



Criminology



Lancaster University
Law School

lancaster.ac.uk/law

WELCOME

Criminology at Lancaster University forms part of the prestigious Law School, providing you with an excellent place to study.

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.

The Law School has strong international links and we welcome students from across the world to study with us. We also provide international travel opportunities for our students, further diversifying your learning experience.

We hope that you decide that Criminology at Lancaster is the course for you and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our recruitment team.

“ Looking back, the course equipped me with some invaluable tools. In particular, you are pushed to critically reflect on how misleading the information around us can be - from crime statistics sometimes telling us more about recording procedures than actual criminal behaviour - to how television crime shows influence a jury’s conception of ‘valid evidence’. Understanding the social structures that can drive people to engage in certain behaviours helped my development in the international teaching arena, and the opportunity to take on a research-based dissertation with a nearby police force. ”

Natalie Robinson, Criminology graduate 2011



YOUR DEGREE

Students on any of our Criminology degrees will take a set of compulsory modules as well as being able to pursue their own interests through an extensive choice of optional modules.

BA HONS CRIMINOLOGY

Year 1

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Provides a multi-disciplinary introduction to criminology and criminal justice. This module has a three part structure, namely criminological perspectives (such as biological, sociological and psychological explanations), contemporary criminological issues (such as domestic abuse, cybercrime and substance misuse) and the criminal justice system (such as the police, prisons and probation).



MINOR SUBJECT 1

At Lancaster in your first year of study you are given the opportunity to broaden your studies to include one or two additional subjects. Subjects our students choose from include: Politics, Psychology, Media and Cultural Studies, Economics, English Literature, and Sociology. For more information see the Flexible Subject Options booklet.



MINOR SUBJECT 2

JOINT MAJOR
students will take a module in their second subject.

Year 2

CRIMINOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Introduces and examines the main theoretical approaches in criminology from its origins to the present day.



MEASURING CRIME

Provides students with a critical and practical understanding of crime data, predominantly using sources that influence criminal justice policy and practice. Students will develop highly valuable skills in data-handling and analysis.



UNDERSTANDING CRIMINOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

An introduction to the theoretical foundations and processes of different forms of social research used.



OPTIONAL MODULES (SELECT UP TO 4)

In years 2 and 3, joint major students will take half of their modules in Criminology and the other half in their second subject.

OPTIONAL MODULES (YEAR 2)

Contemporary Issues in Policing

Provides a critical analysis of the nature, culture and structure of police forces in the UK. Issues that will be explored include: use of force, policing ethnic minorities and policing protest.

Critical Approaches to Imprisonment

Explores various critical perspectives related to imprisonment and considers the harms associated with incarceration.

Green Criminology

Examines a range of issues related to green criminology and environmental harms, such as protest and environmental activism, animal rights and environmental victimisation.

Youth Justice

Considers the tension between perceptions of children as 'troubled' and 'troublesome'. We will also explore the criminal justice response to children who are in conflict with the law.

Other Year 2 module options include: Human Rights and Civil Liberties and Contemporary Crime Problems



Year 3

OPTIONAL MODULES (SELECT UP TO 8)

Sex Crimes and Sex Offending

Introduces students to a range of sexual crimes and forms of sexual offending as defined by UK and international law.

Crime and Media

Provides a critical examination of the complex interactions between the media and crime. Topics explored include moral panics, representations of youth crime, revenge pornography and cybercrime.

Criminal Careers

Deepens students understanding of why some offenders appear to choose a life of crime.

Drugs, Crime and Society

Examines the nature and extent of drug taking in the UK and beyond. Topics explored include illegal drug use, trafficking and manufacture.

Hate Crime: A Global Perspective

Issues covered will focus on the question of what is 'hate crime', ensuring that students gain an understanding of its harms. The international perspective to this course will be gained from a discussion of 'hate crime' as a human rights problem, with a particular focus on freedom of speech.

Other Year 3 module options include: Criminology Innovation, Criminal Justice Research, Dissertation, Criminological Perspectives on Violence, Learning Together.

Please note that modules available may vary year on year. This list gives an indication of the range and diversity of modules offered in a typical academic year.

