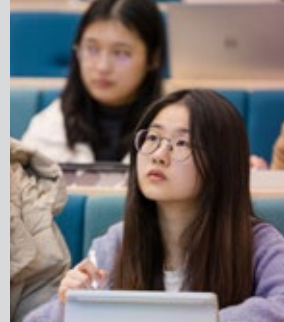


Lancaster
University



Criminology
Undergraduate Degrees 2027

Welcome



As one of the first universities in the UK to offer an undergraduate degree in criminology, you will benefit from our decades of expertise in teaching this ever-popular subject. Our degrees offer you a broad learning experience. World leading, research-active academics will introduce you to key themes and topics in criminology and help you to engage with recent and influential research. You will be offered the opportunity to analyse the social, cultural, political and economic contexts of crime and criminal justice, taking an in-depth look at the social circumstances of offending, policies regulating crime, and the social response to criminal activity.

During your time with us, we will support and encourage you to consider and develop your career prospects, and to explore the many opportunities both within and beyond the criminal justice sector. Those wishing to pursue a criminal justice career can benefit from our strong links with local and national criminal justice agencies, including Lancashire Constabulary and HM Prison Lancaster Farms, and begin to establish links of their own. We also support students in their trajectory towards a wide-range of non-criminal justice careers in both the public and private sectors, for example, policy development and consultancy.

Teaching on our criminology modules at Lancaster, we have an internationally-recognised team of researchers who lead in shaping both criminal justice policy and the academic field of criminology. This means that, at Lancaster, you will be learning from those who are experts in their field. They are passionate about their impact on wider society and are dedicated to sharing this with you. We look forward to welcoming you and supporting you through a dynamic, exciting, and thought-provoking degree.

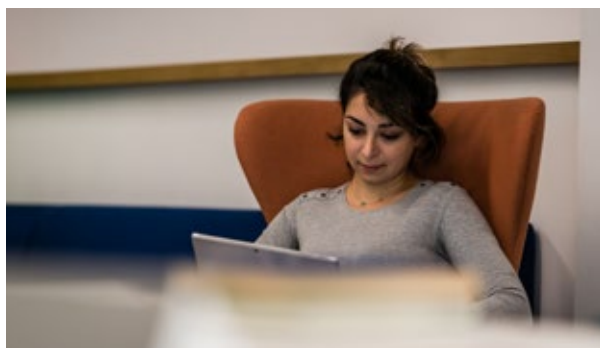


- We have strong links with criminal justice and third sector organisations, including Lancashire Constabulary, HMP Lancaster Farms, the Lancashire Youth Offending Team, and HMP Kirkham, meaning you can access work, volunteering, and research opportunities.
- You will be taught by academics conducting world-leading, impactful research, on topics like cybercrime, youth justice, and drug misuse. This research informs their teaching and your learning.
- We are a global School of Social Sciences with students and staff from around the world.
- Dedicated careers support is given by a specialist team who provide support for applications and preparation for interviews.
- We have an active student-run criminology society who organise a range of extracurricular activities, including careers and social events.



Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Criminology		BA	M930	3	BBB
Criminology (Placement Year)		BA	M931	4	BBB
Criminology (Study Abroad)		BA	M932	4	BBB
Sociology and Criminology		BA	LM39	3	BBB
Sociology and Criminology (Placement Year)		BA	LM40	4	BBB
Sociology and Criminology (Study Abroad)		BA	LM41	4	BBB
Criminology and Psychology		BA	CL86	3	BBB
Criminology and Psychology (Placement Year)		BA	CL87	4	BBB
Criminology and Psychology (Study Abroad)		BA	CL88	4	BBB
Law with Criminology		LLB	MM12	3	AAB
Law with Criminology (Placement Year)		LLB	MM14	4	AAB
Law with Criminology (Study Abroad)		LLB	MM15	4	AAB
Criminology and Law		BA	MM13	3	BBB
Criminology and Law (Placement Year)		BA	MM16	4	BBB
Criminology and Law (Study Abroad)		BA	MM17	4	BBB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements [lancaster.ac.uk](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk)





Made for *learning*

We use a varied and inclusive assessment strategy to reflect the diverse skills needed for both academic success and future employment. This approach allows you to demonstrate your understanding in multiple ways and supports different learning styles.



