UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN
Criminology

www.le.ac.uk/criminology
Welcome to the Department of Criminology

If you choose to study criminology at the University of Leicester you will be joining a thriving and internationally-renowned department. Leicester is one of the very few universities in the country to have its own department exclusively dedicated to researching and teaching criminology, and our students benefit from learning in an environment that is home to some of the UK’s leading criminologists. The Department is a first point of contact for journalists needing information and advice on crime issues and it is regularly called on by national and local governments to assist with policy development.

Our teaching is inspired by the findings from our cutting-edge research. Lecturing staff have a wide array of research interests, ranging from community policing and offending behaviour to hate crime, sentencing, prisons and probation. This research expertise feeds directly into our teaching programme, helping to shape course content and keeping you abreast of current debates on crime and criminal justice.

Our Department provides a stimulating yet friendly atmosphere in which to study. You are encouraged to engage in current criminological debates and to air your ideas in group discussions and seminars.

What is Criminology?

Crime and its impact are at the forefront of current political and social debate.

We only have to switch on the television or pick up a newspaper to see headlines about violent crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime or cybercrime to realise how relevant to everyday life the study of criminology has become.

A degree in criminology enables you to explore the reality behind these headlines and examine a topic which is relevant, topical and has real, practical application in contemporary society.

Criminology is the study of how crime is defined, why some people commit crime and what happens when they do. It is also the study of the police, the courts and penal systems, as well as the prevention and deterrence of criminal behaviour.
Benefits of Studying Criminology at Leicester

• **Genuine criminological expertise:** Leicester is one of the very few universities in the country to have its own department exclusively dedicated to researching and teaching criminology and our students benefit from learning in an environment that is home to some of the UK’s leading criminologists. The Department is establishing a diverse range of research projects and networks including – Probation Cultures Project, Extremes of Human Cruelty, Forensic Science, Gender, Retail Crime, Domestic Violence, Prison Architecture and The Leicester Hate Crime Project which is Britain’s biggest ever study of hate crime victimisation.

• **Flexibility and choice:** We offer a comprehensive and exciting range of modules, thereby enabling you to study topics that you are interested in.

• **Research led:** Our philosophy of research-led teaching ensures that you will be learning about the very latest debates in policy and practice. The University of Leicester is one of a group of internationally renowned universities engaged in leading-edge research and high quality teaching.

• **Forward thinking:** Our innovative array of teaching and assessment methods encourages you to engage in critical debate.

• **Career prospects:** Studying criminology at Leicester will enhance and broaden your academic knowledge, develop key skills and provide good career opportunities.

• **Student satisfaction:** The success of the BA Criminology course is reflected in its very strong performance in the annual National Student Survey and we have been in the top 10 since the survey began in 2005. In the latest statistics for the last completed academic year (2012/2013) the BA Criminology scored 88% for courses of its type in terms of course satisfaction. These statistics reflect the popularity of the course amongst its undergraduates as well as the dedication of the academic staff. In 2013 our Students’ Union was named HE Students’ Union of the Year in the NUS Awards.

• **Excellent support:** We pride ourselves in our supportive culture, providing a welcoming academic environment in which to undertake your degree. The University of Leicester won the 2009/10 Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Student Support.

• **League Table Success:** Establishing itself as one of the foremost universities in the UK, the University of Leicester has risen in every major league table and we are consistently ranked in the top 20 out of over 120 universities. We were also named runner-up University of the Year in the *Times/Sunday Times* University Guide 2014. In 2013, the Department of Criminology was ranked 3rd by the *Guardian* League table of social policy administration departments (which includes criminology).

• **Investment in facilities:** The University is in the process of investing £1 billion in its estate. A major redevelopment of the Students Union building has been completed, creating a spectacular new facility, while our Roger Bettles Sports Centre has been the subject of a multi-million pound redevelopment and was opened in October 2012.

• **Award winning:** The University has won Times Higher Awards in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and most recently in 2013 for Outstanding Communications Team and Outstanding Fundraising Initiative. It is the only university to win awards in seven consecutive years.

