

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Criminology and Psychological Studies (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 (home), School of Psychological 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, 4 years with FY) Part-time (4 years, 6 years with FY) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not Applicable
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u> <u>England</u>	Criminology
UCAS code	LL37; LL38
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBACMPY_C (full-time, 3 years) UBACMPSY_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFCMPY_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFCMPSY_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100484 100497
Start date of programme	October 2026
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2025
Date of last programme amendment approval	February 2026
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Programme Director	Lizzie Hughes
Date of last revision to document	04/02/26

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.

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.

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

Who commits crime and why? Are people who commit acts of harm and violence different to other people? How should we understand, prevent and punish their behaviour? Who responds to crime and delivers criminal justice systems? How do organisational cultures impact professionals' responses to crime?

This BA Criminology and Psychological Studies is a combined interdisciplinary programme taught by academics in criminology and psychology. It develops students' understanding of both subjects, to explore the relationships between individual and social explanations for crime and criminal behaviour. Critical and questioning, the programme brings together approaches from criminology, criminal justice studies, psychological studies and social science.

The programme enables students to better understand criminological problems concerning individuals, organisations and society at large. Students will learn about critical approaches, which ask what crime is and challenges conventional problems to it. They will analyse real-world events through a focus on criminological and psychological theories, as well as criminal justice policies, institutions and practices, and will learn about social justice and social change through learning about government and policy, and advocacy and activism.

The programme develops students' transferable skills, which are highly valued in a range of employment and careers within and beyond criminal justice or prepare students for further postgraduate study. These include critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, communications and writing for different audiences. It produces undergraduates with a comprehensive knowledge of criminology and psychology. It does this by introducing students to key criminology and psychology debates and thinkers, as well as exploring the connections and tensions between the two disciplines. The programme is designed for students who wish to study in an academic environment and need to balance study with professional and personal commitments. Evening classes take place between 6pm and 9pm, Monday-Friday. Students learn in a stimulating learning environment, alongside students with diverse backgrounds and professional experiences.

Additional features:

- Students to apply theoretical learning to real-world events and scenarios such as policing and racism, domestic and sexual violence, and hate crime. They explore the lived experiences of people who deliver and are on the receiving end of criminal justice institutions and processes, and the psychological impacts of these experiences.
- Students are encouraged to tailor their learning to their interests. Optional modules on the programme cover specialist criminology and psychology topics such as explanations for

violent behaviour, the functioning of police and prisons, the prevention of gender-based violence, and changing individual behaviour.

- Students can attend specialised research events such as the Criminology Seminar Series. Led by criminology academics, events showcase contemporary issues in criminology and criminal justice and feature experts with national and international criminology profiles.
- There are opportunities for students to be taught by active researchers carrying out contemporary criminological research at the Birkbeck Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR).
- Students will experience different approaches to learning, including on campus and online modes of delivery.
- The programme is sensitive to the needs of mature and part time students and gives recognition to prior academic and professional learning.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	SCPS187H4	Understanding Cognitive Psychology	15	Compulsory	T1
4	SCPS237H4	Understanding Neuroscience	15	Compulsory	T2
4	SCPS188H4	Understanding Applied Social Psychology	15	Compulsory	T2
4	SCPS189H4	Understanding Individual Differences	15	Compulsory	T3
4	LALA146S4	What is Crime?	30	Compulsory	T1-3
4	LALA179S4	Crime and Critical Psychology	30	Compulsory	T3
Year 2					
5	LACN030S5	What is Justice?	30	Compulsory	T1-3
<i>Students select 60 credits of options from the psychology list below:</i>					
5	SCPS160H5	Individual Differences	15	Option	T1
5	PSYC044H5	Neuroscience	15	Option	T1
5	SC12007H5	Psychological and Developmental Issues in Childhood and Adolescence	15	Option	T1
5	SCPS179H5	Cognition	15	Option	T3
5	SC12008H5	Psychology for Personal and Professional Development	15	Option	T3
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	T2 or T3
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Option	T3
<i>Students select 30 credits (1 from 4) of the optional modules from the criminology list below:</i>					
5	SC05013S5	Crime and Social Psychology	30	Option	T3
5	SC05024S5	Gender Crime and Violence	30	Option	T2
5	SC05030S5	Crimes of the Powerful	30	Option	T2
5	SC05028S5	Restorative and Alternative Justice	30	Option	T3