Traditional assessments, such as essays and exams, develop critical thinking, research, and written communication skills. At the same time, innovative tasks—like podcasts, blogs, and group presentations—encourage creativity, teamwork, and public engagement.

Assessment is designed to be developmental, with feedback provided throughout the degree to help you build confidence and improve your academic performance over time. We also prioritise real-world relevance, incorporating tasks such as mock policy submissions and community-based research projects that connect criminological theory to practice.



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*I have
developed
strong critical
thinking,
research and
analytical
skills*

”

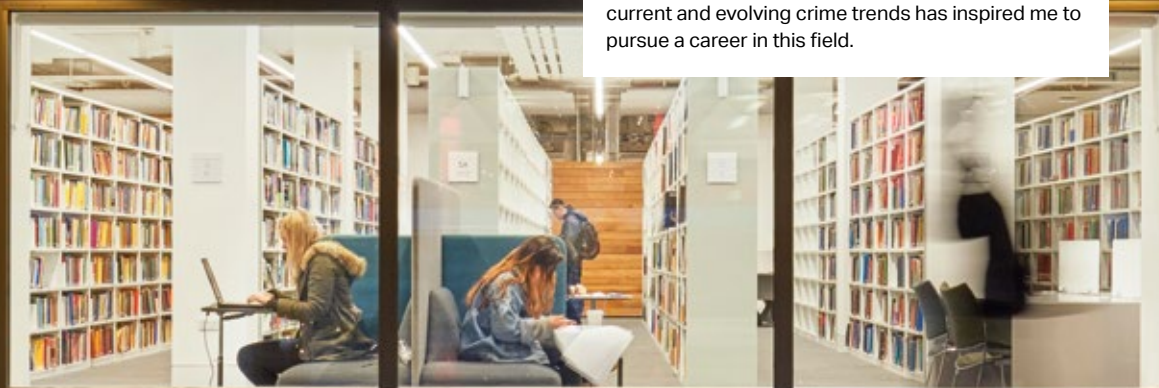


Hannah, second year

BA Hons Criminology

Studying criminology at Lancaster University has been the best experience! What has really stood out to me is how supportive the staff are, the flexibility of the course, and the combination of theory with real-world issues that has meant I can discover what interests me. The staff are incredibly knowledgeable, always offering advice and constructive feedback to strengthen my understanding and confidence.

One of the most valuable aspects of Lancaster is the breadth of modules available that has broadened my understanding and consequently introduced me to cybercrime – which has become my favourite topic. Exploring cybercrime has introduced me to a fast-moving and dynamic area of crime and justice that is highly relevant in today's digital world. This focus on current and evolving crime trends has inspired me to pursue a career in this field.



Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to progress into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance provided via a series of preparatory workshops and 1:1 appointments with our Placements Team.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities in areas such as public affairs, marketing, business development and events. The scheme offers you an opportunity to gain access to direct work experience while you study.

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.

Volunteering

Voluntary activities are another excellent way to build work experience that is highly sought after by employers. Volunteering can also make a positive impact on the world around you. Our students have previously volunteered with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Lancashire Constabulary's Special Constables.

