



University of  
**Leicester**

Department of Criminology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN

# Criminology



[www.le.ac.uk/criminology](http://www.le.ac.uk/criminology)

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## 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.

### Contact details

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## 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.
- 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 a member of the 1994 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:** We have featured in the top 10 for student satisfaction every year since the National Student Survey began in 2005. In 2011 Leicester was ranked top in the region and 3rd (just behind Oxbridge) out of 120 UK mainstream public universities.
- 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:** In 2011 the University of Leicester was ranked in the top 20 in all major UK league tables.
- 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 the sports facilities at Manor Road are the subject of a multi-million pound redevelopment, to be completed in 2012.
- University of the Year:** The University of Leicester was named University of the Year 2008/9 by the *Times Higher Education*, an achievement which reflects the quality of our research and teaching.
- Inclusive culture:** Of *The Times'* top 20 universities only one, Leicester, meets its government benchmarks for inclusivity amongst state school pupils and lower socio-economic groups.

## 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 three introductory criminology modules ('Crime in Focus', which aims to challenge your preconceptions 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; and 'Introduction to Criminal Justice', which covers the central tenets of the criminal justice system) and three core sociological modules that provide the necessary background to the rest of the degree ('Social Change, Identity and Behaviour', 'Society in Transformation' and 'Research Methods 1', which is an

“ 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. ”

**Adrian Beck**, Head of Department



introduction to the methods required to conduct criminological research). By the end of your first year you will have a good grasp of the key issues 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 only one core module, 'Clinical Criminology', which investigates the responses of criminal law and criminal justice to mentally-disordered offenders, plus the dissertation and three optional modules.



“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.”

**Jon Garland**, Course Convenor

## Criminology Options

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:

**Advanced Policing** builds upon the core 'Policing' module by examining key contemporary policing issues in-depth, such as police corruption and malpractice, the extended policing family, and the police service's relationship with the media.

**Crime and the Media** explores the nature of media influence on the criminal justice system and the role that the media plays in shaping the public's perception of crime and criminality.

**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.

**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.

**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.

“The BA Criminology course covers a wide spectrum of issues relating to crime, from the formalities of the criminal justice system to theories of why people commit crime. I have really enjoyed the diversity of the modules. The course consists of lectures and seminars, both of which provide an interesting method of learning. The seminars allow students to work in smaller groups and to debate key issues. A particularly interesting element to the course this year was visiting a Magistrates' Court.”

**Anna Healy**, BA Criminology graduate

## 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.**

“The greatest thing about the Department of Criminology is the teaching staff. The subject is taught with a dedicated sincerity only available in people that are truly passionate about the field they teach. Rather than lecture at us, they acknowledge and respect our future involvement within the discipline whilst supporting us to obtain our full academic potential.”

**Emma Kendall,**  
BA Criminology graduate

## Careers and Graduate Opportunities

### Transferable Skills

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, and works closely with the University's Student Support and Development Service to alert students to relevant opportunities.

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, and the ability to understand and use different types of evidence, will be complemented by the type of transferable key 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

### Career Prospects

A degree in criminology offers routes into a wide range of criminal justice and criminology-related careers. Possible options include: the police service (officers and analysts); the prison, probation and youth offending services; community and voluntary organisations (such as NACRO, drugs projects, youth work); government agencies (whether at the Home Office or at local government level); and academic research.

“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

### Further Study

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

### Andrew Marten, BA Criminology 3rd year student

The University of Leicester's Department of Criminology really attracted me because it was one of the few that seemed to truly recognise the importance of the discipline's impact on government policy and thus how we live our day to day lives. Ever since the open day it was clear that the staff were passionate about criminology and their interest in challenging the pre-conceived notions that the lay person holds about law and order. This was mirrored in the staff's research projects which have the added benefit of allowing students to develop an excellent insight into current criminal justice issues.

The Department of Criminology's passion for their subject is seconded only by their friendliness and their generosity. Within the Department there is a real sense of community as the staff do not detach themselves from the students. The Department encourages students to develop their own opinion resulting in a genuine interest in what the students think. All this culminates in an experience that is not only highly challenging but is also extremely enjoyable.

“The Department of Criminology at the University of Leicester has a strong reputation amongst academics and practitioners, and this is undoubtedly because it has played a key role in propelling the subject forwards. It is also due to the amount of people working in universities and in the criminal justice system who have gained their qualifications while studying at the Department.”

Andrew Marten, BA Criminology graduate



I had been to many university open days before I came to Leicester and, although it may sound a little clichéd, when I saw the University of Leicester I fell in love with the place. The weird and wonderful buildings fostered an atmosphere that was unique and, like the Department, because the campus is not particularly large, it always seems like a friendly, welcoming place to be.

The experience that I have had at the University of Leicester has been, without doubt, the best three years of my life. The course has been invaluable in developing my knowledge and critical thinking about every facet of criminology but more than that it has also allowed me to grow as a person. I have made some great friends and have become increasingly confident in arguing my own opinions.

## About the University

Some universities consider their primary purpose to be high quality research, others concentrate on excellent teaching. Here at Leicester we think that the two are not only complementary, they're inseparable. We believe that teaching is more inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research – and that research is stronger when delivered in an academic community that includes students.

We think that a university should be about empowering people to explore what they don't know. We achieve this through passionate, dedicated research and teaching.

When we were named University of the Year for 2008-9 by the Times Higher Education, the judges applauded Leicester's very different approach, calling us "elite without being elitist." Of Britain's top 15 universities only one – Leicester – exceeds its government benchmarks for inclusivity.

Our dedication to providing an excellent student experience can be seen in our consistent performance in the National Student Survey. Since the launch of the survey in 2005, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top-10 universities in England for student satisfaction.

With these ideas at heart, Leicester is reframing the values that govern academia and re-defining what a university needs to be in the 21st century;



we are constantly finding new ways of being a leading university.

## About the city of Leicester

Leicester is 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 range 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.

We are passionate about our city and so are our students, many of whom settle here after graduation.

## 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 DMM.

**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/opensdays](http://www.le.ac.uk/opensdays).

### 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.

## For further information please contact

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