

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name, title and level of final qualification(s)                                                         | <b>BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice</b><br>(Level 6)                                                                                                 |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s)                                                             | Certificate of Higher Education<br>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)<br>Part-time (4 years)<br>Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years)<br>Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years)<br>October            |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body                                                              | Not applicable                                                                                                                                           |
| <u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u><br><u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u><br><u>England</u> | Criminology                                                                                                                                              |
| UCAS code                                                                                               | LL34; LL36                                                                                                                                               |
| Birkbeck Course Code                                                                                    | UUBSCRIM_C (full-time, 3 years)<br>UBSCRIMG_C (part-time, 4 years)<br>UUBFCRIM_C (full-time with FY, 4 years)<br>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                                                                           | <b>2026-27</b>                                                                                                                                           |
| Programme Director                                                                                      | Aviah Day                                                                                                                                                |
| Date of last revision to document                                                                       | 17/03/2026                                                                                                                                               |

## 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

The BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice programme provides undergraduate education that is critical, questioning and creative. Students are taught by criminology lecturers with a proud tradition of critical scholarship, and who are led by principles of social and racial justice.

The programme seeks to produce undergraduates with a comprehensive knowledge of criminology knowledge and transferable skills. It does this by introducing students to key criminology debates and thinkers. The programme also challenges mainstream criminology by introducing students to social approaches to crime and criminal justice. It extends beyond criminology, introducing students to interdisciplinary learning about crime and criminal justice issues using social science and humanities approaches.

The programme enables students to apply theoretical learning to real-world events, to support their academic and professional development. This involves emphasis on the lived experiences of people who deliver and are on the receiving end of criminal justice institutions and processes. As well as identifying contemporary criminology and criminal justice problems, there is also focus on social change. This is achieved through learning about government and policy, and advocacy and activism.

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 can choose from optional modules across specialist criminology topics. Examples include gendered and sexual violence, prisons and policing, drugs and culture, and crimes of the powerful.
- 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 receive training in a range of specialist subject specific and transferable skills which prepare students for employment or further postgraduate study
- Students will experiencing 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.

**BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice with Foundation Year:** 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) |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Full-time – 3 years</b> |             |                                             |        |                   |                         |
| <b>Year 1</b>              |             |                                             |        |                   |                         |
| 4                          | LALA146S4   | What is Crime?                              | 30     | Comp              | T1-3                    |
| 4                          | LALA180S4   | Crime and Society                           | 30     | Comp              | T2                      |
| 4                          | LALA179S4   | Crime and Critical Psychology               | 30     | Comp              | T3                      |
| 4                          | LALA145S4   | Criminal Justice Institutions and Processes | 30     | Comp              | T1                      |
| <b>Year 2</b>              |             |                                             |        |                   |                         |
| 5                          | SC05020S5   | Criminology and Social Theory (Level 5)     | 30     | Comp              | T1                      |
| 5                          | LACN031S5   | Criminology Research Methods                | 30     | Comp              | T2                      |
| 5                          | LACN030S5   | What is Justice?                            | 30     | Comp              | T1-3                    |
| 5                          | Various     | Option (1 x 30 credit)                      | 30     | Option            | T2 or 3                 |
| <b>Year 3</b>              |             |                                             |        |                   |                         |
| 6                          | SC05027S6   | Policy, Government and Social Control       | 30     | Comp              | T1                      |
| 6                          | LACN010S6   | Criminology Research Project                | 30     | Comp              | T1-3                    |
| 6                          | Various     | Options (2 x 30 credits)                    | 60     | Options           | T2 or 3                 |
| <b>Part-time - 4 years</b> |             |                                             |        |                   |                         |
| <b>Year 1</b>              |             |                                             |        |                   |                         |
| 4                          | LALA146S4   | What is Crime?                              | 30     | Comp              | T1-3                    |
| 4                          | LALA180S4   | Crime and Society                           | 30     | Comp              | T2                      |
| 4                          | LALA145S4   | Criminal Justice Institutions and Processes | 30     | Comp              | T1                      |

