MRes

Criminological Research

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Studying Criminology at Liverpool means engaging with the most controversial and talked about issues of our times. In the sophisticated research environment of our long-established and influential Department, we will provide you with advanced theoretical and practical training in postgraduate-level research.

Introduction

This MRes draws on the nationally and internationally recognised expertise of staff in the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology. Over the past five years, our research has shaped criminal justice policy, improved auditing practices in public bodies and helped set best practice in evaluating large-scale arts and cultural programmes.

The programme prepares you to specialise in criminological research and develop advanced skills in studying crime-related topics. You will undertake a substantial independent research project, closely supervised by a leading scholar in their field. This experience is valuable whether you're preparing for a career, PhD study or seeking continuous professional development.

Graduates are well placed for a wide variety of careers across national and local Government, commercial research, charitable, public or private sectors. Regional Development Agencies have noted the rapid rise in demand for graduates who qualify in the full spectrum of research design and analysis techniques, skills that your will develop throughout the MRes.

Who is this course for?

This MRes is suitable for graduates from the Social Sciences or related areas who want advanced theoretical and practical training in postgraduate-level research.

What you'll learn

- How to plan and conduct a large criminological research project
- A critical understanding of epistemological, methodological and ethical approaches in criminological research
- Training in general research skills
- Skills in scholarly presentation, documentation, critical evaluation and the communication of ideas
- How social, public and civil policy can be influenced by criminological knowledge
- Project management and problem-solving skills

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

This programme consists of 60 credits of taught modules and a 30,000 word dissertation worth 120 credits.

The process of preparing the dissertation, including developing a research question and proposal, will take place throughout semester 1 and 2. Your dissertation will be submitted in semester 3.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
THE POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (SOCI500)	20
PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (SOCI505)	20
DISSERTATION (SOCI525)	120

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

In addition to the compulsory modules in semester 1, you should choose 20 credits of social research methods training modules in semester 2.

The process of preparing the dissertation, including developing a research question and proposal, will take place throughout semester 1 and 2. Your dissertation will be submitted in semester 3.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (SOCI525)	120

Optional modules	Credits
AN INTRODUCTION TO DATA VISUALIZATION USING R (SOCI523)	10
PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (SOCI528)	10
AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (SOCI531)	10
ETHNOMETHODOLOGY AND CONVERSATION ANALYSIS (SOCI536)	10

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Your dissertation will be submitted in semester 3 and carries 120 of the total 180 credits.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (SOCI525)	120

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is delivered in an interactive, participatory and inclusive way, with extensive support of small group teaching and online learning platforms. You'll have a mix of lectures, large group seminars/tutorials, small group workshops, one to one tutorials and research supervision meetings.

How you're assessed

You will study 60 credits of taught modules and complete a dissertation worth 120 credits.

Each of the taught modules is formally assessed by coursework on a semester basis. Depending on the learning objectives of the module, this may include project work, fieldwork analysis, a research strategy document, a report of research observation, a book review or the completion and analysis of interviews.

Your advanced criminological research project will be assessed coursework through a 30,000 word dissertation.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

Careers and employability

A MRes in Criminological Research offers a broad spectrum of career opportunities and will provide a solid basis for pursuing a researcher-related career in a range of criminal justice-related fields and sectors, including policy development and research in the public and third sectors.

You will develop a range of social scientific, analytic and communication skills and a variety of transferable skills valued by many employers in a range of industries (e.g. media organisations, charitable organisations, and commercial and financial service sectors).

Our graduates have gone onto successful careers in both the public and private sectors:

- Criminal justice agencies
- Police
- Social welfare
- Local government
- Non-governmental organisations (e.g. working with organisations supporting homeless people and refugees)

This MRes will also prepare you well if you wish to pursue an academic career or a university research career in the Social Sciences (Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology) or in a related discipline.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £5,238
Part-time place, per year - £2,619

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £25,350
Part-time place, per year - £12,650

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. The University may administer inflationary rises to international fees in subsequent academic years as you progress through the course.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

Please note, this programme may have additional costs associated with it depending on your choice of a lab or computational/fieldwork-based project.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a social science, or in a field relevant to the programme.

All applicants are required to supply: a completed application form, proof of qualifications and two references (one of which, as a minimum, must be academic). Applicants are considered on the basis of academic ability and potential and other relevant considerations are also taken into account. Applicants who have marginally missed the benchmark indicated above, are considered on a discretionary basis.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **University of Liverpool International College**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MRes, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no	6 weeks	On campus or

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
component below 5.5		online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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