• **International reputation:** Leicester is ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world by the QS World University Rankings and THE World University Rankings. In 2013 Leicester was the highest climbing UK university in the THE World Rankings, moving up 35 places to 161st in the table.
“I chose to study at the University of Leicester due to the exceptional standard of teaching and the diversity of topics available within the course. I greatly enjoyed my course and knew that I wished to pursue a career in criminology after my graduation. I was made aware of the Police Foundation internship by the Department of Criminology and began work, assisting with policy influencing work, conducting literature reviews and attended meetings and shows on behalf of the Foundation. The internship has developed my understanding of the criminological world and furthered my drive to work in policy and academia in the future.”

Georgina Gillott, BA Criminology graduate
BA Criminology

 UCAS Code M930

The BA Criminology programme focuses on issues such as: the motivations behind criminal or deviant behaviour; contemporary methods of policing and crime prevention; the workings of the criminal justice system, and policy development and practice around these important issues. You will have the opportunity to study criminology from a range of perspectives: social, historical, legal, political, and psychological.

Course Structure

First Year

First year modules are designed to enable you to develop a sound understanding and awareness of the central topics involved in the study of crime. You will attend six core modules which comprise of four introductory criminology modules (‘Crime in Focus’, which aims to challenge your perceptions about crime and criminal behaviour; ‘Theories of Crime and Criminality’, which critically outlines the key theories you’ll need for the rest of the course; ‘Introduction to Criminal Justice’, which covers the central tenets of the criminal justice system and ‘Victims and Offenders’, which addresses issues relating to those who commit crime and those who suffer from it) and two core sociological modules that provide the necessary background to the rest of the degree (‘Society in Transformation’ and ‘Research Methods 1’, which is an introduction to the methods required to conduct criminological research). By the end of your first year you will have a good grasp of the central topics that inform the study of crime and society, and will have developed the necessary skills you need to see you through your degree programme.

Second and Third Years

Core modules during the second year include ‘Policing’, which provides an in-depth study of contemporary policing theory and practice, ‘Prisons, Probation and Punishment’, which develops and expands the examination of the punishment of offenders initially covered in the first year, and ‘Psychology and Crime’, which provides psychological insights into many aspects of the criminal justice system, including policing, interviewing, eye-witness testimony, jury decision-making and imprisonment. Another core module, ‘The Sociology of Deviance’, provides essential theoretical perspectives on offending, while ‘Research Methods 2’ builds upon the methodological theories and discussions outlined in the first year. The third year comprises of 2 core modules, ‘Clinical Criminology’, which investigates the responses of criminal law and criminal justice to mentally-disordered offenders, the Dissertation, plus three optional modules.

“We seek to ensure not only that our students graduate with a sound understanding of criminology but also that they develop broader work-related skills which will give them a head start on their career trajectory. The year-on-year increase in our student numbers is the best indicator of our success as it reflects the reputation for excellence our undergraduate course has gained at home and abroad.”

Professor Adrian Beck,
Head of Department
### Year One
- Introduction to Criminal justice
- Crime in Focus
- Victims and Offenders
- Research Methods 1
- Theories of Crime and Criminality
- Society in Transformation

### Year Two
- Prisons, Probation and Punishment
- Policing
- Research Methods 2
- Psychology and Crime
- Sociology of Deviance
- Option

### Year Three
- Dissertation
- Clinical Criminology
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3

The undergraduate criminology programme at Leicester examines criminal behaviour in contemporary society, firmly locating the study of crime and how to prevent it in the context of recent social and political developments. In addition to an in-depth knowledge and understanding of criminology, the BA programme provides opportunities to develop a broad range of transferable skills vital to all students after graduation, whether they choose further study or employment.

*Dr Sarah Hodgkinson, Course Convenor*
“My experience of BA Criminology at the University of Leicester was wholly positive. I visited several Universities before choosing Leicester. It stood out for me for several reasons but particularly because of the Department of Criminology. Its reputation for one of the very best places to study Criminology in the country was a huge influence on my decision and in the three years I studied at undergraduate level, it really never disappointed. The lecturers are experts in their field; many are world renowned for their ground breaking research. I have always found staff to be very supportive of students who want to develop their academic skills and build on new ideas whilst also encouraging students to challenge themselves. The modules themselves are also varied across all aspects and disciplines involved in the study of Criminology. This means that students are able to gain a broad knowledge base whilst also being able to choose option modules that appeal to them most. My experience as an undergraduate in the Department was definitely a key factor in my decision to stay on to study MSc Applied Criminology at Leicester. I would encourage potential Criminologists to seriously consider Leicester as a place to study, it’s certainly a decision I have never regretted.”

