



Lancaster University
Law School



Criminology
Undergraduate Degrees
2025



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Welcome

Criminology at Lancaster University is taught in the Law School, providing you with an excellent interdisciplinary place to study.

As one of the first universities in the UK to offer an undergraduate degree in Criminology, you will benefit from our decades of expertise in teaching this ever-popular subject. Our degrees offer you a broad learning experience. World leading, research-active academics will introduce you to key themes and topics in Criminology and help you to engage with recent and influential research. You will be offered the opportunity to analyse the social, cultural, political and economic contexts of crime and criminal justice, taking an in-depth look at the social circumstances of offending, policies regulating crime, and the social response to criminal activity.

During your time with us, we will support and encourage you to consider and develop your career prospects, and to explore the many opportunities both within and beyond the criminal justice sector. Those wishing to pursue a criminal justice career can benefit from our strong links with local and national criminal justice agencies, including Lancashire Constabulary and HMP Lancaster Farms Prison, and begin to establish links of their own. We also support students in their trajectory towards a wide-range of non-criminal justice careers in both the public and private sectors, for example, policy development and consultancy.

Teaching on our Criminology modules at Lancaster, we have an internationally-recognised team of researchers who lead in shaping both criminal justice policy and the academic field of Criminology. Our staff advise the United Nations, the EU, and national and local criminal justice agencies. This means that, at Lancaster, you will be learning from those who are experts in their field. They are passionate about their impact on wider society and are dedicated to sharing this with you. If you wish to pursue a research career, you can choose more in-depth dissertation-focused modules to develop a deeper engagement with critical research, often leading towards further postgraduate study.

I hope that you decide that Lancaster University Law School is somewhere you would like to study, we are extremely proud of the choices we are able to offer you. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or my Admissions team.

Professor Catherine Easton
Head of Lancaster University Law School



Criminology at Lancaster

- + We have strong links with criminal justice and third sector organisations, including Lancashire Constabulary, HMP Lancaster Farms and the Lancashire Youth Offending Team, HMP Kirkham, meaning our students can access work, volunteering, and research opportunities.
- + You will be taught by academics conducting world-leading, impactful research, on topics like cybercrime, domestic abuse, and drug misuse. This research informs their teaching and your learning.
- + We are a global Law School with a sister department in Lancaster University Ghana and students and staff from around the world.
- + Dedicated careers support is given by a specialist team who provide support for applications, and with preparation for interviews.
- + We have an active student-run Criminology Society who organise a range of extra-curricular activities, including careers and social events.

Top
15

12th for Criminology in the UK
*Times Good University
Guide 2024*

**Established and
well respected**

One of the first English universities
to offer a Criminology degree.



Our internationally renowned staff

We are a research intensive Law School and are ranked 6th in the UK for research impact, with 88% of our impact rated as outstanding in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (2021).



Prof Victoria Canning
Professor of Criminology

Victoria Canning is Professor of Criminology at Lancaster University, Associate Director of Oxford Border Criminologies, co-chair of Statewatch EU, and co-editor of the Emerald Activist Criminology series. She has authored and edited seven books, including *Gendered Harm and Structural Violence in the British Asylum System* (2017), *From Social Harm to Zemiology* (2021, with Steve Tombs) and *Torture and Torturous Violence: Transcending Definitions of Torture* (2023). She has spent almost two decades working on the rights of women seeking asylum, specifically on support for survivors of sexual violence and torture with NGOs and migrant rights organisations. Victoria is head of the Harm, Crime and Criminalisation Research Centre at Lancaster, and leads modules based on this expertise: Harms and Crimes of the Powerful, and Criminologies of Violence.



Dr Yongyu Zeng
Lecturer in Criminology




Dr Yongyu Zeng joined Lancaster University as a Lecturer in Criminology in 2021. She has primary research interests in the extent, nature and dynamics of financial crimes and organisational crimes, including those of serious and organised characteristics and those facilitated by digital technologies. These interests have led Yongyu to work in various research positions prior to joining Lancaster. She relies on both quantitative and qualitative methods and has particular interests in social network analysis. She brings her research expertise to her teaching in the areas of quantitative research methods, financial and economic crimes, and serious and organised crime.



