



University of
Leicester

Department of Criminology
Department of Sociology

Criminal Justice FastTrack

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THE AWARDS
WINNERS 2007-2013

Welcome to the FastTrack



Louise Green

The Criminal Justice system has experienced many changes over the last few years; most notably the privatisation of the Probation Service.

Despite this, the impact of volunteers within the sector is still widely recognised and in some organisations, volunteers out-number paid staff. It is therefore no surprise that volunteering is seen as the main route into a career within this field.

Opportunities for you as a student to get involved in criminal justice are varied and will provide you with intensive training in areas such as safeguarding, data protection and in some cases drug and alcohol abuse.

So, whether your interest lies in supporting victims, mentoring young offenders or in developing fundraising and marketing campaigns, you will find something that you can get involved with. Whatever you decide

to do, the experience will serve to improve your employment prospects and support your academic research throughout your degree.

The Criminal Justice FastTrack is there to support you to build your experience within the Criminal Justice sector. Once on the award you will have the support of a dedicated member of staff to help you to secure a relevant opportunity and to develop your career over the next couple of years. You will also have the opportunity to apply for a bursary to cover travel and other expenses.

Just remember that the FastTrack is only open to first year students, so make sure that you submit an application now to avoid missing out.

I look forward to welcoming you onto the award next year.

Louise Green

Project Officer – Employer Relations

e: lg177@le.ac.uk



What is the FastTrack?

The Criminal Justice FastTrack runs flexibly alongside your studies and gives you the chance to volunteer and gain a greater insight into the Criminal Justice sector.

Delivered through a series of workshops, this award will help you to secure relevant experience, develop important skills such as ownership, communication and leadership and help to improve your chances of securing a job when you graduate. As a student on the FastTrack you will also have priority with regards to prison visits and guest talks throughout the academic year.

You will have the opportunity to achieve either a Bronze, Silver or Gold award depending on the number of hours that you complete. This means that you can commit as much or as little as you want!

To achieve the award you simply need to complete the following by the end of your second year:

1. Welcome Webinar
2. Workshop 1 – Making the most of your experience
3. Workshop 2 – Presentation skills
4. Minimum of 40 hours of work experience related to criminal justice
5. 5-10 minute reflective presentation

Opportunities could include:

- Mentor
- Fundraiser
- Play Worker
- Marketing and Campaign Volunteer
- Community Support Volunteer

Bronze ★
40 hours

Silver ★
60 hours

Gold ★
100 hours



Students training for the role of Probation Mentor, 2014



Gaining recognition – to showcase to employers

The Higher Education Achievement Report

Upon completion of the Criminal Justice FastTrack, your achievement will be recorded on an official document which you will receive at the end of your degree along with your graduate certificate. This document is called the HEAR.

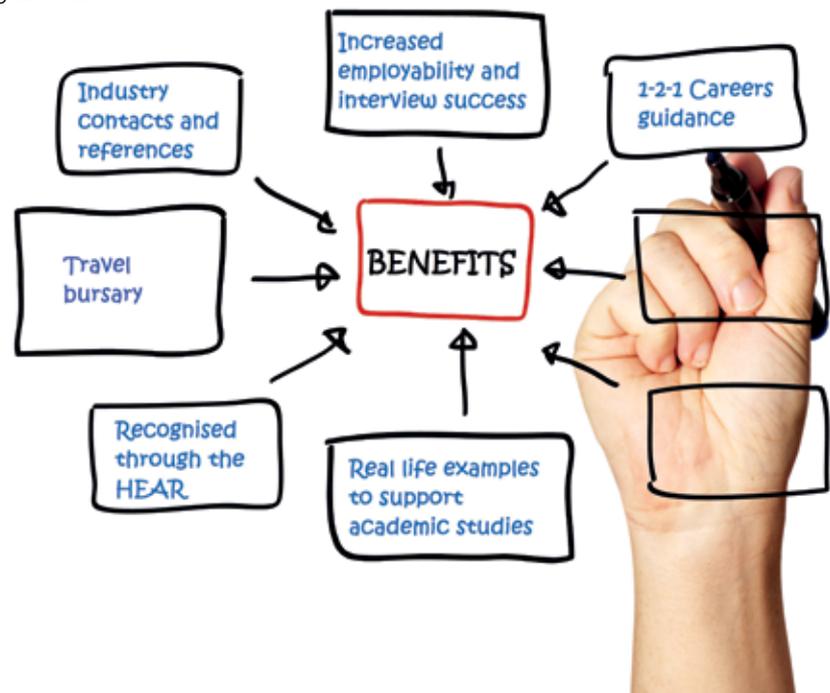
The HEAR helps employers to:

- See beyond your single degree classification
- Get a true measure of your achievements and skills during university
- Identify talent for their graduate programmes

Celebrate your achievement in style...

As a member of the Criminal Justice FastTrack you could be nominated for a Leicester Student Award and take part in the biggest award ceremony of the year!

- Dress to impress in your finest gowns and tux
- Get ready to toast to your achievement
- Be part of an exclusive after-party
- Meet other like-minded students



Dates for your diary *



19th January – FastTrack application closing date

Complete an application form via your department website. You will also receive a copy of the application form in November.

28th January (12pm-1pm) – Welcome webinar

If your application has been successful you will be invited to join a webinar which will provide you with an introduction to the FastTrack.

February – ‘Routes into Criminal Justice’

Hear from a range of industry professionals about their career and identify relevant volunteering opportunities.