Psychology Employability Programme

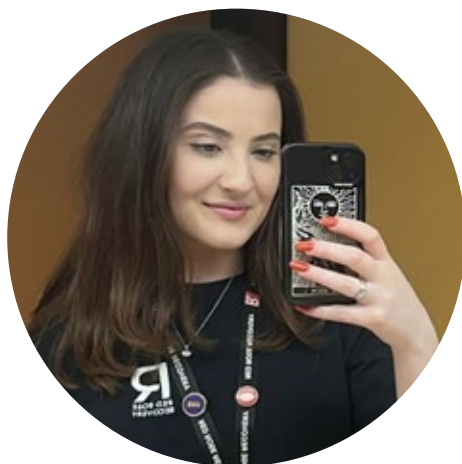
If you study the BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology degree, you will have access to this programme, which provides volunteering opportunities relevant to careers in psychology, including placements with partner organisations and research assistant placements across the Psychology Department research labs.

Partner organisations include:

- Alzheimer's Society
- National Autistic Society
- Making Space Supported Housing
- Prison Care and Advice Trust



“
I've developed skills in handling complex situations, adaptability, advocacy, and safeguarding.
”



Holly, recent graduate

**BA Hons Criminology
(Placement Year)**

I undertook my placement year at Red Rose Recovery in Lancaster, a lived experience recovery organisation which supports people in the community with their mental health, substance use and offending behaviours. I held two roles that enabled me to develop a very different set of skills.

As a Community Engager, I worked on the drug and alcohol contract helping those struggling with addictive behaviours. This involved facilitating groups and helping with the running of the city-centre hub, for example providing initial support and signposting for those in need of housing, detox or domestic violence support. I frequently attended events to liaise with associated services, for example, the local Probation Service, Social Services, HMP Lancaster Farms, and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. This strengthened my personal and professional networks.

As a Mental Health Peer Support Worker, I provided encouragement, advocacy and crisis support to those struggling with their mental health. This involved attending appointments with higher-risk clients, working with the NHS community mental health teams, and helping to create care plans. I undertook training in boundaries, trauma, and mental health first aid. Alongside these, I have personally developed skills in handling complex situations, adaptability, advocacy, and safeguarding. These are incredibly transferable to any future career path I may take.



Your global *experience*

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your students' union. We embrace an international mindset and encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to travel as part of your studies.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

Vacation travel

You can also discover the world during your vacations. Our Global Experiences team run vacation travel trips to Malaysia which include a mix of academic study and cultural discovery. These trips range from cultural exchanges to studying sustainable practices with world leading experts.

Overseas summer schools

During summer vacation, you can apply to attend a summer school at one of our international partner universities all around the world. Destinations are varied – from Singapore to Italy, Hong Kong to Canada. Explore where you could go: lancaster.ac.uk/overseas-summer-schools

Follow us on Instagram [@GlobalLancaster](https://www.instagram.com/GlobalLancaster)

Find out more at lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

“

It gave me so many ways to learn about myself and the world.

”

*University of New South
Wales in Sydney*

Lancaster University



Abigail

Study abroad student, recent graduate

My choice to undergo a study abroad year at the University of New South Wales in Sydney was one of the best decisions of my life. It gave me so many ways to learn about myself and the world I had yet to truly explore, and to grow within my relationships, both with myself and other people. And I think the most important thing that I learnt was who I was, away from the comforts of home and familiarity.

There are so many experiences I could talk about, from hiking the Blue Mountains to skydiving over Mount Cook – things I hadn't even considered before. I didn't really know what to expect when I went out there, except things like wildlife and surfing, but I never expected to feel so at home. It was a lot of admin work and included a few nervous moments, but I couldn't have asked for a better experience in all honesty.

And looking back now, it has done wonders for what the future holds in my life. Something that my mum always reminds me of is how awesome it looks to employers when you can say you have studied and lived in another country. It shows a level of independence and organisation and demonstrates a willingness to uproot and delve into the unknown.

My study abroad experience truly opened my eyes to the endless possibilities around us, and how much a person can learn about themselves in just one year. I'm forever grateful for this opportunity and had an absolutely incredible year.

Criminology

BA (Hons)

Ready to see the world of crime and criminal justice differently? Join us to unpick theories and perspectives that explore today's most pressing crime-related issues.

