

# **Programme Specification**

## **BA Criminology Joint Honours.**

Valid from: 1 September 2018

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK
Final award:	BA (Hons) Joint Honours
Programme title:	Criminology
Interim exit awards and award titles:	DipHE; CertHE
Brookes course code:	KJ
UCAS/UKPASS code:	For combined honours codes see the UCAS website: <a href="http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/">http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/</a>
JACS code:	L611 Criminology Combined With: Politics, International Relations, Sociology, History, Psychology and Anthropology.
HECoS Code:	100484
Mode of delivery:	Face to face
Mode/s of study:	Full time and part time
Language of study:	English
Relevant QAA subject benchmark statement/s:	Criminology March 2014.
External accreditation/recognition: <i>(applicable to programmes with professional body approval)</i>	N/A
Faculty managing the programme:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Date of production (or most recent revision) of specification:	22 August 2018

## **SECTION 2: OVERVIEW AND PROGRAMME AIMS**

### **2.1 Rationale for/distinctiveness of the programme**

Criminology is a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary subject concerned with analysing the nature, occurrence and explanations of crime, criminal behaviour and societal responses to these phenomena. The Oxford Brookes Criminology Programme draws on the particular strengths and expertise of staff from across the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science reflecting both the interdisciplinary nature of criminology in terms of both content and methods. In particular the programme reflects three areas of specialist expertise and research interests from within the Faculty to provide a varied and innovative course. These three main areas are: Crime and History; the historical study of crime and social responses to crime. Criminological Theory; the systematic study of crime, criminal behaviour and the causes and prevention of crime. Criminal Justice policy and processes; the study of policies implemented by local and central governments to manage crime and influence and support criminal justice in society.

Academic staff in the Faculty of Humanities at Oxford Brookes have expertise in a variety of topics ranging from criminological theory, the criminal justice and legal system to Jack the Ripper, policing, substance misuse and the prison and offender management system. Our flexible course allows students to pursue their own areas of interest within Criminology while also providing them with a solid foundation in the discipline and a range of personal and professional skills which will serve as a springboard for their future career development. The programme is carefully designed to enable students to gradually develop their knowledge and skills during the course of a three-year degree (Full-time) and enable them to acquire a 'criminological imagination' as well as gaining a good knowledge of the criminal justice system and crime and crime control in historical and comparative perspectives. Links between research and undergraduate teaching are an important and distinctive feature of the programme, and the combined research experience and research expertise and interests of staff have shaped its design, content and delivery. The programme also benefits from partnership working with the Thames Valley Police, sector relevant NGOs and charities, HM Prison Service and legal professionals ensuring that the programme remains informed by contemporary developments in the practice of criminology as well as providing opportunities for contributions from outside speakers, placements and institutional visits.

## **SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **Knowledge, understanding and skills:**

On completion of this programme students will be able to:

#### **1. Academic literacy**

- a. Understand key concepts and theoretical approaches that have developed and are developing within Criminology.
- b. Appreciate the social elements of the relationship between individuals, groups and institutions in relation to crime, crime control and the analysis of crime.
- c. Critically evaluate competing explanations of crime, crime control and institutional and policy responses to crime within a historical and comparative framework.
- d. Be aware of the interdisciplinary and multi-faceted character of criminological knowledge and evidence in relation to other forms of understanding, such as other disciplines and everyday explanations.

## **2. Research literacy**

- a. Understand the nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in gaining and critiquing criminological knowledge.
- b. Formulate and investigate criminologically informed questions using a range of research strategies and methods of social sciences, historical and legal enquiry.
- c. Conduct criminological research in a preliminary way.
- d. Appreciate the ethical implications of social research within the specific context of crime and the Criminal Justice System.

## **3. Critical self-awareness and personal literacy**

- a. Become a reflective, autonomous and independent learner.
- b. Set goals and manage time and tasks effectively.
- c. Communicate fluently and effectively in speech and writing.
- d. Work collaboratively in diverse groups.
- e. Manage complex situations by assessing different perspectives and strategic options.

## **4. Digital and information literacy**

- a. Gather, organise and deploy a variety of digital sources relevant to Criminology.
- b. Use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of primary and secondary sources of information.

## **5. Active citizenship**

- a. Appreciate the complex connections between local, national and transnational forces in the shaping of social settings and institutions.
- b. Be aware of social diversity and inequalities and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups and the ways in which diversity and inequality impact differentially on individuals experience and understanding of the Criminal Justice System.
- c. Examine the relevance of Criminological knowledge to social life, public policy and institutional structures and processes in domestic and international contexts.
- d. Acquire the ability to actively engage with social issues and groups at the local and global levels.

## **SECTION 4: PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM**

### **4.1 Programme structure and requirements:**

Studying Criminology as a Joint Honours Programme allows students to combine their interest in the study of crime and related phenomena with a range of related and complimentary disciplines from across the Social Sciences, Humanities and Law. As this is a Joint Honours Programme students will study a minimum of eight modules and a maximum of twelve modules selected from the compulsory and acceptable modules for this programme.