Amy Clarke, BA Criminology Graduate
In your second and third years you are able to select from a number of optional modules, covering an exciting spectrum of criminological issues and perspectives. Current modules include the following:

**Crime, Law and Justice** examines the key legal and moral concepts of criminal law and criminal justice and explores how these concepts are manifested in contemporary criminal justice processes and practices.

**Crime, Technology and Social Control** explores the rise of technology, its impact on criminal behaviour, the attempts made to use it to reduce crime, and the extent to which it can be used as a form of social control.

**Crimes of the Powerful**: Not all of those who abuse power are illegitimate actors and it is also those in high status positions who can wreak the most damage on society. Thus, this module examines both individual and State power abuses within a broad range of activities. The ‘Activities’ or ‘crimes’ that will be considered in the context of the module include war crime, sex crime, domestic violence, white collar crime and the relationship between crime, unemployment and inequality.

**Cultures of Crime** provides you with an historical, theoretical and contemporary understanding of the key issues relating to fictionalised representations of crime within Western culture.

**Drugs, Crime and Society** focuses on the policing of drug markets, the physical and psychological effects of substances (both legal and illegal), and the effectiveness of current relevant legislation and government policy.

**Forensic Science and Criminal Justice** provides an understanding of how forensic science contributes to the criminal justice system, how science is applied to the law, and the legal and ethical implications of recent technological advances in forensic science practice.

**Gender and Crime** examines the relationships between gender, offending and victimisation, considering also how responses to victims and offenders, and the organisation of the criminal justice system, can also be understood as being gendered. Topics covered include feminist criminology, masculinities and crime, domestic violence, and young women and gang cultures.

**Hate Crime** examines the nature and impact of crimes committed through hate and prejudice. Topics covered include racist, religious, disablist and homophobic harassment and violence, how such crimes are policed, and the role of relevant legislation.

**Terrorism** provides an historical, theoretical and contemporary understanding of issues relating to the nature of the terrorist threat, the role of mass communications in terror events and an examination of counterterrorism measures and the ‘war on terror’.

**Youth Crime and Justice** introduces key historical, theoretical and contemporary debates in the study of youth crime and justice, including the extent of youth crime and anti-social behaviour and the social construction of youth deviancy.

**Working in Criminal Justice** offers an in-depth exploration of the working environment of the police, the prison service, the probation service, the courts system, youth offending teams, safer neighbourhood teams, young offenders’ institutions, and Victim Support.
Your Learning Experience – FAQs

How will I be taught?

All modules are taught using a mixture of lectures and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with the key aspects of a topic and facilitate further exploration. You will then have the opportunity to impart this knowledge during small group discussions in seminars. You will typically have two lectures and one seminar per week for each module. In addition, we provide online access to teaching resources and administrative support for the BA programme via the University's virtual learning environment, Blackboard.

How will I be assessed?

All core modules are assessed by a combination of essays and exams, whilst option modules are assessed by essay, presentation and even by videocast. In your third year you will also be required to produce a 10,000 word dissertation focusing on an area of criminology that particularly interests you.

How will I be supported?

The University’s support services are designed to help you develop the skills to live and work independently and successfully. The Student Support and Development Service can assist you in all aspects of university life, providing expert confidential advice on a range of issues.

All the teaching staff involved with the BA have regular ‘drop in’ sessions where you are able to discuss any problems you may have. You will be allocated a personal tutor who will offer advice and support on academic and general welfare issues throughout your three years on the BA programme.

What learning facilities are available?

Opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 2008, the iconic David Wilson Library combines a stunning contemporary design with state-of-the-art technology to provide a study environment that is second to none. The David Wilson Library features:

- Study spaces for 1,500 students
- Group study rooms with computers and plasma screens
- Convenient self-service book loans and returns
- 350 PCs and wireless connectivity throughout
- Student Development Zone – an area dedicated to helping students with their academic, research and employability skills
- A bookshop and café

The University provides access to over a million printed volumes and a digital library of some 18,000 electronic journals, electronic books and databases. At the University of Leicester we have over 1,100 computers available on campus for your use and in addition, the library has a wireless network for mobile computing.