Through your first year, you'll explore key criminological theories, learn about the structure of the criminal justice system, and address real-world, contemporary issues like youth crime and policing. Through engaging case studies and debates, you'll develop your critical thinking and research skills.

In your second year, you'll sharpen your focus, with modules designed to develop your research skills and deepen your understanding of theory. Optional modules mean you have the chance to explore in depth what interests you. Whether you're into justice for young people, cyber or financial crime, you choose what excites you most.

Final year is your chance to dive deeper, build expertise, and tailor your learning to suit your career goals or personal passions. You'll rethink punishment and justice; have the opportunity to undertake an independent research project; and choose modules that interest you and help you to question, challenge, and shape the future of criminal justice in an ever-changing world.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Explaining Criminology

Encounter a range of theoretical perspectives and debates that inform the discipline. Are criminals born bad? Or do they learn this behaviour from their families or from where they grow up? We'll debate it all!

Exploring the Criminal Justice System

Criminology and law are two of the disciplines that underpin our criminal justice system (CJS). You will explore the interplay between these subjects by learning about the concepts, principles and processes of the CJS in England and Wales.

Doing Criminology: How We Know About Crime

How do we learn about crime and criminals? Discover the methods criminologists use to study crime and the criminal justice system, moving beyond everyday assumptions and media portrayals.

Crime and Popular Culture

In this module, you will consider the intersection of crime, deviance, and popular culture. You will focus on how crime is represented in entertainment and how it can be consumed for pleasure.

A Brief History of Crime and Criminology

Understand crime, criminal justice and criminology in the 21st Century by exploring the history of crime, from the 19th Century to the present day.

Optional Modules

- Contemporary Social Issues 1: Power, Inequality and Everyday Life
- Introduction to Developmental Psychology and Neuropsychology
- English across Space and Time
- Foundations of Language
- Handling Historical Evidence
- Medieval and Early Modern Worlds
- History of Philosophy: Ideas that Shaped the West
- Knowledge and Reality in a Complex World
- Global Challenges in World Politics
- Origins and Foundations of International Relations
- Parties, Populism and Protest
- Researching Society: Principles and Practices
- Thinking Sociologically
- Transformations in Digital Media
- Understanding Media and Culture



Year 2

Core Modules

Criminological Thought

This module introduces you to the scholarship in criminological theory and the sociology of deviance from the nineteenth century to the present.

Understanding Criminological Fieldwork

Focusing on real-world research in the 'field,' you will study the theoretical foundations of how knowledge and evidence is understood and produced and how this underpins the methods adopted by researchers.

Measuring Crime

In this module, you will learn and work with different data sources related to crime and criminal justice, exploring data from police-recorded crime, the Crime Survey for England and Wales and criminal justice statistics from the courts.

Optional Modules

- Contemporary Issues in Policing
- Youth Justice
- Organised Crime
- Cybercrime and Cybercriminality
- Financial Crime
- Welfare States: Poverty, Policy and Politics
- Language and Creativity in Advertising
- Global Superpowers
- Politics of the Global South
- Transnational Debates on Gender and Society
- Visual Cultures

Final Year

Core Modules

Prisons, Punishment and Society

Learn about methods of punishment today and historically and consider the place of prisons within this wider context. Explore theories around the justification and limitations of past and present practices as you examine the shift to a prison industrial complex.

Optional Modules

- Gendered Harm and Justice
- Green Criminology
- Hate Crime
- Drugs, Crime and Society
- Crime and Media
- Crimes and Harms of the Powerful
- Criminology Dissertation
- Sex Crimes and Sexual Offending
- Advanced Sociological Theories and Applications
- Health, Bodies and Social Reproduction
- The Politics of Crises and the Future of Governance
- The Politics of Borders and Migration

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

Your third year is spent in a graduate-level work placement and assessed via assignments reflecting on your experiences.





