

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

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

<b>Academic Year:</b>	2024/25
<b>Degree Awarding Body:</b>	The University of Bradford
<b>Subject Benchmark(s):</b>	Criminology (QAA 2019)
<b>Target Degree Award:</b>	Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Criminology [BA (Hons), Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 6]
<b>Interim/Exit Awards:</b>	Ordinary Degree of Bachelor [BA, FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education [DipHE, FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education [CertHE, FHEQ Level 4]
<b>Mode of Study:</b>	3 years, Full-time, September entry [UCAS code LM20]

**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.

### **Minor Modifications Schedule**

1. November 2020: Specification made accessible
2. April 2021: Updated placement and study abroad information
3. June 2021: More Criminology content in Stage 2. Annual changes for 2021/22 academic year
4. October 2022: Annual changes published for 2022/23 academic year
5. January 2023: Corrected codes at Stage 2 and Stage 3
6. May 2023: Additional optional modules included for stage 3
7. April 2024; Annual changes for 2024 academic year

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### **Introduction**

This programme provides a wide-ranging education in criminological theory and practice that incorporates a focus on criminal behaviour drawing on sociological, historical and psychological insights. The programme reflects the long experience in our Department 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.

## Sustainability and Internationalisation

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: 'Norms, Deviance and Culture' and 'Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour'.

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. Graduates will be a confident and self-starting learner with the ability to situate their learning in a global context.

## Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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.

## Interdisciplinarity and employability

The Sociology and Criminology Department has strong links with industry, business and related socio-legal professions through its existing work placement provision. 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 'Proposals for Research and Employability' module,

- (2) the choice of an Elective module in the second semester, which can be from anywhere within the University so long as it accepts elective students and that 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 continuing strictures imposed by Covid-19,
  - (2) students exercise continued choice in the study of their final year dissertation topic.

At all levels, core and optional modules provide value-added material that addresses employability. This particularly applies to 'Critical Study Skills', 'Proposals for Research and Employability' and the 'Work Placement' module.

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.

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 postgraduate conversion courses.

## **Programme Aims**

The programme:

- A1. provides experience of criminology, sociology, history and psychology that conforms to academic benchmarks and encourages the contextualisation of wider sociological themes and issues.
- A2. develops the ability of students to move across different disciplinary fields.
- A3. promotes development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that support future employability.
- A4. 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.
- A5. locates the study and understanding of crime and criminal behaviour in local, national and international contexts.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

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

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.
2. Recognise and discuss major theoretical approaches in psychology and sociology that are related to the study of crime.
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.
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 FHEQ Level 5 Diploma of Higher Education award, students will be able to:**

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.
6. Critically appraise core applied developments in the fields of social psychology and crime.
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 FHEQ Level 6 Honours Degree award of Bachelor, students will be able to:**

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

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

## **Learning and Teaching Strategy**

Our course uses different teaching methods in order to provide a varied diet, allowing all students to learn appropriately. Some modules take place in 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 conduct their work placement in a setting related to criminal justice work. When placements are impossible (for example due to Covid), students will undertake a more flexible work placement module which includes presentations and discussions.

Several 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 Research Methods in Context' and 'Proposals for Research and Employability') 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.

## Curriculum

The BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Behaviour programme consists of 360 credits, made up of core and optional modules. Optionality refers to the opportunities that students have to choose from a range of modules and select topics they will use to complete learning activities on the programme. Students will study 120 credits of modules at each Stage of the programme, corresponding to the expected Year - 1, 2 or 3. Taught modules are studied across the 'Academic Year' of October to April, during the first half (Semester 1) or second half (Semester 2). The summer period offers an opportunity for final examinations and any supplementary assessment required.

Please note: The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme monitoring and review processes.

## Stage 1

In year one, students study 120 credits from the list below. They 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 ('Critical Study Skills'). 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 'Norms, deviance and culture'.