DEGREES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Degree title	Award	Degree Length	UCAS code	Typical offer
Criminology	BA	3 years	M930	ABB
Criminology and Sociology	BA	3 years	LM39	ABB
Criminology and French Studies	BA	4 years	MR91	AAB – ABB
Criminology and Psychology	BA	3 years	CL86	AAB+ GCSE Mathematics grade B

Study Abroad

Studying abroad is a fantastic opportunity, allowing students to gain independence and confidence, immerse themselves in another culture and stand out from the crowd in terms of employability. Criminology has links with international institutions, including USA: University of Georgia, University of Missouri, St Louis and Michigan State University; and Canada: Carleton University.

Work placement

We offer optional modules where you deliver a live project for an organisation within, or connected to, the Criminal Justice System. You can also apply for a paid placement in vacation time.

Joint degrees

You can study Criminology as part of a joint major degree, with Sociology, Psychology or French Studies. These degrees are weighted 50/50 between the two disciplines.

“

My time at Lancaster inspired me to pursue a career in the criminal justice sector. Through both the practical and theoretical modules I discovered that I was most interested in the penal system and the links between illicit drug use and crime. I now work with various HM Prisons supporting men and women with a variety of drug and alcohol related issues; which gives me amazing work experience, and job satisfaction. All of the staff were extremely supportive throughout my degree and I cannot praise the staff and the University enough.

”

Rebecca Fecitt

Criminology graduate 2014

Lifeline DARS Interventions Recovery Worker, HMP Styl

RESEARCH-LED TEACHING

We are a research intensive Law School and over 80% of our research has been rated as internationally excellent or world leading. All of the Criminology team teach undergraduate students so our students learn about contemporary issues in criminology from experts in the field.

Understanding experiences of hate crime

Professor Paul Iganski's research has led the field in understanding the hurts involved in acts of hate crime for victims and offenders. The research not only directly informs his teaching with students at Lancaster University. It has also impacted upon the allocation of funding for anti-racist organisations in Western Europe; raised awareness about the support needs of victims and offenders for governmental and non-governmental organisations across the EU; and informed the direct delivery of support services and interventions against hate crime.

Challenging assumptions – The Sex Industry, Sexual Crimes and Sexual Offending

Dr Sarah Kingston's research on the sex industry has led to her being consulted regularly by the international press, the Home Office, lawyers, and political parties. Sarah argues that we need to be informed by a robust evidence base rather than making judgments based on moral, religious or political standpoints. Her work was recently cited in the Home Office Select Committee: Prostitution Inquiry 2016 report which suggested a change to existing legislation. It is this approach that she channels into her teaching, by encouraging students to conduct extensive research and challenge often taken-for-granted assumptions. Her module 'Sexual Crimes and Sexual Offending' debunks myths such as 'stranger danger' and challenges stereotypical images of sex offenders as lonely old men by, for example examining female sex offenders and child sexual abuse in familial settings.

Enacting change

Informed by the research of staff members, the Criminology Innovations module encourages students to put criminological theory into practice by enacting change through the assessed live project. Examples of projects could include (but are not limited to), engaging the public in crime prevention and supporting rehabilitation services through advocacy campaigns.



CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Lancaster Award

Open to all students, the Lancaster Award encourages you to participate in extra-curricular activities alongside your undergraduate study. You record these activities and reflect on how they have helped you to develop the skills required by employers. The Lancaster Award is a great way for graduates to stand out from the crowd.

Volunteering

Many of our criminology students volunteer with organisations such as Lancashire Youth Offending Team, Police Special Constables and the Citizens Advice Bureau. We have strong links with local criminal justice organisations, thus enabling unique learning opportunities, such as:

- Visits and collaborative learning with HMP Lancaster Farm
- Optional modules, in which students deliver a live project for an organisation within, or connected to, the Criminal Justice System.
- Placement opportunities

Careers

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

- The Police
- Probation Service
- Central and local government (for e.g. The Home Office)
- Social Welfare and Education (for e.g. charities and support services for young offenders)

GET IN TOUCH

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