Combined *honours degrees*

You can combine your study of criminology with a range of other subjects through a joint honours degree. You'll study core modules from each subject, which will enable you to develop the essential knowledge needed for both. You will also have the freedom to tailor your degree further by choosing from a selection of optional modules from both disciplines and the wider Faculty.

Our joint honours programmes offer you the flexibility to explore multiple interests within one degree, and understand how different subjects interact to enhance your learning. You will develop a range of subject and career specific skills as well as transferable skills essential to all career pathways.

Criminology and Law BA Hons

Unpick the theories and perspectives surrounding today's most pressing crime-related issues. You will explore key criminological and legal concepts and examine the social, cultural, political, and economic contexts of crime and criminal justice.

Criminology and Psychology BA Hons

Informed by the latest research and combining theory and practice, this degree offers you the opportunity to study both criminology and psychology – with a particular focus on the psychology of crime and criminals.

Law with Criminology LLB Hons

Gain insight on the issues of today, with topics ranging from criminal justice and youth crime to social harm and environmental crime. You will have the opportunity to connect with local agencies such as the police and the prison service.

Sociology and Criminology BA Hons

This is a thought-provoking degree that covers complex, challenging topics from criminal justice and youth crime to social justice and climate change, racism and hate, power and inequalities.

“

*The staff
have been
so patient,
supportive,
and
inspiring.*

”



Nicky

BA Hons Criminology and Psychology

Studying criminology and psychology has been an absolute joy. This incredible interdisciplinary course has given me the opportunity to develop critical academic skills, as well as research interests that I am passionate about.

While my psychology modules gave me a strong foundation in statistical analysis, scientific writing, and research methods, it was my criminology modules that shaped my academic drive and perspective.

Being encouraged to challenge the core definitions of crime and deviancy taught me how to assess social phenomenon critically, whilst also acquiring the proper outlook to carry out research at a higher level.

I am most grateful for the amazing staff, who have been so patient, supportive, and inspiring throughout my time at Lancaster. Without their insight and expertise, I would not have been able to conduct my dissertation research on drug policies in Oregon, US, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Careers and *employability*

We emphasise careers from the very beginning of your degree, a factor that contributes to the success of our graduates in the workplace.

Careers service

Both during your degree and after you graduate the University provides dedicated, specialist support. Our careers service has connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across diverse sectors. They organise careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year.

You can be matched with an employer or a previous graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in workshops on topics such as writing an effective CV, developing a LinkedIn profile, or succeeding at psychometric testing. We also have a vast range of online resources as well as an exclusive job search portal.

Career mentoring programme

This uniquely tailored scheme aims to match you with a mentor who is an established professional in your career of choice. This mentor then gives advice and guidance in relation to your future career. Mentoring could help you assess your career goals and get you thinking in different ways about how you can reach them.



Graduate destinations

Our graduates go on to be successful in a variety of careers:

- Criminal justice agencies (the police force, HM Prison Service, the National Probation Service)
- Civil Service & local government
- Social Services
- NHS trusts
- Charities
- Banking and financial services
- Youth offending services
- Professional recruitment & consultancy

“
The opportunities the University has provided me with have been extremely valuable.
”



Alex, first year

BA Hons Criminology

Policing and detective work has always interested me, since I was young, and so being able to study that in a university setting with like-minded individuals is a great feeling. We even had real detectives speak in one of our lectures, giving me a great insight into the career I am working towards.

Plus, the theoretical and statistical side of criminology I loved in college is now deeper and more complex. The knowledge I have gained from my studies is amazing, and the opportunities the University has provided me with, especially in only my first year, has been extremely valuable. From networking events and careers fairs to on-campus jobs and public speakers, Lancaster has provided me with invaluable resources to help build myself and my future.

I think the most useful skills I have learned so far is time management, independence and an economical mindset. These will all help me in the future, wherever I go and whatever path I choose.



lancaster.ac.uk/criminology

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.