

Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology

What can I do with my Criminology Degree?

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With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, Criminology graduates are attractive to employers both inside and outside the criminal justice sector...

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Job options

Jobs directly related to your degree include...

- Community development worker
- Police officer
- Prison officer
- Probation officer
- Social worker
- Youth worker

Jobs where your degree would be useful include

- Adult guidance worker
- Data scientist
- Forensic computer analyst
- Housing manager
- Local government officer
- Paralegal
- Social researcher
- Solicitor

Remember that many employers accept applications from graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here.

Work experience

Employers value experience, and a range of paid and voluntary work opportunities exist, including working with offenders, criminal justice agencies and victims of crime. Social work and community education departments also offer relevant opportunities. Specific roles include prison visiting, working as a special constable, and involve in drug treatment schemes, victim support or youth/ bail hostels for young offenders.

Think about the group or the environment you're interested in working with and how you could get involved with local support groups or projects aimed at reducing the risk of offending. Narrowing down your preferences will allow you to focus on specific employers and voluntary organisations.

Typical Employers

Major employers include central and local government, the police, and prison services, the court services, security services, and other non profit making organisations, including the NHS, educational institutions and charities that work with young offenders or victims of crime. Opportunities also exist in the private sector, for example in private security and law practices.

Criminology graduates also work in a range of social welfare posts, such as mental health support and drug rehabilitation, housing (as housing officers in outreach roles), as homelessness officers, and in refugee and victim support/counselling.

Skills for your CV

Studying criminology develops your understanding of the social and personal aspects of crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance, as well as developing specific skills such as:

- Generating and evaluating evidence;
- Making reasoned arguments and ethical judgements
- Critical thinking
- Analysing and interpreting data
- Report writing

If you study other subjects alongside criminology, you should consider the complementary skills they provide you with, e.g. an increased awareness of psychology or politics related to criminology topics.

Also consider your transferable skills in research, written and oral communications, IT, time management and planning, working to deadlines, and the ability to work productively both in a group and autonomously.

Further Study

Most criminology graduates who go on to further study choose from a range of vocational areas including social work, education (PGCE, or PGDE in Scotland) at both primary and secondary levels, and law conversion courses.

Some students choose to progress to Masters courses, including Mas in Criminology or Criminal Justice, which will enhance subject knowledge, possibly with a view to going on to further academic research. Courses relevant to specific client groups also exist, including MSc in alcohol and drug studies.

There are also many postgraduate courses where a degree in any subject is accepted for entry, offering the possibility to change career direction.

What do Criminology graduates do?

Almost three quarters of criminology graduates are employed six months after finishing their course. Of these, around 13% go into social and welfare professions, which may include work with offenders and the probation service, and almost 11% go into caring and education roles.

Almost 15% of criminology graduates go on to further study or combine work and further study.

6 months after graduating, UK first degree leavers from July 2019 were...

63.9% in work

19.4% in further study

7.4% working and studying

4.8% unemployed/due to start work

4.5% other