

Undergraduate study

Criminology



Key highlights



Social harm specialists

Our criminology courses specialise in the study of social harm (zemiology) to understand how power, inequality and discrimination lead to injustices and harm, outside of the traditional approaches by the law and criminal justice system.



Multidisciplinary

Criminology draws on a diverse range of subjects including social policy, youth studies, sociology, politics and law.



International experts

Learn from our engaging staff, experts in criminal and social justice, policymaking, and research and evaluation.



World-leading research

Join a rich learning community, with 80 per cent of the school's research classed as 'world-leading' (REF 2014).

Why study criminology at Bristol?

Come and join our world-class research environment and study across disciplines including sociology, law, psychology, philosophy, history and social and public policy. A unique feature of our course is that it offers students the opportunity to study criminology within the broader framework of policy studies. You'll gain an understanding of crime and related social harms and analyse public policy interventions that contribute towards a safer and harm-free society.

You can study criminology as a three-year degree or a four-year degree that allows you to spend your third year at one of our partner universities overseas. At your host university, you will study criminology or take units from the broader social sciences, arts and humanities, or a language.

Q-Step programme

We offer the option of three- and four-year degree programmes that combine core disciplinary learning with enhanced quantitative skills training in applied data analysis relevant to research in the social sciences. Find out more about our 'with Quantitative Research Methods' course offerings at: bristol.ac.uk/qstep.

Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-criminology

What you will 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 from foundation to specialisation, and we do not assume you will have studied criminology before. In your first year, you will take mandatory units that introduce you to the study of criminology. You will also develop research skills and can choose from a range of optional units.

In year two, you will develop a deeper understanding of criminological theory and take at least three units from a list of criminology-related options such as: Criminalising Welfare; Globalisation, Crime and Harm; Harms of the Powerful; or Punishment in Society. You may also undertake a work placement, depending on your particular interest.

In your final year, you will undertake a dissertation along with a mandatory unit focusing on the role of public policy and harm reduction, and you will select from a range of criminology-related specialist units such as Drugs in Society, and Understanding Terrorism.

We work hard to ensure our teaching is engaging and relevant. Additional opportunities on the course may include lectures from criminology-related professionals and visits to courts and prisons. These experiences will further enhance your understanding and add practical knowledge.

'The course encompasses such a variety of topics from gender-based violence to corporate crimes. You don't just learn about crime but also about deep-rooted societal and political issues.'

Abi (BSc Criminology)



Providing a backdrop to your studies is Bristol, a vibrant and politically engaged city, enriched by cultural diversity.



The research carried out in the School for Policy Studies makes an enormous impact on policies and practice to improve people's lives. Explore examples of how our research has made a difference:
bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/impact.



You can choose to take a four-year Study Abroad degree, with a year studying in English at one of our prestigious partner universities overseas. Partner locations have included: Australia, Japan (pictured), Sweden, the Netherlands, or the US. Find out more: bristol.ac.uk/go-abroad.

Courses

BSc Criminology

BSc Criminology with Study Abroad

BSc / MSci Criminology with Quantitative Research Methods

BSc Social Policy with Criminology

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 School for Policy Studies, Uni of Bristol

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

