



MA

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Entry requirements

2:2 degree

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Unlock a world of possibilities with the MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Dive into critical debates on crime and justice, while exploring themes of inequality and social divisions. Tailor your journey through flexible modules and real-world placements, all while gaining essential skills for impactful careers in policy and criminal justice.

Introduction

This dynamic, globally oriented programme critically examines the complex intersections of crime, justice and power in an ever-changing world. Through core modules such as Thinking Criminologically and Beyond Criminal Justice, you'll delve into pressing issues like inequality, social divisions and international responses to crime, all while fostering a strong sense of social justice.

Designed with your future in mind, this MA equips you with essential skills in critical thinking to digital fluency, preparing you for careers in policy, criminal justice and beyond. You'll have the opportunity to gain real-world experience through industry placements and impactful research projects, such as collaboration with the [Interchange](#) charity to drive positive change in local communities.

What truly sets our programme apart is the flexibility it offers. You can tailor your studies with optional modules like Gender-Based Violence and Criminal Justice, and Migration, Trafficking and Modern Slavery, aligning your education with your career goals and interests.

Delivered through interactive workshops, this distinctly critical programme fosters collaboration and practical learning, ensuring you graduate with the skills and insights needed to make a difference in the field of criminology and criminal justice.

You can also study Criminology and Criminal Justice as a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert).

Who is this course for?

This master's is suitable for graduates in the social sciences or related fields. The programme provides excellent preparation for students wishing to pursue a career in areas such as the government sector, civil service, criminal justice institutions and related organisations, third sector organisations, research positions, policy making and journalism. It is also an excellent step for those wishing to undertake postgraduate study at MPhil and PhD levels, or to become independent or career social researchers.

The PGDip and PGCert qualification options are ideal for practising professionals or graduates seeking an advanced qualification to inform their work or support career progression, without the time commitment required for a full master's degree.

What you'll learn

- Global perspectives on contemporary crime and criminal justice issues.
- Critical analysis of criminology research methodologies.
- Planning and conducting independent social research.
- Transferable skills for various employment sectors.
- Historical and cultural contexts of criminological thought.
- Impact of social and economic divisions on justice.
- Exploration of alternative criminological theories.
- Ethical principles and diverse research methods.

Course content

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

Semester one

In Semester 1, all modules are compulsory, contributing to a total of 60 credits.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SOCI542)	20
THE POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (SOCI500)	20
THINKING CRIMINOLOGICALLY: PERSPECTIVES AND APPROACHES (SOCI541)	20

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

Semester two

In Semester 2, you chose up to 60 credits of optional modules. You may take either 60 credits of subject-based modules, or 40 credits of subject-based modules with 20 credits of research methods-based modules.

Subject-based modules: SOCI543, SOCI544, SOCI546, SOCI548 and LAW585.

Research methods-based modules: SOCI523, SOCI528, SOCI531, SOCI536 and SOCI537.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
CRITICAL APPROACHES TO EXTREMISM, RADICALISATION AND TERRORISM (SOCI543)	20
INVESTIGATING GLOBAL SOCIAL HARMS (SOCI544)	20
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SOCI546)	20
PAST LIVES: CRITIQUING AND CREATING TRUE CRIME (SOCI548)	20
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRIME (LAW585)	20
USING FOUCAULT'S METHODS (SOCI538)	10
ETHNOMETHODOLOGY AND CONVERSATION ANALYSIS (SOCI536)	10
PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (SOCI528)	10
AN INTRODUCTION TO DATA VISUALIZATION USING R (SOCI523)	10
AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (SOCI531)	10

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

Final project

You must take either the Dissertation module or the Extended Interchange Project module, both worth 60 credits each.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
EXTENDED INTERCHANGE PROJECT (SOCI530)	60
DISSERTATION (SOCI403)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You'll be taught through a mixture of large group seminars/tutorials, small group workshops, one to one tutorials and research supervision meetings. You'll also carry out project work and private study.

Teaching is delivered in an interactive, participatory and inclusive way, with extensive support of small group teaching and online learning platforms.

How you're assessed

You'll be assessed through a variety of methods that mirror real-world challenges, giving you the opportunity to showcase your knowledge in ways that matter. Coursework will allow you to dive deep into research, critically analyse complex issues and explore cutting-edge criminology and criminal justice approaches. You'll also sharpen your communication skills by producing authentic outputs like essays, reports, blogs, and even podcasts. Group presentations and collaborative projects will help you build confidence, leadership and teamwork, while reflective assessments will encourage you to actively engage with your own learning journey. These assessment methods will equip you to confidently articulate your ideas to a range of audiences—whether pitching to government, presenting at conferences, or sharing insights with the public.

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.

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Careers and employability

This programme is designed with your future in mind, focusing on the skills that employers need today and tomorrow. We align our curriculum with key industry demands, ensuring you're prepared for the evolving job market. You'll develop a blend of hard and soft skills, from critical thinking and research to collaboration, responsibility and cultural empathy.

Our strong connections within various sectors will support you in building a wide range of transferable experience, which is essential for diverse career paths. You will have opportunities to work directly with industry through our Interchange modules. Here, you'll translate theory into practice, gain insight into the key challenges faced by different sectors, and explore how you can contribute to addressing them.

This programme prepares you for a wide range of careers and further study, across areas such as:

- Legal roles, including paralegal, legal assistant and advisor positions
- Government and civil service
- Criminal justice, including police and prison services
- Intelligence, security and cyber intelligence roles
- The third sector, such as charities, non-profits, social work and welfare
- Research and policy-making
- Journalism and media

It also equips you with the knowledge and skills to progress to postgraduate study, including doctoral research.

Throughout the programme, you will also build valuable knowledge and your skills through:

- Applied projects and practical assessments
- Placement opportunities
- Guest lectures from leading professionals and researchers in the field

You'll also benefit from the University's extensive skill-based resources, such as specialised training sessions offered by the library, and exciting extra-curricular research events hosted by the School of Law and Social Justice.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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 – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

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

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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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 Criminology, Criminal Justice, or a social science subject.

Candidates with relevant professional qualifications – for example Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW), Diploma in Social Work (DipSW), Youth Justice Professional Certificate in Effective Practice (PCEP), Police Sergeant's Examinations – will be considered in cases where such qualifications are accompanied by substantial work experience in a relevant field.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

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

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

INDIA Standard XII

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

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 component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or 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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