



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Criminology

UCAS code L311

Entry requirements

A level: BBB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **30 June 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Our Criminology degree tackles the problems of crime, deviance, victimisation and social harm in a high quality programme that makes the subject exciting and intellectually challenging.

Introduction

Criminology involves the study of complex issues of crime and criminal justice. Criminologists play an important role in the criminal justice system.

You will be taught by experts who influence and develop policy—some of the world's most respected and influential criminologists teach and research within our Department. This course draws on the our expertise in crime prevention, surveillance, policing, sentencing, victimology, youth justice and corporate crime. Modules are continually updated to ensure you receive a well-rounded criminology learning experience.

Our programmes are grounded in cutting-edge research and provide excellent preparation for careers or further study where clear, creative thinking is valued. You'll explore everything from the historical foundations of crime and punishment to the impact of digitisation on social, political, economic and cultural life.

What you'll learn

- Generating and evaluating evidence
- Making reasoned arguments and ethical judgements
- Critical thinking
- Collecting, analysing and interpreting data
- Report writing
- Undertaking and producing research
- Written and oral communication
- Time management and planning

^ [Back to top](#)

Course content

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

Year one

The first year of your course provides an introduction to exploring 'crime' in its social, historical and political context. Getting to grips with the key concepts in criminology and its wider social scientific roots is dealt with at year one to ensure easy transition to years two and three. Our Studying Society module explores the use of social science research methods and ensures that by the second year, you'll be fully acquainted with all the skills you need to progress in your studies.

*Some modules may not be available depending on your selected programme of study.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTROLLING CRIME - AN INTRODUCTION (SOC1108)	15
INTRODUCTION TO CRIME AND SOCIETY (SOC1107)	15
BECOMING A SOCIAL RESEARCHER (SOC1106)	30
SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (SOC1101)	30
SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY 1 (SOC1102)	15
SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY 2: CHANGING INEQUALITIES (SOC1103)	15

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

Year two

In the second year, the core modules provide a deeper coverage of the range of criminological knowledge and particular controversies in criminal justice practice. We also explore the role of the criminologist in the world of policy and activism.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
PUNISHMENT, PENALTY AND PRISONS: CRITICAL DEBATES (SOCI254)	15
QUANTITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (SOCI247)	15
QUALITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (SOCI248)	15
CRIMINOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS (SOCI244)	30
POLICING IN A DIVIDED SOCIETY (SOCI241)	15

Optional modules	Credits
DEVIANCE, YOUTH AND CULTURE (SOCI252)	15
CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL POLICY IN THE UK (SOCI205)	15
THE BLACK PRESENCE - MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN BRITAIN 1800-1979 (SOCI223)	15
THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY: APPROACHES TO SOCIAL INQUIRY (SOCI242)	30
CRITICAL EDUCATION STUDIES (SOCI257)	15

Optional modules	Credits
COMPARING WELFARE STATES (SOC1207)	15
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETY (SOC1258)	15
UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE (SOC1296)	15

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

Year three

In year three, you'll have the choice to study specialist subjects in-depth and develop their independent learning. Those who opt for a Dissertation are given freedom to pursue their interest in a topic of their choice, whilst those opting for our Applied Social Research or Social Policy Project module get a chance to combine work experience with academic knowledge. We have considerable experience in combining your research interests with the work needs and aims of local agencies.

Dissertation routes:

You must choose **SOCI301** or **SOCI303** or **SOCI347** or **SOCI311** (Semester 1 only).

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (SOCI301)	30
INTERCHANGE PORTFOLIO: WORK-BASED LEARNING (SOCI303)	30
CREATIVE CONSULTANT: DISSERTATION BY PORTFOLIO (SOCI347)	30
SHORT INTERCHANGE PROJECT (SOCI311)	15

Optional modules	Credits
HEALTH, LIFECOURSE & SOCIETY (SOCI307)	15
GENDER, THE BODY AND IDENTITY (SOCI315)	15
HATE CRIME AND 'THE STIGMATISED OTHER' (SOCI313)	15
THE RISK SOCIETY: CRIME, SECURITY AND PUBLIC POLICY (SOCI320)	15
THE VIOLENCE OF NEO-IMPERIALISM: STATE-CORPORATE CRIME IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH (SOCI322)	15
CULTURE, ECONOMY AND CITIES (SOCI327)	15
GENDER AND THE WELFARE STATE (SOCI332)	15
SOCIOLOGIES OF CLASS AND INEQUALITY (SOCI335)	15
DRUGS, CRIME AND SOCIETY (SOCI339)	15
CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND THE SEDUCTIONS OF CRIME (SOCI340)	15
'RACE', COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY (SOCI346)	15
CRIME, JUSTICE AND THE SEX INDUSTRY (SOCI349)	15
LOVE, HATE AND ANGER: EMOTIONS AND SOCIETY (SOCI354)	15
CYBER CRIME, HARM, AND VICTIMISATION (SOCI362)	15
BODIES, POLITICS AND MORALITY (SOCI363)	15
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	15

Optional modules	Credits
(SOCI369)	
ARCHITECTURE AND POWER: PARLIAMENTS, PRISONS AND COURTS (SOCI372)	15
MEN, MASCULINITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE (SOCI374)	15
NATURE IN DANGER: SOCIO-POLITICAL ROOTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HARM (SOCI378)	15
LOVE AND MARRIAGE: THE SOCIOLOGY OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS (SOCI380)	15

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

Combined degree

Choosing this subject as a combined degree

During your second year, you will study further compulsory modules designed to provide you with a broader and deeper coverage of criminological perspectives and criminal justice controversies. Depending on the weighting and combination of subjects within your degree, you will also have the chance to study modules in research methods, which will make you eligible you complete a dissertation in year three. Dissertation eligibility is dependant on your programme and subject weighting – please contact the School directly for further information (slsjteach@liverpool.ac.uk).

