

## BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Behaviour Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2020-21
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Final and interim award(s):	<p>BA (Honours) [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6]</p> <p>BA (Ordinary) [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6]</p> <p>Diploma of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 5]</p> <p>Certificate of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 4]</p>
Programme duration:	3 years full time
UCAS code:	LM20
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	Criminology
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	April 2018; March 2019; March 2020; September 2020

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

## Introduction

This programme provides a wide-ranging education in criminological theory and practice that incorporates a focus on criminal behaviour drawing on psychological theory. The programme reflects the long experience in our Division of providing employment-related education that includes a work experience placement in the final year but links it strongly to academic knowledge. While the degree programme is related to work opportunities in the criminal justice sector, it equips students for a wide range of careers for which a social science degree programme is relevant and also provides a sound basis for further academic study in the social sciences and related disciplines.

Students will be taught by academics who have drawn on their interests and extensive research experience in designing this programme.

In YEAR ONE, Students will be provided with a module that introduces them to the approach that we take at the University of Bradford to studying social sciences critically ('Studying Social Sciences: A Critical Approach'). This will equip students for studying two introductory but academically focussed and challenging theoretical modules ('Introduction to Psychology' and 'Criminological Theory') along with two modules focussed on the history and practice of criminal justice ('Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice' and 'A Critical History of Crime and Punishment'). Students are also given a choice in the first year between two very different modules: 'Crime Scene Investigation' (taught by colleagues in Forensic Sciences) and 'British Society since 1945'.

In YEAR TWO, students engage with two very different research-focussed modules that develop their independent academic skills. 'Social Science Methodologies' will provide students with the skills to understand, interpret and critically assess a range of research techniques used throughout the social sciences and particularly related to their degree programme. This is followed by a module called 'Applying Social Science in Real World Contexts' that allows students to apply their new understanding of social science to the development of their own chosen research project. Students will also, as part of that module, begin to evaluate their academic skills in relation to future employment prospects.

Students will also in the second year include two integrated, complementary modules ('Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour' and 'Constructing Mental Health and Crime') that examine legal, medical and moral constructions of offending behaviour. Another module which complements this focus on criminal behaviour is 'Psychology and Crime', which takes Year One knowledge of psychology and deepens it with specific reference to criminal behaviour but also including consideration of crime victims as well as offenders. Finally, Students will also have the choice of an Elective module. This gives students the chance to choose from a wide range of modules available from across the university, including those from different Faculties and in completely different subject areas. If students are interested in this opportunity, they can seek the advice of their Personal Tutor in making the most interesting and rewarding choice possible.

In YEAR THREE, the final year, students will undertake two modules which again reflect the balance between theoretical and policy-related concerns within our programme; 'Models of Forensic Psychology' and 'International Perspectives on Crime'. Alongside these modules,

students will also take our 'Work Placement' module, which under normal circumstances provides them with a 33-day placement in a setting related to criminal justice and an assessment that integrates students practical experience with academic concerns already studied in the degree programme. Due to Covid, however, only some students can undertake a conventional placement while others are participating in a more flexible work experience module which includes presentations by partner organisations. Finally, students will also undertake a 'Dissertation' module in which they will produce an extended piece of independent academic study in which students will supported by our academic staff, including an individual Dissertation Tutor. This dissertation can be related to the Work Placement or on an unrelated topic in the general areas covered by the degree programme.

### Optionality

Within this programme, there is an increasing degree of choice afforded students as their personal academic interests develop. Such choice is most commonly experienced within modules, rather than between them:

- In YEAR ONE there is extensive choice of topic within most of assessments: essay topics are usually chosen from a list of at least six options. The same is true of examination questions and other forms of assessment. Students will also have a choice between two optional modules during their first semester.
- In YEAR TWO there is again extensive choice of topic within the assessments. Alongside this, there is, in the second semester; 1) a free choice of topics from within the broad subject of study from which to develop the dissertation proposal in the 'Applying Social Science in Real World Contexts' module, 2) the choice of an Elective module in the second semester, which can be from anywhere within our faculty or beyond so long as students are academically equipped for it.
- In YEAR THREE there is choice in the following areas: 1) we offer some element of choice in the area of placement, subject to the availability of placements and the strictures imposed by Covid, 2) students exercise continued choice in the study of their final year dissertation topic.

The programme also incorporates the following features:

### Interdisciplinarity and employability

The Sociology and Criminology Division has strong links with industry, business and related socio-legal professions through its existing work placement provision. Over a period exceeding ten years, we have developed relationships with professional bodies including the Crown Prosecution Service, Local Authorities and a wide range of charities and voluntary and community organisations both at a local and national level.