**Stage 1 Modules (FHEQ Level 4/CertHE)**

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level	Core / Option
Semester 1	SAC4019-B	Critical Study Skills	20	FHEQ 4	Core
Semester 1	SAC4007-B	Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice	20	FHEQ 4	Core
Semester 1	ARC4017-B	Introduction to Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation	20	FHEQ 4	Option
Semester 1	SAC4021-B	Norms, Deviance and Culture	20	FHEQ 4	Option
Semester 1	SAC4020-B	Key Themes and Thinkers in Sociology	20	FHEQ 4	Option
Semester 2	SAC4011-B	A Critical History of Crime and Punishment	20	FHEQ 4	Core
Semester 2	SAC4012-B	Criminological Theory	20	FHEQ 4	Core
Semester 2	SAC4008-B	Introduction to Psychology	20	FHEQ 4	Core

## Stage 2

In year two, students study 120 credits from the list below. Students will engage with two very different research-focussed modules that develop their independent academic skills. 'Social Research Methods in Context' 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 'Proposals for Research and Employability' 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 skills in relation to future employment prospects.

Students will also in the second year include two mutually supportive modules ('Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour' and 'Policing'). The former examines themes relevant to Criminology from a general legal perspective, while the latter addresses issues associated with the exercise of the law by the main enforcement agency. 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.

In Semester 2, students will also have the choice of 1 of 4 selected optional modules or a University elective. This gives almost unlimited range, including modules from different Faculties and in completely different subject areas. If students are interested in elective study, they can seek the advice of their Personal Tutor in making the most interesting and rewarding choice possible.

### Stage 2 Modules (FHEQ Level 5/DipHE)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level	Core / Option
Semester 1	SAC5018-B	Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour	20	FHEQ 5	Core
Semester 1	SAC5017-B	Psychology and Crime: Victims and Offenders	20	FHEQ 5	Core
Semester 1	SAC5022-B	Social Research Methods in Context: Cities, Places and People	20	FHEQ 5	Core
Semester 2	SAC5021-B	Policing in Contemporary Times	20	FHEQ 5	Core
Semester 2	SAC5025-B	Proposals for Research and Employability	20	FHEQ 5	Core
Semester 2	SOW4011-B	Attachment Theory in Practice	20	FHEQ 4	Option
Semester 2	PSY5015-B	Lifespan and Individual Differences	20	FHEQ 5	Option
Semester 2	PSY6001-B	Forensic Psychology	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 2	SOW5015-B	Sociology of the Family	20	FHEQ 5	Option
Semester 2	Any-B	University Semester 2 Elective	20	5/6	Option

## Stage 3

In the final year, students study 80 core credits from the list below. Students must then also choose 40 credits of optional modules over 2 semesters. There is an option to undertake work placement as a 20 credit module during semester 1. Finally, there is a module that requires the student to develop and write a dissertation.

Students will undertake two modules which again reflect the balance between theoretical and policy-related concerns within our programme, 'Offenders, Punishment and Change' and 'International Perspectives on Crime'. The former examines the treatment of offenders 'end to end' by the Criminal Justice System, while the latter ensures that our students understand the need to view Crime and Policing in the UK as linked closely to developments occurring outside of the British Isles.

Alongside these modules, students have the option to take one of our 'Work Placement' modules, which under normal circumstances provides them with a 33-day placement (40-credit module) or 16-day placement (20-credit module) in a setting related to criminal justice and an assessment that integrates students practical experience with academic concerns already studied in the degree programme. In 2020-21, this module had to be modified due to Covid. Finally, students will also undertake a 'Dissertation' module in which they will produce an extended piece of independent academic study in which students will be 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.

