Criminology
Undergraduate study
Criminology is a multidisciplinary subject, which draws on disciplines such as sociology, law, psychology, philosophy, history, and social and public policy.

Our criminology course is an exciting programme, offering students the opportunity to study criminology within the broader framework of policy studies. The programme provides students with an understanding of crime and related social harms and the analysis of public policy interventions which contribute towards a safer and harm-free society. By drawing upon zemiological (social harm) perspectives it examines conventionally defined crimes and other activities or behaviour which may not be criminalised, but cause extensive harm to individuals and society.

Why study criminology at Bristol?

You can choose to study criminology as a three-year degree or as a four-year degree course with a year spent studying at an overseas university. You will be joining a friendly department which is highly regarded for the quality of its teaching and research. Criminology at Bristol is taught in the School for Policy Studies, which has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching. This was recognised in The Guardian university guide 2017, where Bristol was placed third in the UK for social policy.

The high quality teaching is related to the research strengths of the school: your lecturers will be among some of the leading researchers in their field. The results of the 2014 Research Exercise Framework (REF) confirm the excellence of research in social policy and social work in the School for Policy Studies: 80 per cent of our research was rated as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ and the school was rated eighth overall in the country (when taking into account the number of staff entered).

“Studying criminology with social policy at Bristol has been an insightful experience. It really helps you to understand and reflect on situations from multiple perspectives. It challenges you to think critically.”

Deeka Hussein (BSc Social Policy and Criminology)
These courses are designed to introduce you to the interdisciplinary study of criminology and to develop your skills and knowledge through the three years or four years of the degree. In your first year you will take four mandatory units introducing you to different types of crime and social harm and their contexts, key criminological concepts and theory, and responses to crime and social harms. The fourth unit will introduce you to academic and research skills. You will also take two optional units from within the school (from the social policy or childhood studies degrees) or open units from the wider University (eg languages).

In year two you will extend your knowledge and understanding of research methods through a further compulsory unit and develop a deeper understanding of criminological theory through an analysis of the contributions of key theorists. In addition, you will take at least three units from a list of criminology-related options (eg Drugs and Society; Youth Justice; Youth, Sexualities and Gendered Violence). Your remaining option will be taken from this list or chosen from the wider list of units available within the school.

In your final year you will undertake a dissertation – an independent piece of research – and a mandatory unit focused on the role of public policy and crime reduction. You will also take at least two criminology-related units (eg Children and Harm; Gender-based Violence; Punishment in Society; Globalisation, Crime, Harm and Justice) or choose a further unit from the list of units offered in the school.

**Study abroad**

Our new, four-year ‘with Study Abroad’ degree offers the exciting opportunity of spending your third year studying at one of our partner institutions. At your host university, you will be able to take units from the broader social sciences and the arts and humanities, including language units.

We have exchange schemes with City University of Hong Kong, Linköping University (Sweden), Pitzer College (US) or University of British Columbia (Canada) which allow students to spend part of their second year abroad.

**Teaching methods**

Teaching methods include traditional lectures, interactive lectures, classes or seminars, tutorials and clinics. Transferable skills are developed through working with others in small groups and giving presentations. Where appropriate, the course will provide you with practical experience. For example in the first year you will visit either the Magistrates’ Court or Crown Court and then give a group presentation on your observations in class. In years two and three you may have the opportunity to visit a local prison.

Practitioners and criminal justice policymakers are also invited to give lectures and talks on the programme.

**Assessment and feedback**

We place a strong emphasis on the role of assessment and feedback in helping you develop through your study. Every unit includes both formative and summative assessment. Methods of assessment include unseen examinations, extended essays and other structured written assignments. The 10,000 word dissertation is a piece of research carried out independently with the support of an academic advisor.

Best in the UK for social policy in *The Guardian* university league table 2018.
Our high quality, research-led programme will open up a wide choice of rewarding careers. When it comes to choosing a career, criminology graduates often have the best of both worlds. Graduates may go on to work in a variety of vocational roles across a range of public, private and voluntary sectors and many enter the national management training schemes for the Prison Service, local government and the civil service. Some graduates pursue professional vocations such as law and social work.

However, the degree is also commended for its broad appeal and our high-calibre graduates compete successfully for the wide range of graduate opportunities that do not require specific subject knowledge but rather a set of professional skills, such as communication, teamwork and problem solving.

A recent survey placed the University of Bristol in the UK top ten for graduate employability, confirming that a degree from the School for Policy Studies provides a strong foundation for your future career ambitions.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Criminology*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-criminology for other qualifications.

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC†).

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 29†) to include 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14†).

English Language Profile B††

GCSEs English and Mathematics at grade C or above.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Considered.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.
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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
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