At all levels, core and optional modules provide value-added material that addresses employability. This particularly applies to 'Studying Social Sciences at Bradford', 'Applying Social Science in Real World Contexts' and the 'Work Placement' module.

The programme includes interdisciplinary elements that safeguard student's ability to move into a variety of fields and study in different disciplines following graduation. For example, the psychology modules that underpin the 'criminal behaviour' strand of the

programme will support their entry into British Psychological Society registered conversion courses.

### Internationalisation

Several modules encourage exploration of UK criminological and related issues in a European and global context. These include 'A Critical History of Crime and Punishment', 'Criminological Theory', 'Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour' and 'International Perspectives on Crime'.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop awareness of the position of Britain in relation to the rest of the world by offering study abroad opportunities.

### Sustainability

The programme is designed to introduce key issues related to the university academic theme of 'sustainable societies' through modules taught by research-active staff whose fieldwork interests include sociology, law and related vocational and professional subjects (including education and social work). Such modules include: 'British Society since 1945: Rethinking History', 'Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour' and 'Constructing Mental Health and Crime'.

### Equality and Diversity

Drawing on current strengths, the programme

- (a) recruits students from a diverse range of backgrounds
- (b) provides a varied contemporary programme with an inclusive curriculum and a welcoming and supportive environment
- (c) facilitates cross-disciplinary research and teaching
- (d) builds links with the city and region via our existing professional links

As a graduate of this programme, students will be in a position to progress to further study in fields related to criminology, sociology or psychology. Students will be equipped to take up posts in a broad range of statutory and non-statutory agencies and will be a confident and self-starting learner with the ability to situate their learning in a global context.

## Programme Aims

The programme:

- provides experience of criminology, sociology and psychology that conforms to academic benchmarks and encourages the contextualisation of wider sociological themes and issues.
- develops the ability of students to move across these three different disciplinary fields.
- promotes development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that support future employability.

- exposes students to a research-informed curriculum. By this we mean that students are taught by academic members of staff whose research interests are reflected in modules they teach, the examples and case studies they use and the advice they give to the student.
- locates the study and understanding of crime and criminal behaviour in local, national and international contexts.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

To be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education at FHEQ level 4, students will be able to:

- PLO 1 Recognise and discuss major features in the study of criminology and the criminal justice system. These include criminal justice agency practices, changing values and relationships between individuals, groups, and public and private agencies and the distinctions between criminology and other academic disciplines.
- PLO 2 Recognise and discuss major theoretical approaches in psychology and sociology that are related to the study of crime.
- PLO 3 Demonstrate study skills in critical and analytical thinking, information searching and collection, group work, IT, written and oral communication, and time planning and management, including the development and delivery of oral arguments and of academic essays with accurate referencing.
- PLO 4 Assess the values and practices of key agencies which administer responses to crime and deviance, including the processes of governance, and including human rights that underpin the treatment of law-breakers within the UK criminal justice system.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education at FHEQ level 5, students will be able to:

- PLO 5 Evaluate UK society and social policy, and the central features of the history, practice and social context of UK criminal justice policy, reflecting critically on social phenomena and public debates and locating these in an international context.
- PLO 6 Critically appraise core applied developments in the fields of social psychology and crime.
- PLO 7 Recognise a range of research strategies and methods and identify an appropriate strategy for their use in relation to research problems. This includes the ability to make academic use of empirical data about crime, victimisation and responses to crime.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

- PLO 8 Synthesise a range of materials and research practices within which to locate current international criminological debates.

PLO 9 Explain and evaluate complex social problems in terms of criminological theories of crime, class, gender, ethnicity, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance in historical and contemporary contexts and drawing on explanations drawn from social psychology in an area of criminality or deviance.

PLO 10 Evidence the ability to critically evaluate actions, events and research in an appropriate academic format.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

PLO 11 Critically evaluate and assess the value of criminological work on crime, victimisation, responses to crime and deviance, and representations of these in relation to governmental policy questions at national, international and global levels.

PLO 12 Demonstrate effective and critical use of research strategies across the range of the subject of study, through the use of evidence to support argument in extended academic study.