Where will I live?

Our accommodation provides you with a flexible, enjoyable living experience. We have 13 halls and self-catered sites to choose from, each one with its own distinct character and community. Each hall has its own Junior Common Room which organises entertainment, trips and activities, helping you to settle in easily and meet new friends.

You are guaranteed a place in University allocated accommodation if you firmly accept our offer of a place and apply for accommodation by 1 September.
Being a Criminologist: How to make the most of You!

The Department of Criminology aims to provide you with a whole host of skills that will give you a head-start in today’s competitive job market. We have been working alongside the Careers development service and created a programme called ‘Being a Criminologist’ which has become an integral part of our BA Criminology degree programme.

Students who graduate from the BA Criminology course will have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of crime and its consequences, both theoretical and applied. Your capacity for imaginative, rigorous and critical thinking will be developed throughout the degree programme. Subject specific skills, such as knowledge of the social processes of crime and the criminal justice system, will be complemented by the type of transferable skills that are highly valued by employers in the graduate job market including:

- The ability to present and develop a cohesive argument
- IT skills
- Research and problem-solving skills
- Written and oral communication skills
- Working as part of a team

The Careers Development Service and the Department are working together to ensure you not only improve your employability but you recognise the skills you have acquired throughout your degree. In the first year of study we offer a Criminology Talent Academy, where students have the opportunity to gain volunteering experience and receive help in identifying transferable skills. Students then have the opportunity to participate in the Criminal Justice Fast Track in year two, where they can gain more volunteering experience and learn more about how to develop transferable skills. In the final year of study students begin to bring these experiences together and learn about how to demonstrate their skills and experience when applying for work.

"I would definitely recommend the course to anyone with an interest in crime and the criminal justice system, as it will not only fascinate you, but also vastly improve your career opportunities. Since studying criminology, I have developed an interest in social research, and as a result of the course, have gained employment as a Research Assistant in a London-based company, assisting in the evaluation of a central government anti-social behaviour scheme."

Lucy Bunting, BA Criminology graduate

We have developed a strong reputation for the quality and breadth of our postgraduate teaching and continue to offer a range of campus-based and distance learning masters’ programmes in the fields of criminology, policing and security, as well as an MPhil and PhD programme. This provides our undergraduate students with the option of pursuing their studies of criminology at a higher level on completion of their degree without having to leave the familiar surroundings of their first-choice university.
**Student Profile**

**Alex Murphy**, BA Criminology graduate

I was drawn to the University of Leicester’s Department of Criminology by its academic reputation, and the enthusiasm of staff was apparent throughout the open days and the fledgling sessions which greeted those of us embarking on our degrees.

The twin priorities of research and teaching are a key reason why Leicester’s Department of Criminology stands out from others, and the prestige of the Department is one reason why it attracts celebrated guest-speakers and maintains a world-leading staff of experts in all criminological areas. Nonetheless this focus on innovative research is never allowed to distract from the corresponding need to teach a fascinating and diverse range of criminological topics to students at every level.

Throughout their studies students are given ever-increasing flexibility over the subject areas on which they wish to concentrate, with modules covering a wide array of subjects, from drugs to the media to the theoretical underpinnings of criminal behaviour.

The Department propelled me to get a first in my BA degree, and even gave me the opportunity to put those skills into practice with an internship following my graduation. It is a real pleasure to work in such an engaging environment, and the knowledge and skills gained have been invaluable and immensely enjoyable.
Student Life

Campus

On our bustling compact campus it’s rare to walk from one end to the other without bumping into someone you know along the way. The campus is a vibrant community, with all manner of places to meet, eat and drink, as well as study. We’re committed to providing you with high quality facilities and our £1bn campus development plan ensures all our resources meet the needs of modern and ambitious students.

Students’ Union

The Students’ Union is brimming with opportunities that will make your time at Leicester unforgettable. The spectacular Percy Gee building boasts superb facilities, from bookshops to bars and the fantastic live-music venue, O₂ Academy Leicester. You are encouraged to get involved with the SU – there are over 200 student societies covering a huge range – sport, politics, media, performing arts and much, much more. It’s a great way of meeting new people, gaining skills or trying something completely different!

