

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma of Higher Education
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Criminology
UCAS code	LL34
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBSCRIM_C (full-time, 3 years) UBSCRIMG_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFCRIM_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFCRIMG_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100484
Start date of programme	October 2012
Date of programme approval	January 2012
Date of last programme amendment approval	February 2026
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	17/03/26

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

General entry requirements are as follows:

- UCAS tariff: 112 (A Levels – BBc); 48 for Foundation Year entry.
- Access to Higher Education Diploma with a minimum of 15 credits achieved at Merit or Distinction in law, humanities or social science units.
- BBK Cert HE Criminology; Pass (40%) for entry into 2nd year of the BSc

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a [tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

This programme provides undergraduate education in criminology and criminal justice that is critical, questioning and creative. It is designed for students from a range of different backgrounds. It seeks to produce undergraduates who have a critical and comprehensive knowledge of the relevant concepts, principles, method and skills applicable to the interdisciplinary study of criminology and criminal justice. The programme enables students to engage with a wide range of theories from the human sciences and humanities in order to understand the wider social, political, economic, and cultural contexts of 'crime', harm, violence, insecurity and social order.

Other main aims and features include:

- The imparting of advanced knowledge about concepts and debates across the key areas of the discipline of criminology and criminal justice and clear indications of how these are informed by multi-disciplinary research at the boundaries of knowledge;
- Training in a range of specialist subject specific and transferable skills which prepare students for employment or further postgraduate study;
- The possibility of study in full-time or part-time in a combination of online and face-to-face mode;
- Provision of a degree programme which is sensitive to the particular needs of mature and part time students.
- A degree programme that facilitates transition from pre-degree to undergraduate degree programmes with due recognition being given for prior learning.

Distinctive Features

The structure of teaching is designed for students who need to balance study with paid work, family or other commitments but desire to study in an environment led by academic staff with extensive research expertise and publications in the field of study. Unique features include:

- Classes are standardly taught between 6pm and 9pm, Monday –Thursday
- Students can choose from a wide range of optional modules across various specialist topics, such as migration and borders, gendered and sexual violence, prisons and policing, drugs, welfare and homelessness, white collar and organised crime, terrorism and security.

- Students can attend specialised research seminars, such as the Criminology Seminar Series and the Race and Justice Seminar Series, which feature national and international scholars speaking to current issues and path-breaking interdisciplinary research.
- There are opportunities for students to be taught by researchers at The Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR), which is also home to the World Prison Brief.
- You will be taught by staff who are part of a proud tradition of critical scholarship in criminology and criminal justice, who address issues of crime through power and inequality, and are led by principles of social and racial justice.
- You can look forward to a stimulating learning environment, learning alongside students with diverse backgrounds and professional experiences.

BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice with Foundation Year: For the BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare you for successful completion of your undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year provides you with the opportunity to explore your interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the programme. The final three years (full-time) or 4 years (part-time) of the 'with foundation year' programme is the same as the 3 or 4 year BSc programme and students who successfully complete a degree programme with foundation year are awarded the same final degree title as students on the other BSc degree routes.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	LALA146S4	Understanding Crime	30	Comp	T1
4	LALA180S4	Sociology of Crime	30	Comp	T2
4	LALA145S4	The Criminal Justice Process	30	Comp	T3
4	LALA179S4	Psychology of Criminal Behaviour OR college-wide option	30	Option	T2
Year 2					
5	LACN030S5	What is Justice?	30	Comp	T1-3
5	SC05020S5	Criminology and Social Theory	30	Comp	T1
5	LACN031S5	Criminology Research Methods	30	Comp	T2
5	Various	Option (1 x 30 credits)	30	Option	T2 or 3
Year 3					
6	SC05027S6	Policy, Government and Social Control	30	Comp	T1
6	LACN010S6	Criminology Research project	30	Comp	T2-3
6	Various	Options (2 x 30 credits)	60	Option	T2 or 3
Part-time courses					
Year 1					
4	LALA146S4	Understanding Crime	30	Comp	T1
4	LALA180S4	Sociology of Crime	30	Comp	T2

4	LALA145S4	The Criminal Justice Process	30	Comp	T3
Year 2					
5	LACN030S5	What is Justice?	30	Comp	T1-3
4	LALA179S4	Psychology of Criminal Behaviour OR college-wide option	30	Option	T3
5	Various	Level 5 Option (1 x 30 credits)	30	Option	T2
Year 3					
5	SC05020S5	Criminology & Social Theory (Level 5)	30	Comp	T1
5	LACN031S5	Criminology Research Methods	30	Comp	T2
6	Various	Level 6 Options (1 x 30 credits)	30	Option	T1,2 or 3
Year 4					
6	SC05027S6	Policy, Government and Social Control	30	Comp	T1
6	LACN010S6	Criminology Research Project	30	Comp	T1-3
6	Various	Option (1 x 30 credit)	30	Comp	T2 or 3
Full-time with foundation Year - 4 years					
Foundation Year (Year 0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	T1
3 4	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy OR Level 4 Language module	30	Option	T2-3
Years 1-3 as shown for the full-time route above					
Part-time with foundation Year - 6 years					
Foundation Year (Year 0a)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
Foundation Year (Year 0b)					
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	T1
3 4	SC04048S3	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective OR Level 4 Language module	30	Option	T2-3
Years 1-4 as shown for the part-time route above					