18th March (12-1pm) – Workshop 1: Making the most of your experience

This is the first workshop which is designed to enhance your work experience and identify ways to record your success.

November 2015 – Workshop 2: Presentation skills

The last workshop focuses on developing your presentation skills through the use of PowerPoint and Prezi.

Presentation delivery

Once you have completed your work experience and workshops you can choose one of the following dates to deliver your presentation.

- **December 2015**
- **February 2016**
- **March 2016**

*Dates subject to change – you will be informed if this is the case.

Routes into Criminal Justice

This is a major event in the academic calendar where you can find out about careers linked to the criminal justice sector. We invite several leading employers to deliver talks about their work and the career opportunities available post-graduation. Last year, students heard from Leicestershire Police, HMRC, G4S (Oakwood Prison) and Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust.

This year, the event is set to be even bigger with an opportunity for you to network with employers and to register your interest in volunteering on the day.

If there are any particular organisations that you would like to see represented at this event, please email Louise Green on lg177@le.ac.uk.

“The presenters from different areas all gave their own experience which helped to give an understanding of the role. This is great as people see roles in all their glory, not just the downsides that need to be taken into consideration.”

“For me, hearing the personal experiences and the pros and cons of the job was most useful. The speakers were very informative and clear – a very useful evening”

Feedback from last year's event

Routes into Criminal Justice 2013/14 with Chief Superintendent Rob Nixon from Leicestershire Police



Student Profiles



Christiane Schwarz
Graduating
– 2015

PACT
Volunteer

In addition to studying Criminology at the University of Leicester I am also volunteering for the Prisoner's Advice and Care Trust (PACT).

What did your role as a volunteer involve and what did you enjoy the most?

As a volunteer at HMP Gartree I gain an incredible insight into the prison system in the UK. My responsibilities in the visitor centre include checking in visitors and giving directions if necessary, operating the biometric system and most importantly providing support and assistance to prisoners' children and families. My favourite role is working inside the visiting room, where prisoners meet their friends and family for a period of two hours. As a play service volunteer, I give young children the chance to have fun and be creative with toys, books and arts. By doing so, I am helping children to feel safer and deal with the separation from their imprisoned parents.

How has this affected your career plans and what are your next steps?

I have realised that I want to work in some form of social work in penal institutions in the future. Without question I will carry on working for PACT as long as I live in Leicester. My volunteer position not only supports a deeper understanding of the feelings of prisoners' families and the prison system, but also plays a significant importance for my dissertation in my final year. My involvement with PACT allowed me to gain ethical approval for conducting research on family members and friends of prisoners at HMP Gartree and I am looking forward to undertaking this analysis.



Samantha Trick
Graduated
– 2014

Victim Support
Volunteer

What did your role involve and what skills do you feel you have developed as a result?

My role at Victim Support is to support those who have been affected by crime. I am responsible for ensuring they feel strong enough to move forward on their own after the practical and emotional support that we, as a service, have provided. I listen to their needs and

do my best to ensure their needs are met. I also ask those who have finished receiving support for their feedback in order for the organisation to see how well they are doing and where they can improve their service.

How did you find delivering a presentation at the end of your experience?

I am always slightly apprehensive before delivering presentations and speaking in front of an audience, however it was good practice as this is a skill that I require for my graduate job. It was good to collate and reflect on the volunteering that I had been doing and the skills that I had developed through it.

How has the Criminal Justice FastTrack helped you to approach the graduate employment market?

Not only has it given me something extra to talk about in applications and interviews, but it has also provided me with the opportunity to think about the skills that I have developed and areas that I should work on. I have secured a place on a graduate scheme and my volunteer work was one of the topics that I was asked about in the interview.

What advice would you give to future students who are interested in joining the FastTrack award?

Start the application process for volunteering as early as possible as it can take several months.

Futures Unlocked – provider of the FastTrack

“As a volunteer mentor with Futures Unlocked I have gained so much valuable experience through both the formal and on task training. The exposure to other agencies within the criminal justice setting has allowed me to experience a taste of the working environment to enable me to make informed decisions about my future career.

The role of mentor has taught me so much more than I had envisaged including: how others perceive me, being self-aware, breaking down preconceptions, time management and administration tasks, reporting etc. The charity itself is small and involved, also professional, progressive and ambitious.

I would recommend to anyone thinking of working in the criminal justice setting to get involved in volunteering and specifically with Futures Unlocked. They are friendly, supportive and the training is extremely in depth and professional.”

Sarah Elliott – Criminology BA.

futures
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Relevant Organisations

Offender Management

- Probation Services
- Youth Offending Services
- Futures Unlocked
- Spurgeons
- SOVA
- PACT
- Magistrates Court

Victims

- Victim Support
- Rape Crisis
- Women's Aid
- Refuge

Crime Prevention

- Leicestershire Police
- Crime Stoppers
- British Transport Police

Support Services

- Action Homeless
- Apex Centre
- NACRO
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Catch 22
- YMCA (YPOD)

Interested in applying?

To find out more about the award and to download an application form please visit the 'Being a Criminologist' page on www.le.ac.uk/criminology or contact Louise Green on lg177@le.ac.uk or via phone – 0116 229 7698

To Apply:

Complete an application form detailing why you would like to join the programme and the areas of criminal justice that are of most interest to you.

The deadline for applications is midnight on **Monday 19th January 2015**.

Keep in touch and join LinkedIn:

LinkedIn

The University of Leicester Criminology Students and Alumni group



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UK

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