, like all other assessments, will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

All written coursework in Criminology is submitted online via our Blackboard system, marked online and detailed feedback is returned online. All Criminology modules, and each individual form of assessment, is marked using an agreed marking rubric, to help ensure clarity for you, the student terms of what is expected of you, and consistency of marking standards for the teaching team.

## **Employment and further study opportunities**

As well as being subject experts, University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking;
- Literate and effective communication;
- Entrepreneurial attitude;
- Global outlook and engagement in communities;
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness.

The BA (Hons) Criminology degree aims to produce highly employable graduates who are in addition, equipped with a wide variety of employability attributes, including:

- the ability to work as a part of a team;
- the ability to work alone;
- numeracy and ICT skills;
- evaluative and analytical skills;
- problem-solving skills;
- assimilative skills;
- research skills;
- high-level written and oral communication skills;
- the ability to present yourself and to present an argument.

As a University of Westminster Criminology graduate, you will be well placed to take advantage of employment opportunities in the 'knowledge economy'. Many of our graduates are currently pursuing successful careers in teaching, in the civil service, in criminal justice agencies, in law, in higher education administration and in all sectors of industry. Many of our graduates go on to further study and a number are now pursuing successful academic careers of their own.

## Course structure

This section lists the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

### Level 4

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
4CRIM001W	The Criminological Imagination	Core	40	20
4RECR001W	Researching Crime and Justice 1	Core	20	10
4CRIM002W	Justice and Human Rights	Core	20	10
4CRIM003W	Controversies in Criminal Justice	Core	20	10
4CRIM004W	Psychology and Crime	Option	20	10
4CRIM005W	Crime and the London Underworld	Option	20	10
	Polylang or Westminster elective	Option	20	10

### Level 5

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
5CRIM001W	Radical Criminology	Core	20	10
5RECR001W	Researching Crime and Justice II	Core	20	10
5CRIM002W	Globalisation, Crime and Control	Core	20	10
5CRIM005W	Youth, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10
5CRIM003W	Race, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10
5CRIM004W	Gender, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10
5CRIM006W	Forensic Criminal Psychology	Option	20	10
	Polylang or Westminster Elective	Option	20	10

### Level 6

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
6CRIM001W	Dissertation	Core	40	20
6RECR001W	Criminological Research in Action	Core	20	10
6CRIM003W	Punishment and Modern Society	Option	20	10
6CRIM004W	Human Rights and Global Injustice	Option	20	10
6CRIM005W	Psychology Crime and the Popular Imagination	Option	20	10
6CRIM006W	Media and Crime	Option	20	10
6CRIM007W	Issues in State Crime	Option	20	10
6CRIM008W	Victims of Crime	Option	20	10
6CRIM009W	Immigration, Crime and Control	Option	20	10
6CRIM010W	Work Experience in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Option	20	10

## **Academic regulations**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

## **How will you be supported in your studies?**

### **Course Management**

The degree has a designated Course Leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. During March of the first and second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff.

Individual modules each have a Module Leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module Leaders are available during term-time in their office hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA Hons degrees in the Department of Social and Historical Studies, for which the Head of Department is ultimately responsible. At Level Four (year one), you will have a designated Personal Academic Tutor to whom you may turn for academic advice. Your Tutor will be one of the Seminar Leaders on one of your 'core' modules, so that you will have the opportunity to meet him or her on a weekly basis. At Level Five (year two), you will have a Year Tutor from amongst your Course Team, while in your final year, your dissertation supervisor will act as your Personal Academic Tutor.

### **Academic Support**

Upon arrival, an orientation programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the site on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which gives detailed information about the course. You have a Course Leader and you will be assigned to a Personal Academic Tutor to support you in your studies. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where you can access your course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

### **Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend study-skills workshops and one-to-one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and to access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent- and group work, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. You can also choose from several computer rooms at

each site where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the course. You can also securely connect your own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

## **How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?**

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University and academics from other universities. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate its effectiveness. Each Faculty puts into place an action plan. This may include, for example, making changes to the way a module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve it. There is an approval process for such changes.

A Course Review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers and to further study. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years, for example, from Course Committees, is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

## **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways:

- through Course Committees, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives;
- each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives to enable wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and University committees;
- all students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the Module Leader about the effectiveness of the

module and highlight areas that could be enhanced;

- the University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final-year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.