If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

Photography
Rory Farrell
© University of Bristol

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format please contact us:
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk
Courses

Why study criminology at Bristol?

Criminology is a multidisciplinary subject that draws on many different disciplines, including sociology, law, psychology, philosophy, history, and social and public policy.

A unique feature of our criminology course is that it offers 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 that contribute towards a safer and harm-free society. By drawing on zemiological (social harm) perspectives, criminology at Bristol examines conventionally defined crimes and other activities or behaviour that may not be criminalised, but cause extensive harm to individuals and society (for example, poverty, inequality, pollution, social exclusion, injustice, discrimination and stress).

You will join a friendly department that is very highly regarded for the quality of its teaching and research. Criminology at Bristol is taught in the School for Policy Studies, which has been recognised in the Guardian University Guide 2019, where several courses in the school ranked first in their category.*

Our high-quality teaching is related to our research strengths, and your lecturers will be among some of the leading experts in their fields. The results of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) confirm the quality of research in the School for Policy Studies: 80 per cent of our research was rated as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’.

*BSc Social Policy and BSc Criminology (classified as Social Policy and Administration) placed first in the Guardian University Guide 2019.

‘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 (BSc Social Policy and Criminology)
What will you study?

Our courses are structured around the study and development of understanding in three interlocking areas.

- You will examine criminal justice and social justice;
- You will explore crime and social harm;
- Your study will cover local, national and global issues in crime and social harm.

Learning progresses in the interdisciplinary study of criminology from foundation to specialisation, and we do not assume that you have studied criminology before. In your first year you will take four mandatory units that introduce you to the study of criminology. You will learn about different types of crime and social harm and their contexts, and you will explore key criminological concepts and theory and assess the responses to crime and social harms. You will be supported to develop important academic and research skills that will be useful in your university studies and in your professional work. You can also take a range of optional units.

In year two you will extend your knowledge and understanding of research methods 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 such as: Globalisation, Crime, Harm and Justice; Drugs and Society; Youth Justice; Gender-Based Violence; Punishment in Society; Harms of the Powerful; Criminalising Welfare; or a criminology-relevant work placement (for example, in crime reduction, offender management or victim support). Additional options are available from a wider list of units within the school.

In your final year, you will undertake a dissertation – an independent piece of research on a criminology-related topic of your choice – along with a mandatory unit focused on the role of public policy and crime reduction. You will also select from a range of criminology-related units, such as: Leisure, Pleasure and Harm; Understanding Terrorism; Children and Young People in the Law; and Violence, Conflict and Forced Migration.

Study abroad
You can choose to study criminology as a three year degree or as a four-year degree with a year spent studying at one of our overseas partner universities. You can spend part of your second year abroad even if you are not taking the four-year course. At your host university, you will be able to study criminology or take units from the broader social sciences, arts and humanities, including language units.

We currently have international exchange opportunities with partner universities in Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, the US, Canada and Australia.

Teaching methods
We work hard to ensure that our teaching is engaging and is evaluated positively by our students. We use lectures, interactive learning, classes, seminars, group workshops, and group and one-to-one tutorials to help you learn. We also provide extensive online material to support your learning. Visiting criminology-related professionals are invited to speak and to answer your questions in order to further enhance your understanding and add practical knowledge.

Assessment and feedback
We place a strong emphasis on the role of assessment and feedback in helping you to learn and develop throughout your studies. In your first year you will take a specialist critical skills unit with other criminology students, and we support you to develop and improve your university-level and professional skills. Your transferable skills are developed further through working with others in small groups.

We use a range of assessment methods and you will always know how you will be assessed before you select a unit. Assessments include seen and unseen examinations, extended essays and reports, posters and presentations, creating videos, and online material such as blogs. The final year dissertation is a piece of research on a criminology-related topic of your choice that you carry out with the support of an academic adviser. We provide extensive training on how to succeed in assessments, as well as opportunities for you to practise and feedback on your work to help you improve.

Criminology students have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad, or choose a four-year degree with a year overseas.
Careers and graduate destinations

Our high-quality, research-led courses will open up a wide range 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 the public, private and voluntary sectors, and many enter national management training schemes for the Prison Service, the police, security services, local government and the civil service. Some graduates pursue professional vocations such as law and social work.

However, our degrees also have 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.

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers. High Fliers Research 2019

Making your application

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-criminology](bristol.ac.uk/ug20-criminology) for information about our courses.

**Typical offer for BSc Criminology**

**A-levels** ABB (contextual BBC).

**IB Diploma** 32 points overall (contextual 29) with 16 at Higher Level (contextual 14).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

**GCSEs** Standard numeracy requirement (4 or C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

**Selection process** UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-criminology](bristol.ac.uk/ug20-criminology).

Further information

Find out more about the School for Policy Studies: [bristol.ac.uk/sps](bristol.ac.uk/sps).

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-criminology](bristol.ac.uk/ug20-criminology).

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Graduate destinations for Criminology students were unavailable at the time of going to print. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired](bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired).

Read more about how we support you when you are here: [bristol.ac.uk/students](bristol.ac.uk/students)