

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Cert HE Criminology (Level 4)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
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	Modular 1-4 years (students normally study part-time over 2-4 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u> <u>England</u>	Criminology
Birkbeck Course Code	UEHCNLGY
HECoS Code	100484 criminology
Start date of programme	Autumn 2008/09
Date of programme approval	Summer 2008
Date of last programme amendment approval	July 2013
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	23/07/2026

Admissions requirements

This is an open access programme (i.e. no formal qualifications are required). All modules are taught at university level, so students must be fluent in English reading, writing and speaking.

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.

Course aims

The Cert HE programme provides 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 provide students with criminology knowledge and transferable skills, important for academic and professional development. As an access course, the programme supports students to pursue further higher education. The programme:

- Enables students to apply theoretical criminology learning to real-world events. This involves emphasis on the lived experiences of people who deliver and are on the receiving end of criminal justice institutions and processes.
- Introduces students to key criminology debates and thinkers. It challenges mainstream criminology by introducing students to social approaches to crime and criminal justice.
- Extends beyond criminology, introducing students to interdisciplinary learning about crime and criminal justice issues using social science approaches.

The Cert HE Criminology is designed for students who wish to study in an academic environment and need to balance study with professional and personal commitments:

- The programme is sensitive to the needs of mature and part time students and gives recognition to prior academic and professional learning.
- Evening classes take place between 6pm and 9pm, Monday-Friday.
- Students will experience different modes of learning, including on campus and online modes of delivery
- Students learn in a stimulating learning environment, alongside students with diverse backgrounds and professional experiences.

Additional features:

- 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.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-Time modular enrolment programme (1-4 years): Students would normally take 1-3 modules per year over 2-4 years.					
4	FFCN014S4	What is Crime?	30	Core	T1-3
4	FFCN905S4	Crime and Society	30	Core	T2
4	FFCN906S4	Crime and Critical Psychology	30	Core	T2
4	FFCN907S4	Criminal Justice Institutions and Processes	30	Core	T1

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, seen and unseen exams, group work, reflective journals 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.

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

1. Demonstrate a grounding in key criminology debates, theories and thinkers. Recognise how selected 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.
3. Evaluate selected concepts and methods, which can be used to analyse developments and debates in criminology and criminal justice studies.
4. Apply selected theoretical ideas and approaches to real-world criminology and criminal justice events and issues.
5. Understand 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, and critical evaluation and analysis.
8. Demonstrate robust academic practices and exercise sound judgment in thought and in writing, in independent study, group work and assessment.
9. Take personal responsibility and demonstrate initiative when working independently and in groups.

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue careers in criminal justice, public safety or social welfare. Possible professions include:

- community development worker
- prison or probation officer
- social worker
- adult guidance worker.

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 ©