Dr Claire Fitzpatrick
Senior Lecturer in Criminology

Dr Claire Fitzpatrick is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology with particular research expertise on children in the youth justice system, injustice at the intersections of systems of welfare and punishment and the gendered pathways between care and custody. Claire's research has influenced the national policy agenda, and she is regularly called on to advise third sector organisations and government departments. Claire is passionate about bringing her research interests into her teaching and currently convenes the module 'Youth Justice' which critically explores the treatment of children in trouble. She also currently convenes 'Gendered Harm and Justice', which explores the neglected experiences of women, and the blurred boundaries between offending and victimisation.

Degrees and entry requirements

Criminology	 BA (Hons)	3 years	M930	ABB
Criminology and French Studies	 BA (Hons)	4 years	MR91	ABB
Criminology and Psychology	BA (Hons)	3 years	CL86	AAB + GCSE Mathematics grade B or 6
Criminology and Sociology	 BA (Hons)	3 years	LM39	ABB
Criminology and Law	BA (Hons)	3 years	MM13	ABB

 Placement year available  Includes international placement year

Visit our website for more information on joint degree structures, degree options, scholarships and entry requirements www.lancaster.ac.uk

Grace's degree



Studying Criminology at Lancaster is one of the best decisions I ever made. From the beginning of the course, the support I have received from staff has been amazing and I can't thank them enough. The variety of topics that the degree offers has really helped to shape my interests for the future, and I look forward to new lectures every week! Workshops are so helpful to solidify information learnt, and also a great place to meet friends.

Grace Gudgeon
BA (Hons) Criminology



Nicky's experience

Studying Criminology and Psychology has been an absolute joy. This incredible interdisciplinary course has given me the opportunity to develop critical academic skills, as well as research interests that I am passionate about. While my psychology modules gave me a strong foundation in statistical analysis, scientific writing, and research methods, it was my criminology modules that shaped my academic drive and perspective. Being encouraged to challenge the core definitions of crime and deviancy taught me how to assess social phenomenon critically, whilst also acquiring the proper outlook to carry out research at a higher level. I am most grateful for the amazing staff, who have been so patient, supportive, and inspiring throughout my time at Lancaster. Without their insight and expertise, I would not have been able to conduct my dissertation research on drug policies in Oregon, US, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Nicky Kashani-Nejad
BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology

Degree structure

BA (Hons) Criminology

Year 1

Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice

+

Minor Subject 1

+

Minor Subject 2

You will examine criminological perspectives (such as biological, sociological and psychological explanations for offending behaviour) and contemporary criminological issues (such as domestic abuse, cybercrime, and substance misuse).

You will also explore the structure and functions of the criminal justice system, including looking at the roles of the police, prisons and the probation service.

You will be able to choose modules from a choice of subjects that are complementary to your major subject and are recommended by your Department. After you apply for your degree we will confirm which optional modules are available and how to register for your preferred options.

Year 2

Criminological Thought

+

Measuring Crime: Understanding Crime Data and Trends

+

Understanding Criminological Fieldwork

Introduces and examines the main theoretical approaches in criminology from its origins to the present day.

Helps you build a critical and practical understanding of crime data, predominantly using sources that influence criminal justice policy and practice. You will aim to develop highly valuable skills in data handling and analysis.

An introduction to the theoretical foundations and processes of different forms of social research used in criminological research, including interviews and observations.

+

Optional Modules

Select optional Criminology modules from the list on page 9.

Year 3

Optional Modules

You'll choose from a range of optional modules spanning themes and topics in Criminology. See example modules on page 10.

Optional modules

On all our degree programmes, you will be able to choose some optional modules. These develop your Criminology knowledge and allow you to focus in depth on topics that interest you most.

Year 2

These are some examples of second-year Criminology modules. Please note modules may vary each year.

Contemporary Issues in Policing

Provides a critical analysis of the nature, culture, and structure of police forces in the UK. We will explore issues such as use of force, use of stop and search and policing protest.

Organised Crime

Critically analyses the concept of 'organised crime' and how it is used to describe particular groups and activities; examines various types of organised crime and the wider social, political and economic factors that shape them; and assesses the methods and challenges of policing transnational organised crime.

Youth Justice

Considers the tension between perceptions of children as 'troubled' and 'troublesome'. Also explores the criminal justice response to children who are in conflict with the law.