## Curriculum

### Stage 1

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
4	Studying Social Sciences: A Critical Approach	Core	20	Sem 1	SAC4009-B
4	Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice	Core	20	Sem 1	SAC4007-B
4	Introduction to Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation	Option	20	Sem 1	ARC4017-B
4	British Society Since 1945: Rethinking History	Option	20	Sem 1	SAC4010-B
4	A Critical History of Crime and Punishment	Core	20	Sem 2	SAC4011-B
4	Introduction to Psychology	Core	20	Sem 2	SAC4008-B
4	Criminological Theory	Core	20	Sem 2	SAC4012-B

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Stage 2

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
5	Social Science Methodologies: Interpreting the Social World	Core	20	Sem 1	SAC5014-B
5	Psychology and Crime: Victims and Offenders	Core	20	Sem 1	SAC5017-B
5	Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour	Core	20	Sem 1	SAC5018-B
5	Constructing Mental Health and Crime	Core	20	Sem 2	SAC5019-B
5	Applying Social Science in Real World Contexts: Research and Employment	Core	20	Sem 2	SAC5016-B

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Stage 3

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
6	Models of Forensic Psychology	Core	20	Sem 1	SAC6006-B
6	Work Placement	Core	40	Sem 1&2	SAC6007-D
6	Disertation	Core	40	Sem 1&2	SAC6015-D
6	International Perspectives on Crime	Core	20	Sem 2	SAC6005-B

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at 120 credits in both Level 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6 and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## **Placement and/or Study Abroad**

Under normal circumstances the programme includes a work placement of 33 days. There are also the following opportunities:

- A nine-week Student Guardian experience with West Yorkshire Police for volunteer students at the end of YEAR TWO.
- Mirroring Student Guardian placements with other local criminal justice agencies
- The Probation Service
- Optional study of one semester abroad
- Reciprocal arrangements with other international universities to provide academic and research experience for short periods.
- Other long- and short-term work placements.

For further information about study abroad opportunities please refer to <https://unibradfordac.sharepoint.com/sites/opportunities-abroad-intranet>

This year, however, for many students the work placement experience has had to be altered due to Covid since many placement providers have been unable to take students. While a few students have been able to go out on placement, the majority are being provided with a more flexible, partly virtual work placement module in which (for example) partner organisations discuss work experience via online sessions.

## **Learning and Teaching Strategy**

This year, Learning and Teaching on the degree has been revised – and constantly is being assessed - in order to offer a blended experience in which modules combine online and face to face teaching as appropriate to each. Despite the revisions to delivery, we hope the degree which we offer remains true to our original strategies and values.

The course uses different teaching methods in order to provide a varied diet, allowing all students to learn appropriately. Some modules take place on the wider faculty arena, bringing students into contact with students of other disciplines. Some modules are taught by more than one member of staff and some utilise practitioners in the area. In the first year, students will typically be in lectures, workshops and seminar groups with other students from their degree programme. Students will also have individual and group tutorials with their Personal Academic Tutor to develop their learning skills and style.

In the second year, Students will experience teaching styles like those in year one, but which also encourage students to apply their developing skills to constructing research approaches and projects. For example, in the ‘Social Science Methodologies’ module students will engage in real-world research projects in collaboration with their fellow students and learn to use live data that students have generated themselves.

In the final year, Students will apply their developing skills in self-directed study to more independent work on a dissertation and a work placement as well as applying the knowledge acquired in previous years to two specialist crime modules. Under normal

circumstances, during the Work Placement module, students will spend 33 days on a placement of three days a week over 11 weeks. This will take place in a setting related to criminal justice work and students will be visited and supervised by the Module Leader and other colleagues from the university. When placements are impossible due to Covid, students will undertake a more flexible work placement module which includes presentations and discussions by members of partner organisations.

Several of the teaching staff are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy and all our academic staff teach using both lectures and group work, with the latter including seminar groups on several modules and individual tutorial support in the development of a dissertation proposal in the second year and the completion of the dissertation itself in the final year.

## **Assessment Strategy**

Assessments are varied between modules, offering a mix of assessment types, including individual and group presentations (which encourage collaborative learning), essays, reports and examinations. Students are offered opportunities to present formative assessments in all modules where this is feasible. Such formative assessments provide valuable feedback that students can learn from before submitting the final assessments. The assessment diet is incremental, graduating in length to offer the opportunity for a major piece of academic work and a work-related academic analysis in their final year. For example, both research-focussed modules at Level 5 (Social Science Methodologies, and 'Applying Social Science in Real World Contexts) build on study skills developed at Level Four and contribute a strong knowledge and skills base that then goes on to be applied during the Dissertation module in the final year.

## **Assessment Regulations**

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

[www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations)

## **Admission Requirements**

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The minimum entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- 96 UCAS points. There are no specific subject requirements at A level, but a good standard of English would be required at GCSE level (Grade C/4 or equivalent).

The UCAS tariff applicable may vary and is published here:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/criminology-criminal-behaviour-ba/>

**Please note:** This link provides admission information relevant to the current recruitment cycle and therefore may be different to when this document was originally published.

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

## Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
2	Specification reformatted and made accessible.	November 2020