By year three, you will be able to study from a range of areas that include: crimes of the powerful; community and public involvement in crime and criminal justice; the risk society; criminal victimisation; youth crime, youth justice and social control. In year three you may wish to study for your dissertation if you have completed the relevant year 2 research methods modules. Alternatively, you can take the applied social research module and carry out a piece of research commissioned by a local agency. This offers both a great opportunity for you to study in the ‘real world’ as well as an experience that will appeal to prospective employers.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You will be taught through a combination of face-to-face teaching in group lectures and small class sessions, tutorials and seminars, which are supplemented by opportunities to get one-to-one guidance from academic staff during their weekly 'open office' hours. The rest of your study time will be spent undertaking directed independent study, making use of our excellent library and IT facilities.

You will also be supported throughout by an individual academic adviser. Learning is delivered in a variety of formats including lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, guided independent study, group work and reflective and experiential learning.

The primary purpose of lectures is to provide you with a broad introduction to key areas and debates on a given topic pitched at the appropriate level of study. The lectures aim to facilitate your reading and highlight issues to be explored during independent study time in preparation for seminars and assessment.

Seminars provide opportunities to explore particular issues and debates in greater detail in a way that supplements and builds upon the lectures. Seminars also allow for greater levels of student participation and such participation will be actively encouraged throughout the programme. Workshops frequently follow the format of seminars but they also may be used to develop particular skills in a teaching context. For example, workshops develop skills in data analysis and skills in interviewing.

Guided independent study may also feature in your learning experience. Group work is a feature of all seminar teaching and group work takes place both within and outside of formal scheduled classes.

How you're assessed

Assessment takes many forms, each appropriate to the learning outcomes of the particular module studied. Most modules are assessed by means of a mixture of essays and examinations. Typically, a module in year two might involve a 4,000 word essay or a 2,500 word essay plus a one hour examination. Some modules are assessed wholly or in part by other appropriate means, such as the preparation of projects and individual or group presentations. The final degree class is based on year two and three marks, weighted in favour of year three marks.

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.

^ [Back to top](#)

Careers and employability

We will help you develop a range of social scientific, analytical and communication skills, along with a variety of transferable skills valued by employers across various industries—including media organisations, local government, charitable organisations, the criminal justice system and the commercial and financial services sectors.

Our graduates have gone on to successful careers in:

- Public and private sectors
- Social welfare and criminal justice agencies (the police and probation services)
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Recent employers

- Merseyside Police
- HM Prison Service
- National Probation Service
- Legal Services Commission
- IPSOS Mori
- Shell
- British Council
- Mencap

Work experience opportunities

We invite you to take part in [SLSJ Extra](#)—a series of talks and workshops featuring experts from the legal, criminal and voluntary sectors, along with leading professionals and reform advocates from the UK and beyond. Through SLSJ Extra, you'll see how the fields of law, sociology, social policy and criminology can open doors to a wide range of fulfilling careers. This rich extracurricular experience supports your future aspirations and helps you explore where your studies can take you.

We're also here to help you make the most of work experience opportunities. In your second-year, you can choose to integrate work experience into your studies. By your third-year, you can take advantage of work placements through our [Interchange](#) service, which connects you with voluntary and charitable organisations across the region, giving you the chance to apply your

skills in real-world settings. You can also gain valuable volunteering experience with support from our Employability & Interchange Coordinators or by joining the **Peer Mentoring Scheme**.

We offer placements that allow you to undertake research projects with real impact on both local and national communities. These opportunities continue to grow each year. Most recently, for example, our research placements include collaborations with organisations such as the National Youth Advocacy Service and The Heseltine Institute.

Wherever you want to go, we'll help you get there.

Postgraduate opportunities

Typical courses studied by graduates from this programme:

- MA Social Research Methods
- MA Social Work
- MRes Criminology Research
- MRes Social Research
- Legal Practice Course

^ [Back to top](#)

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 - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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

^ [Back to top](#)

Entry requirements

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

A levels

BBB

Applicants may only offer ONE of the following A Levels: General Studies OR Citizenship Studies OR Critical Thinking.

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBC** from A levels, with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

DDD. Must be in one of the following subjects:

- Applied Human Biology
- Applied Law
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Science

- Business
 - Business Accounting and Finance
 - Computing
 - Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
 - Forensic and Criminal Investigation
 - Health and Social Care
 - ICT
 - Information Technology
 - Public Services
 - Sport
 - Sport and Exercise Science
 - Strategic Management and Leadership
 - Travel and Tourism
 - Uniformed Protective Services.
-

International Baccalaureate

30 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H2,H2,H2,H3,H3,H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

BBB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus BB at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma(Humanities/Social Sciences) with 45 Level 3 credits with 30 at Distinction and 15 at Merit.

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, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
 - If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
 - [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.
-

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 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. 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 speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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 no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 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 5.5, for further details.

[^ Back to top](#)

Generated: 19 Feb 2026, 13:03

© University of Liverpool