Human Rights and Civil Liberties

Gain a comprehensive grounding in the law of human rights, examining the right to life, freedom from torture, freedom of expression, and capital punishment.

Cybercrime and Cybercriminality

Learn about the range, extent and nature of cybercrime in today's world. You'll examine the challenges in responding to it from a criminal justice, as well as personal security, perspective.

Crime and Popular Culture

Trace the intersection of crime/deviance and popular culture/entertainment. Examine how crime is represented and what stories depicting crime can reveal about our culture.

Joint degrees

Please see our website for detailed joint degree structure information:

- Criminology and French Studies - www.lancaster.ac.uk/crim-french
- Criminology and Psychology - www.lancaster.ac.uk/crim-psych
- Criminology and Sociology - www.lancaster.ac.uk/crim-soc

Optional modules



Year 3

These are some examples of third-year Criminology modules. Please note modules vary each year.

Sex Crimes and Sexual Offending

Introduces you to a range of sexual crimes and forms of sexual offending as defined by UK and international law.

Crime and Media

Provides a critical examination of the complex interactions between the media and crime. Topics explored include moral panics, representations of youth crime, revenge pornography and cybercrime.

Gendered Harm and Justice

Explores the marginalisation of women in the criminal justice system.

Drugs, Crime and Society

Examines the nature and extent of drug taking in the UK and beyond. Topics explored include illegal drug use, trafficking and manufacture.

Hate Crime

Focuses on the question of what is 'hate crime', working towards gaining an understanding of its harms. The international perspective to this module will be drawn from a discussion of 'hate crime' as a human rights problem, with a particular focus on freedom of speech.

Green Criminology

Explores how society responds to environmental harms and the legal response to these issues. Topics include ethics, animal rights, protest and environmental activism.

Further example optional modules:

- + Decolonising Criminological Perspectives
- + Crime, Time and Space
- + Mass Atrocities and War Crimes
- + Crimes and Harms of the Powerful
- + Crime-related Research-based Dissertation
- + Mass Atrocities and War Crimes
- + Terrorism, Security and Threat

Degree structure

BA (Hons) Criminology and Law

Year 1

Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice

See page 8 for module details.

Criminal Law

This engaging module immerses you in a broad investigation of criminal law, including legal rules, substantive crimes, the conditions of criminal responsibility, and law in practice. You will aim to develop an understanding of the elements of major offences from homicide to theft, fraud to sexual offences, and offences against the person.

English Legal System and Methods

An introduction to the central tenets of the English Legal System that supports the development of the legal skills that will see you through your degree

Law of Contracts

The purpose of Contract Law is to provide a remedy to an aggrieved party when the other party has broken its contractual obligations. While studying this important but difficult topic, you will practise applying the law, so that you can competently address the main concern of clients: resolution.

Year 3

Optional Modules

Select optional modules from Criminology or Law. Criminology options are listed on page 10. Law optional modules include:

- + Company Law
- + Immigration and Asylum Law

Year 2

Criminological Thought

See page 8 for module details.

Understanding Criminological Fieldwork

See page 8 for module details.

EITHER

Law of Torts

An introduction to the key torts and tort principles including, trespass to the person, negligence, torts of strict liability and vicarious liability.

OR

Public Law

Aims to develop your understanding of UK Constitutional Law. Also provides an introduction to Administrative Law, and Human Rights/Civil Liberties.

Optional Modules

Select optional modules from Law and Criminology. Year 2 Criminology optional modules are on page 9. Year 2 Law optional modules include:

- + Legal Tech and Innovation
- + Principles of Commercial Law
- + Family Law
- + International Law

- + Health Care Law and Ethics
- + Evidence

Develop your professional experience



Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path.

Voluntary activities are another excellent way to build work experience that is highly sought after by employers. Volunteering can also make a positive impact on the world around you. Our students have previously volunteered with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Lancashire Constabulary's Special Constables.

Placement Year

You can take a placement year with the majority of our degrees. This involves spending Year 3 working in a graduate-level, paid, professional role in a sector of your choice. You then return to Lancaster in Year 4 to complete your studies.

A placement year degree offers a boost to your employment prospects. It allows you to work in a field that either complements your academic studies, or branches out in a new direction. Most sectors offer placement year positions, and we support you in the competitive application process. We help you in securing a placement through personalised coaching and support during Year 2.