In the first year (Level 4), we offer a compulsory module (*Crime and Criminology in Context*) that provides our students with a sound understanding of the key concerns of the discipline and opportunities to develop the essential skills for advanced and honours level work. We also strongly recommend that students take the acceptable Level four module (*Crime in Theory and Practice*) These modules introduce students to a range of topics studied within the discipline, and to the different theoretical and methodological approaches criminologists use to make sense of the phenomenon of crime and its control. The modules are designed to help students appreciate both the scope and distinctiveness of the discipline, to understand how criminology has developed as a discipline and how it relates to other key

disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. In addition these modules explore how criminologists work in both academic and professional settings.

The second year (Level 5) offers a range of advanced modules, including a compulsory research methods module (*Researching Crime: Methods, Approaches and Ethics*) and two core content modules (*Crime, Capitalism and Markets* and *Crime and Intersectionality*) which build upon the knowledge and skills developed at Level 4. In these modules students develop practical research skills, including the design of questionnaires and interviews, analysis and interpretation, and the presentation of research findings along with considering the ethical implications of researching crime and related phenomena. In the second year, students can also take a range of advanced optional extending and deepening their achievement of the programme aims and learning outcomes.

In the third year (Level 6), students have the opportunity to take specialised honours modules in topics such as policing in historical and comparative perspective, advanced studies in specific aspects and manifestations of crime, the political sociology of crime and disorder, drugs and crime, the criminal justice system and crime control and management. The modules offered at honours level are developed around the research interests and expertise of Faculty and Departmental staff members. Furthermore, students are encouraged to undertake their own small research projects as part of the dissertation and independent study modules.

The Criminology Programme will be offered as a full and part-time programme and students will also be able to choose to Major or Minor in the subject when combined with another programme in the Joint Honours mode.

Criminology Programme Joint Honours programme will combine with – History, Politics, International Relations, Sociology, Anthropology, English and Psychology.

<b>Level 4 Basic Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester</b>
<b>Compulsory Modules</b>		
U69000 Crime and Criminology in Context	30	1
U69001 Crime in Theory and Practice	30	2
<b>Recommended Modules</b>		
U67900 Making History: Core Concepts and Skills for the Historian	15	1
U22102 Legal Method	15	2
<b>Level 5 Advanced Modules</b>		
<b>Compulsory Modules</b>		
U69020 Researching Crime: Methods, Approaches and Ethics	15	1
U69021 Crime, Capitalism and Markets	15	1
U69023 Crime and Intersectionality	15	2
<b>Acceptable Modules</b>		
U69022 Applied Criminology	15	1 or 2

U69024 Globalization and Crime	15	2
<b>Acceptable Modules from other Programmes</b>		
U67721 Crime and Punishment through the Ages	15	2
U67725 Jack the Ripper and the Victorian Underworld	15	1
U67920 History and Documents	15	1
U22132 Criminal Evidence	15	2
U22145 Criminal Law	30	1 and 2
<b>Level 6 Acceptable Modules</b>		
U69070 The Carnival and Pleasures of Crime	15	1
U69071 Policing in Historical and Comparative Perspective.	15	1
U69072 Making People Behave: Crime Management Society.	15	2
U69073 Dealing with Drugs: Strategy, Policy and Practice.	15	2
U67780 Advanced Study in the History of Crime	30	1
U67881 Advanced Study in The History of Ideas	30	2
U67884 Advanced Study in Modern Political History	30	1
U69088 Independent Study in Criminology	15	1 or 2
U69099 Dissertation in Criminology	30	1 and 2
U69090 Interdisciplinary Dissertation	30	1 and 2

## SECTION 5: PROGRAMME DELIVERY

### 1. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The methods of teaching, learning and assessment used in the Criminology programme are designed to offer students the support they need to achieve the programme aims and learning outcomes.

#### ***Teaching and Learning***

A variety of teaching and learning methods are used across the programme. This ensures that students are exposed to a range of learning opportunities and helps to maintain student motivation and interest.

Some of the key teaching methods we use are as follows:

- Lectures are designed to introduce students to the main themes, key theoretical approaches, and significant research findings relevant to the module content.
- Seminars and workshops encourage students to engage in discussion with tutors and peers to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the module content, apply ideas and develop a range of graduate attributes.

- Tutorials consist of one-to-one or small group conversations between tutors and students. The function of a tutorial can vary but it is likely to cover such things as advice on essay preparation, guidance on key readings, or return and discussion of assessed work.
- Library training sessions are provided to help students develop learning, research and IT skills.
- Computer workshops enable students to obtain the hands-on experience necessary to use data analysis techniques.

Typical contact time will be 24 hours per module. Students are expected to undertake 126 hours of independent study per module.

### **Assessment Strategy**

In devising the assessment strategy we seek to achieve the following aims and objectives:

- Use a range of assessment methods including exams, essays, individual and group presentations, critical reviews and portfolios. The variety in the forms of assessment ensures that students are exposed to different forms of learning and are given the opportunity to show their abilities across a number of different skill sets.
- Use formative and summative assessment methods to assess the learning outcomes of the subject.
- Provide students with transparent and detailed marking criteria, and ensure that assessment is seen as an integral part of their learning experience.
- Provide various structures to support assessment, including essay clinics, assessment workshops and preparatory classroom based activities (e.g. exam workshops).
- Conform to the benchmark statement for Criminology the National Qualifications framework, quality assurance standards, and the Brookes Assessment Compact.