Accommodation

Our accommodation offers you a wide variety of choice. Whether you fancy self-catered or catered, en-suite or standard, there will be a package to suit you. Our halls at Oadby are surrounded by beautiful Botanic Gardens and offer a thriving social life. Accommodation in the city gives you independence and the amenities of the city right on your doorstep. You are guaranteed a room in halls if you apply for accommodation by 1 September of your year of entry. www.le.ac.uk/accommodation

Sports facilities

The University has recently invested £10m in its sports facilities. You can enjoy a work out, take a swim or work up a sweat in a fitness class at our sports centres on campus or at Manor Road (next to the Oadby Student Village). You are also encouraged to get involved with our sports clubs, which welcome members of all abilities. Keen competitors can also represent the University through Team Leicester, the hotlycontested Varsity matches and get involved with our thriving Intramural events. www.le.ac.uk/sports

Embrace Arts

The University has its own arts centre, Embrace Arts, with a packed programme for students and the public, featuring music, dance, theatre, comedy as well as exhibitions. It also runs courses covering everything from salsa dancing to jewellery making. Students can get concessionary prices and discounts on courses and workshops. www.embracearts.co.uk

About the City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city and the tenth largest in Britain. It has all the activities and facilities you would expect, with a friendly and safe atmosphere. The city centre is just a short walk from campus so you’ll never be far from the action.

Leicester’s diverse heritage is reflected in a dazzling array of festivals and cultural experiences including the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, the UK’s longest running Comedy Festival, the eclectic Summer Sundae Music Festival, and the University’s hugely successful book festival – Literary Leicester.

Recent developments have led to the opening of the world-class Curve Theatre and Phoenix Square Independent Arts Centre in the new Cultural Quarter, which complement Leicester’s existing array of cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries. The sparkling Highcross complex features 110,000 square metres of retail therapy, bars, cafés and restaurants. For those with independent tastes Leicester Lanes houses a variety of boutiques and specialist shops.

As you would expect from a true student city, there is a huge variety of bars, clubs and live music venues that cater for all kinds of tastes. Food lovers are treated to a fantastic selection of restaurants, with specialities available from every corner of the world.
How to Apply and Entry Requirements

How to apply:
Applications should be made through UCAS [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk).

The UCAS course code for the BA Criminology course is **M930**.

Entry requirements:

**A/AS Levels:**
Three A-Levels usually required at ABB. General studies accepted.

**GCSE:**
Maths and English at ‘C’ grade or above.

**Access to HE Diploma:**
Pass relevant diploma with some credits at merit.

**European Baccalaureate:**
Pass with 77% overall.

**International Baccalaureate:**
Pass Diploma with 32 points.

**Cambridge Pre-U:**
D3/M2/M2 in Principal Subjects.

**Leicestershire Progression Accord:**
BBC plus full Accord credits.

**BTEC Nationals:**
Pass Diploma at DDM.

**Other Qualifications:**
Other national and international qualifications welcomed.

Applicants are not normally interviewed.

**Mature and international students:**
We welcome applications from mature and international students. Alternative qualifications will be considered.

**Open Days:**
The University holds Open Days in July, September and October when all those interested in our courses are welcome to visit the Department. In addition, all applicants offered a place are invited to one of our UCAS visit days held between November and March. All Open Days offer not only an opportunity to see the campus, the Department and student accommodation, but also to meet the Admissions Tutor and other academic staff and students.

For more information please visit: [www.le.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.le.ac.uk/opendays)

**Further information:**
Detailed and up-to-date information on all aspects of the Department and the BA Criminology course can be found by visiting our website at [www.le.ac.uk/criminology](http://www.le.ac.uk/criminology)

We are happy to answer any queries you may have on the Department or the course so please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Team if you have further questions.
“I choose to study criminology at the University of Leicester because of its reputation as one of the only universities in the country to have a dedicated criminology department. This is reflected in the wide ranging multidisciplinary approach that has maintained my interest throughout, ranging from sociology to psychology, clinical, politics, policing and criminal justice. Never bored, I was constantly inspired by eye opening accounts from guest speakers and evidence based on real life experiences. Criminology is an applied social science that is constantly evolving and will challenge you to keep pace.”

Matthew Harris, BA Criminology graduate
For further information please contact

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All information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to press. However, changes and developments are part of the life of the University, and alterations may occur to the programmes and services described in this brochure.