Paid Internships

As a student with us, you can apply to the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) Internship Scheme that offers exclusive opportunities that are ring-fenced for students in the Faculty. A myriad of paid, sector-specific internships are available each year in the summer vacation and part-time during term time. Just to give you a taster, some of the past employers include Carnegie Publishing, Lancaster Arts, More Music, The Dukes Theatre, Comma Press, Deco Publique, Active Lancashire and National Trust.

Discover more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

Vacation Travel

You can expand your cultural competency and international awareness by joining one of our vacation travel opportunities. We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. The trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.



Psychology Employability Programme

BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology students have access to this programme, which provides volunteering opportunities relevant to careers in Psychology, including research assistant placements across the Psychology Department research labs.

Partner organisations include:

- + Age UK
- + The National Autistic Society
- + Making Spaces
- + Shelter

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award rewards you for taking part in extra-curricular activities outside your academic studies that supplement the excellent education you receive at Lancaster University. Developed in partnership with employers, the certificate aims to reward you for making the most of your time at Lancaster, and could enhance your future job prospects by encouraging you to build skills valued by employers. You will undertake a variety of activities and reflect on the skills you have developed.

Find out more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award

Your future career

We emphasise careers from the very beginning of your degree, a factor that contributes to the success of our graduates in the workplace.

Department Support

We recognise the importance of gaining career advice and enhancing your employability throughout your degree. We therefore offer career and employability support in various ways:

Academic Advisors

You will be assigned an academic advisor in your first year, who will act as your first point of contact and support for careers advice.

Subject-specific Guidance

The Criminology team have dedicated members of staff who are available to offer you careers advice and guidance.

Networking Opportunities

We organise a number of talks on employability throughout the academic year where you will hear from people in key roles in organisations that may be of interest to you after you graduate. These include talks from third sector, public sector and those working in the field of criminal justice.

University Skills and Employability Workshops

The Careers Service runs workshops throughout the year focussing on the development of skills in areas such as leadership and communication to prepare you for the world of work.

Career Mentoring Programme

Our Career Mentoring Programme aims to match you with a mentor who is an established professional in your career of choice; this mentor then gives advice and guidance in relation to your future career. Mentoring could help you assess your career goals and get you thinking in different ways about how you can reach them. It's a uniquely tailored experience that you shouldn't miss.

Careers

Our graduates go on to be successful in a variety of careers:

- + Criminal justice agencies (the police force, HM Prison Service, the National Probation Service)
- + The Home Office
- + The Department for Health, Social Services
- + NHS trusts
- + Charities
- + Youth offending services
- + Civil Service
- + Professional research and consultancy

Kate Kaliski-Wiseman

Probation Officer, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)

BA (Hons) Criminology, graduated 2017

I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying Criminology at Lancaster. The range of modules that I was able to study was excellent, and provided me with the opportunity to understand many different and varied aspects of criminology.

Some of the theories I have learned have helped me to develop and understand certain policies in my current role.

Becky Reeve

Senior Public Sector Consultant

BA (Hons) Criminology, graduated 2019

My Criminology degree from Lancaster University has helped me in many of the roles I've held since leaving university.

After graduating I secured a place on the Civil Service Fast Stream; the flagship leadership development programme for the UK Civil Service.

During my time on this programme and in the Civil Service more broadly I had a number of very interesting roles. At HMRC I worked on a multimillion-pound technology procurement, and at DWP I developed best practice on user-centred policy design.

Other positions I've held have been more aligned with Criminology, such as leading an intelligence portfolio at the Home Office, Improvements Manager at the Metropolitan police, working in undercover-online operations, and a short stint as a detective.

Most recently I have moved into the world of consultancy, and now work for Capgemini Invent supporting various public sector departments on a whole host of projects and programmes. It's varied, fast paced, and really enjoyable!

My career so far has been characterised by always asking questions like "Why are things done that way? Is this working? How can this be improved?" Perhaps I naturally ask those sorts of questions, but studying Criminology definitely encouraged me in that inquisitive mindset and strategic thinking.

As well as the varied and engaging degree course, the Law School encouraged me in my part-time work at Lancaster Prison and my role as Law School Ambassador, which helped to build my confidence and develop further insights and experience. My time at Lancaster served as an excellent springboard into my career, and I would recommend the degree to anyone considering it.

Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2025-26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice



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