**Stage 3 Modules (FHEQ Level 6/BSc)**

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level	Core / Option
Academic Year	SAC6015-D	Dissertation	40	FHEQ 6	Core
Semester 1	SAC6020-B	Offenders, Punishment and Change	20	FHEQ 6	Core
Semester 2	SAC6005-B	International Perspectives on Crime	20	FHEQ 6	Core
Semester 1	PES6026-B	Authoritarianism, Nationalism and Populism	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 1	SAC6020-B	Offenders, Punishment, Change	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 1	SAC5026-B	Understanding Race and Ethnicity	20	FHEQ 5	Option
Semester 1	SAC6019-B	Health in Society	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 1	SAC6021-B	Work Placement	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 1	SAC6026-B	Health in Society: Community Care Perspectives	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 2	SAC6005-B	International Perspectives on Crime	20	FHEQ 6	Option



Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level	Core / Option
Semester 2	PES6027-B	Technology, Violence and War	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 2	PSY5015-B	Lifespan and Individual Differences (with PSY7026-B)	20	FHEQ 5	Option
Semester 2	SAC5024-B	Gender and Sexuality: Concepts and Applications	20	FHEQ 5	Option
Semester 2	SAC5027-B	Popular Culture, Media and Power	20	FHEQ 5	Option
Semester 2	SAC6023-B	Educational Transitions	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 2	SAC6024-B	Sustainability and Consumption: Past, Present and Future	20	FHEQ 6	Option
Semester 2	SAC6025-B	Globalisation, Migration and Refugees	20	FHEQ 6	Option

## Placement and Study Abroad

### Work Placement

Under normal circumstances the programme can include the following work placement opportunities:

- Working with organisations that are engaging with disaffected youth
- Working with organisations that support victims of domestic violence
- Other long- and short-term work placements.

When a 'normal' placement experience isn't possible (for example due to Covid), we can offer a more flexible, partly virtual work placement module in which (for instance) the students engage in mock work-related exercises.

### Study Abroad

The following opportunities are available:

- Reciprocal arrangements with other international universities to provide academic and research experience for short periods.
- Optional study of one semester abroad.

Students can choose to study abroad for a semester in Stage 1 or Stage 2 in specified approved partner Universities. This list is a subset of the Study Abroad Year partners offered and changes year-to-year depending on the curriculum offered.

The semester abroad can be used during semester 2 OR 1 depending on the programme. This option can be available ONLY if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange.

Unlike a year abroad exchange, the semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme leader and the Director of Studies in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Programme Leader and Director of Programmes.

If the student fails a module abroad, the student must explore the possibility of re-taking exams at the host university and immediately inform the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the students final degree.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Semester, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students/>

## **Assessment Regulations**

This programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

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.

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.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at 120 credits at Stage 1, 120 credits at Stage 2 and 60 credits at Stage 3.

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.

## Admissions

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.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme is around 96 points. There are no subject-specific requirements at A-Level/RQF Level 3. However, all students will need a good standard of English language: GCSE English Grade 4/C or higher, or a recognised Key Skills/RQF Level 2 equivalent qualification.

On completion of a UCAS form students will be invited to the Faculty for an Open Day when they will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss “the Bradford experience” with current students.

In line with our commitment to widening access and opportunities for students from non-traditional university backgrounds, consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience. We may also invite students to interview and ask students to undertake an entry assessment.

## International students

This programme welcomes international applicants. For information on what qualifications are equivalent to the above, visit the Entry Requirements page for your country by visiting: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/country/>

The standard English language requirements apply for candidates for whom English is not a first language and you can find more information about these, and which English tests we accept, online at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/>

If you do not meet the University or UK Student Visa IELTS requirement, you can take a University of Bradford pre-sessional English course with our Language Centre: <https://www.brad.ac.uk/courses/other/pre-sessional-english-language-programme/>

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, and/or significant personal/professional experience.

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.

For more information about the University's Recognition of Prior Learning processes visit: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning/>

## Access and Inclusion

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply at: [www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before/](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before/)

Our Admissions Team will take into consideration a number of contextual factors when assessing applications. Applications are particularly welcomed from adult learners (those aged 21+ at the start of the programme), armed forces families, carers and care leavers, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller families. To find out more about the University of Bradford Progression Scheme, visit the webpage: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/applicants/progression-scheme/>

**Please note:** This admission information is relevant to the contemporary recruitment cycle and therefore may be different to when this document was originally published. The UCAS tariff applicable may vary and is published here: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/criminology-criminal-behaviour-ba/>

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