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

|                                                                                                                      |                             |            |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>Indicative options:</b> The range of options available each year will vary but an indicative list is given below. |                             |            |                      |
| SC05013S5/<br>SC05014S6                                                                                              | Crime and Social Psychology | 30 credits | Level 5/<br>Level 6  |
| SC05024S5/<br>SC05018S6                                                                                              | Gender, Crime and Violence  | 30 credits | Level 5 /<br>Level 6 |
| SC05030S5/<br>SC05031S6                                                                                              | Crimes of the Powerful      | 30 credits | Level 5 /<br>Level 6 |
| SSEA016S5                                                                                                            | Social Justice              | 30 credits | Level 5              |

|                          |                                        |            |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| SSPA165S6                | Human Rights and Politics              | 30 credits | Level 6              |
| SC05011S6                | Community Engagement and Public Policy | 30 credits | Level 6              |
| SSPA096S6                | Racism and Antisemitism                | 30 credits | Level 6              |
| SSGE099S5/S<br>SGE100S6: | Geographies of Revolt                  | 30 credits | Level 5 /<br>Level 6 |
| SSGE070S6                | The Politics of Race and Diaspora      | 30 credits | Level 6              |
| POSO004S6                | War and Modern Society                 | 30 credits | Level 6              |

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

The learning and teaching on this programme is organised to help students meet the learning outcomes of the BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice programme. Students will undertake modules that follow one of four learning themes: 1. 'Lived Experience', 2. 'Institutions and Their Effects', 3. 'Theoretical Understanding', and 4. 'Researching Criminology'. Themes are realised through different compulsory modules through levels 4-6. These scaffold student learning and development over the duration of their participation in a three- (full-time study) or four-year programme (part-time study).

Theme 1, 'Lived Experience' begins at level 4 with module What is Crime?, followed by level 5 module What is Justice? Theme 1 modules are deliberately located in term 1 for pedagogic reasons; they demonstrate and induct students into the programme's explicitly critical criminology approach.

Then in terms 2 and 3, students experience a diet of criminology and criminal justice learning that offers important foundational knowledge and skills as it relates to key criminology debates, concepts and thinkers, and which applies these to real-world events and processes. Theme 2, 'Institutions and Their Effects', begins at level 4 with module Criminal Justice Institutions & Processes, followed by level 6 module Government, Policy & Social Control. Theme 3, 'Theoretical Understanding', begins at level 4 with Crime & Society, and Psychology of Criminal Behaviour followed by level 5 module, Criminological & Social Theory. In these modules, there is movement towards increasingly advanced knowledge and critical approaches from level 4 to level 6.

Theme 4, 'Researching Criminology', which is located at level 6, represents the culmination of students' knowledge and skills development across the duration of their programme. At level 5, students undertake module Criminology Research Methods, to prepare them for the Criminology Research Project module at level 6. This module enables students to harness the intellectual and practical tools developed in previous levels to undertake a piece of self-directed research and learning.

Notably, questions of employability and transferable skills will be addressed in Themes 2, 'Institutions and Their Effects' and 4, 'Researching Criminology'.

BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice students are active learners who engage fully with the demands and requirements of the programme. Information about the programme and its modules are available on the Birkbeck College virtual learning site. There, students can understand the requirements of each of their modules, as it relates to academic lecturers, weekly topics and

preparatory work and assessment. All modules are taught through a blend of pre-recorded academic lectures, in-person seminars and online activities. These provide an overview of a topic and relevant learning materials and resources. Lectures introduce students to a topic and students contribute to seminars through independent preparation, in-class discussion and group-work.

Students are encouraged to attend a range of events and workshops within and beyond criminology. Led by criminology academics, the Criminology Seminar Series showcases contemporary issues in criminology and criminal justice and features national and international experts. As members of the School of Social Sciences, students are invited to attend skill-building workshops organised by faculty Learning and Development tutors, and can access events relating to politics, geography, psychosocial studies and sociology subject areas.

### **How we will assess you**

The course will use a variety of assessment methods to advance student learning and enable their progression throughout the programme. Knowledge and skills are developed through written essays and exams, oral presentations, reflective dialogue, the critical analysis of criminology scholarship and debates, independent research practice, and IT literacy. As students' progress through their studies, assessments vary in complexity through, for example, the range of requirements, time allocated and word length. Students are supported to complete their assessments through lecturer feedback across 1-1 and in-seminar guidance and formative assessments.

### **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 debates, theories and thinkers. Recognise how key ideas in criminology are informed and enhanced by critical and interdisciplinary approaches within and beyond the discipline.
2. Understand and situate criminological and criminal justice studies, policies and institutional practices within social contexts, encompassing historic, cultural, political and economic themes.
3. Evaluate a range of concepts and methods, which can be used to analyse developments and debates in criminology and criminal justice studies.
4. Apply theoretical ideas and approaches to real-world criminology and criminal justice events and issues.
5. Understand the tools and platforms available to access information and knowledge about criminology and criminal justice institutions, systems and processes

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Demonstrate robust academic practices and exercise sound judgment in thought and writing, in independent study and group work.
9. Take personal responsibility and demonstrate initiative when working independently and in groups.

### **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](#).

Copyright, Birkbeck, University of London 2022 ©