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

*The range of option will

Indicative options: The range of options available each year will vary but an indicative list is given below.			
SC05028S5/ SC05029S6	Restorative and Alternative Justice	30 credits	Level 5 / Level 6
SC05013S5/ SC05014S6	Crime and Social Psychology	30 credits	Level 5/ Level 6
SC05024S5/ SC05018S6	Gender, Crime and Violence	30 credits	Level 5 / Level 6
SC05030S5/ SC05031S6	Crimes of the Powerful	30 credits	Level 5 / Level 6
SSPA165S6	Human Rights and Politics	30 credits	Level 6
SSPA096S6	Racism and Antisemitism	30 credits	Level 6
SSGE099S5/S SGE100S6:	Geographies of Revolt	30 credits	Level 5 / Level 6
SSGE070S6	The Politics of Race and Diaspora	30 credits	Level 6
POSO004S6	War and Modern Society	30 credits	Level 6
LALA151H5/ LALA152H6	Crime and Science (must be taken with another 15 credit Law School module)	15 credits	Level 5 / Level 6
LALA109H6	International Criminal Justice (must be taken with another 15 credit Law School module)	15 credits	Level 6
LALA198H5/ LALA199H6	Criminal Evidence (must be taken with another 15 credit Law School module)	15 credits	Level 5 / Level 6

Note: When selecting options, students are advised to spread out their modules to ensure a manageable workload. Full-time students are advised to take no more than 60 credits per term and part-time students are advised to take no more than 45 credits per term.

How you will learn

The learning and teaching on this programme is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules of 15 and 30 credits. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

This course is taught through a combination of lectures (pre-recorded), seminars and in-person and online activities. Lectures are designed to provide you with an overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. The lectures are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

Students also can attend the Criminology Seminar Series and the Race & Justice Seminar Series (3 to 4 events per term on Thursday evenings). Students are encouraged to engage in a range of other School of Law events and workshops, including skill-building workshops organised by the School's Learning and Development tutors.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods, which support you to build and develop a range of skills and knowledge over the duration of the programme. These include skills in writing and oral presentation; independent research; analysis, synthesis and critique; problem solving; group work; and IT literacy.

For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

- Short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, seen and unseen exams, group work, oral presentations, reflective journals, case studies, and creative and critical thinking exercises.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

On successful completion of the foundation year programme you will be able to:

- Articulate at a foundational level key concepts in some of the disciplines offered in Social Sciences, History and Philosophy.
- Undertake academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines
- Understand other key learning skills required for university-level study and know of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.

On successful completion of the BSc programme you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive grounding in major concepts, principles, policies and methods relevant to criminology and criminal justice. In particular students will have an appreciation of how key ideas in are informed by research at the forefront of the discipline and competing intellectual approaches within criminological and criminal justice studies and relates disciplines in the human sciences;
- Understand and situate criminological and criminal justice studies, policies and institutional practices within their historical, ethical, social, political, cultural and economic context.
- Convey an advanced understanding of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of crime, harm and criminal justice;
- Differentiate and assess a range of social scientific methods which can be used to locate and analyse scholarly, policy and practical developments in the field;
- Demonstrate a critical awareness and an ability to make use of theoretical and methodological frameworks developed in law, the humanities and social sciences; in particular we aim to encourage students to interrogate the interface between the theory and practice of criminology and criminal justice;
- Respond to complex social problems issues systematically and creatively;
- Demonstrate a range of subject specific and transferable skills which prepare students for employment or further studies. These include skills in writing and problem solving, IT

literacy, group work, independent research, analysis and critique, oral presentation, independent research, critique, and problem solving;

- Exercise sound academic judgement, take personal responsibility for study and demonstrate initiative.

Careers and further study

You will find criminology and criminal justice graduates in the following kinds of roles:

1. Working within the criminal justice system and public service:

- Probation Officer
- Police Officer
- Criminal Case Review Manager
- Solicitor
- Housing Officer
- Human Resources Advisor
- Civilian Investigator
- Victim Support Officer
- Counsellor
- Welfare Advice Officer
- Social Worker

2. Working within the charity / voluntary sector:

- Youth / Community Worker
- Public / Local Government Administration Officer
- Charity Fundraiser
- Community Campaigner or Advocate
- Community Educator

3. Other areas include:

- Policy Development
- Research
- Public Administration
- Security
- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Finance
- Transport/Logistics Management
- Journalism

Birkbeck's BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice students will graduate with a set of valuable transferrable skills, such as:

- Organising and planning
- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills
- Research skills
- Problem solving
- Working to deadlines
- Clear and logical thinking
- Skills in gathering, interpreting and evaluating different types of information

- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our

Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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