Year 3					
6	SC05016S6	Criminology and Psychology Research Project	30	Compulsory	T2 and T3
6	SC05027S6	Policy, Government and Social Control	30	Compulsory	T1
<i>Students select 60 credits (4 x 15 credits) of options from the list below:</i>					
6	PSYC028H6	Family Studies	15	Option	T1
6	PSYC031H6	Health Psychology	15	Option	T1
6	SCPS001H6	Psychology in Public Policy	15	Option	T1
6	SCPS181H6	Attachment Theory: Introduction and Critique	15	Option	T2
6	SCPS238H6	Neurodiversity	15	Option	T2
6	SCPS227H6	Neuropsychology	15	Option	T2
Part-time - 4 years					
Year 1					
4	LALA146S4	What is Crime?	30	Compulsory	T1
4	SCPS187H4	Understanding Cognitive Psychology	15	Compulsory	T1
4	SCPS237H4	Understanding Neuroscience	15	Compulsory	T2
4	SCPS188H4	Understanding Applied Social Psychology	15	Compulsory	T2
4	SCPS189H4	Understanding Individual Differences	15	Compulsory	T3
Year 2					
4	LALA179S4	Crime and Critical Psychology	30	Compulsory	T3
5	LACN030S5	What is Justice	30	Compulsory	T1-3
<i>Students select 30 credits (2 modules) from the optional L5 psychology modules listed under FT Year 2.</i>					
Year 3					
<i>Students select 30 credits (2 modules) from the optional L5 psychology modules listed under FT Year 2 above.</i>					
<i>And a further 30 credits (2 modules) from the optional L6 psychology modules listed under FT Year 3 above.</i>					
<i>And one of the 30 credit optional L5 criminology modules listed under FT year 2</i>					
Year 4					
6	SC05016S6	Criminology and Psychology Research Project	30	Compulsory	T2-3
6	SC05027S6	Policy, Government and Social Control	30	Compulsory	T1
<i>Students select 30 credits (2 modules) from the optional L6 psychology modules listed under FT Year 3 above.</i>					
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	SC04048S3	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective	30	Option	T2-3
4		OR Level 4 Language module			

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

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching 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. 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.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

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.

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. 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.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive grounding in key criminology and psychology debates, theories and thinkers.
2. Understand the historical and present relationship between criminology and psychology and the debates between them.
3. Understand and situate criminological and criminal justice studies, policies and institutional practices within criminology and psychology, relating the individual to social contexts.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the psychological impacts of engagement and lived experiences of criminal justice institutions and processes.
5. Evaluate a range of concepts and methods, which can be used to analyse developments and debates in criminology and psychology
6. Apply theoretical ideas and approaches to real-world criminology and criminal justice events and issues.
7. Understand the tools and platforms available to access information and knowledge about criminology and criminal justice institutions, systems and processes
8. Exercise sound and critical judgment about knowledge sources and online platforms when accessing academic and non-academic content for knowledge and skills development and assessment.
9. Exercise a range of subject specific and transferable skills relevant for employment and further studies: writing, IT literacy, group work, independent research, oral presentation and critical evaluation and analysis.
10. Demonstrate robust academic practices and exercise sound judgment in thought and writing, in independent study and group work.
11. Take personal responsibility and demonstrate initiative when working independently and in groups.

Careers and further study

You will find Criminology and Psychological Studies 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 BA Criminology and Psychological Studies 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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