### **Graduate attributes**

The development of the following five graduate attributes is central to teaching, learning and assessment in the Criminology subject:

- a. Academic literacy encompasses disciplinary and professional knowledge and skills which enable students to understand the 'landscape' of Criminology. Module content and assessment practices are designed to help students become aware of the distinctive character of criminological knowledge and evidence in relation to other forms of understanding, such as other disciplines and everyday explanations.
- b. Research literacy enables students to understand the nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in gaining and critiquing sociological knowledge. The programme promotes undergraduate research literacy through two compulsory modules focused on developing research skills (*Research Methods*). The independent study and dissertation modules provide students with the opportunity to undertake small-scale research on a topic of their choosing.
- c. Critical self-awareness and personal literacy is encouraged in all Criminology modules through teaching and assessment structures that require students to take personal responsibility for their own learning. Students develop an understanding of the process of learning and the ability to assess the work of oneself and others. Group work in modules including *Globalization and Crime* provides students with opportunities to work collaboratively in diverse settings.
- d. Digital and information literacy is achieved through the use of a wide-range of online resources. Students are expected to use information technology both as a resource and research tool in all Criminology modules. Library training sessions and computer workshops (*Research Methods*) ensure that students develop the skills and practices

necessary to become confident and agile users of a range of technologies for personal, academic and professional use.

- e. Active citizenship promotes an awareness of social diversity and inequalities as well as the local and global contexts that shape social relations and provide the context in which crime takes place. In addition, the globalization of crime and crime control are equally central concerns of Criminology as a discipline, and they are addressed in all modules. For example, the module *Crime and Intersectionality* encourage students to explore the complex interplay of diversity, crime and responses to crime while *From Swallow Tails to Robo-Cop: Policing in Perspective* impact of globalization of crime and crime control.

## **2. Assessment regulations**

The programme conforms to the University Undergraduate Modular Programme regulations <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/specific/b2/>

## **SECTION 6: ADMISSIONS**

### **6.1 Entry criteria**

For minimum entry requirements, please follow this link

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/undergraduate-courses/>

## **SECTION 7: STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

There is a range of support available to students. Each student is assigned an Academic Advisor whose role it is to offer academic guidance and pastoral care throughout the programme of study. The Subject Coordinator is the academic member of staff responsible for monitoring student programmes and progression, and who is also on hand to offer students advice on subject matters. Student Support Coordinators (SSCs) handle enquiries on a wide range of issues and offer advice and support on any aspect of student life. At the beginning of the first year or study, students attend induction meetings with academic staff and Student Support Coordinators to help them navigate their way through their studies at Brookes.

The International Student Advice Centre offers a range of support services tailored to the needs of international students. These include free English language support, information about social activities and opportunities to join the Global Buddies scheme at Brookes.

Regarding study skills, students will receive training in their first year modules and are encouraged to contact module leaders and academic advisors with any problems. Further, the library hosts a study advice service called Upgrade which students can visit if they want advice on essay writing, finding information and searching academic literature, amongst other things. Brookes offers a range of additional support services through the Student Services Centre, including counselling, disabled student advice, dyslexia support and international student advice. The University also has a Careers Centre, which offers Students' guidance on future career choices. Finally, students may join the Student Union, which is there to support and represent students.

## **SECTION 8: GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY**

The Brookes Criminology programme develops a range of skills and attributes which results in graduates who are both well-rounded and highly employable. These skills and attributes include both disciplinary specific and more general and transferable ones. These include academic research and writing skills, digital and information literacy, critical self-reflection and personal literacy, teamwork, time and project management and an awareness of diversity. The Applied Criminology Module offers students a focused opportunity to gain direct work experience in an employment area relevant to this discipline. A Criminology degree from Oxford Brookes opens up a wide range of career options in the public and private sectors. It provides the ideal foundation to pursue a career in criminal justice agencies, local authority, policing, the NGO and voluntary sector, human rights, advocacy work and community support services. Criminology graduates will also be able advance to postgraduate courses in a variety of areas of specialisation, such as law, business or humanities. The University careers centre can provide information and advice as you plan your future career path.

## **SECTION 9: LINKS WITH EMPLOYERS**

The Criminology programme promotes the employability of our graduates by providing opportunities such as the following:

- Alumni Career events provide students with opportunities to meet recent Oxford Brookes graduates from across the Humanities and Social Sciences and hear about their employment experiences.
- Visiting speakers representing different employers including government, the police, HM Prison Service, non-governmental organisations and charities are invited to give career talks to students
- Opportunities for work-based learning are available.
- Researchers from national and international institutions are invited to a range of weekly seminar series held by the Departments of History, Law and Social Sciences.
- The University Careers and Employment Centre hosts events on topics including CV writing, interview skills and career networking