

## Programme Specification

### BSc Criminology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: M900

UFCRIM

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	N/A

### Programme information and content

The BSc Criminology provides students with an education in criminology that is oriented towards and partially integrated with the study of law. Students will encounter a variety of legal, sociological and criminological concepts, approaches and methodologies in ways that will assist the development of a critical understanding of ‘crime’ and ‘criminal justice’ and the relationship of these with the law. They will acquire the foundational knowledge necessary to produce and understand socio-legal and criminological research. The degree is designed with maximum flexibility in mind so as to allow students to follow their interests whilst ensuring that they obtain an understanding of the character of criminology, its theoretical and methodological traditions, processes of criminalisation and victimisation, the key concepts of criminology, causes and organisation of crime, crime management and prevention, interrelationship between crime, social inequalities and rights, official and unofficial responses to crime, punishment and media representations of crime. It will also provide students with the opportunity to learn legal skills in Part 1 and take, alongside LLB students, in optional modules on matters pertinent to law. They will also acquire a range of generic intellectual and transferable skills that will prepare them for the world of work or further study.

Part 1:	Part 1 provides students with an introduction to the core concepts of criminology, the main approaches for studying criminal justice and two of the most relevant areas of the core law curriculum: criminal law and public law. Students will begin to develop their legal and criminological study skills.
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Part 2:	Part 2 continues to develop students understanding of the study of crime and criminal justice through core modules on criminological theory, criminal justice policy and research methodology. Half of the total number of modules in Part 2 are optional modules. This provides students with the opportunity to focus further in areas of interest in Law or from other relevant disciplines. A minimum of 20 optional credits must be taken from within the School of Law.
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Part 3:	Part 3 gives students further opportunities to focus on areas of interest to them in law and criminology by providing them with a range of optional modules. It consolidates their criminological knowledge through the study of contemporary issues in crime and justice and a capstone criminological dissertation.
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### Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW1CRI	Criminal Law	20	4
LW1CRJ	Introduction to Criminal Justice	20	4
LW1CRM	Introduction to Criminology	20	4
LW1LAS	Law and Society	20	4
LW1LS	Legal Skills	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or Modules from elsewhere in the University

#### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW2CCT	Contemporary Criminological Theory	20	5
LW2CJP	Criminal Justice Policy	20	5
LW2RSM	Criminological Research Methodologies	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules taken from School of Law or elsewhere within the University.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

#### Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW3CCP	Contemporary Issue in Crime and Punishment	20	6
LW3CDIS	Criminology Dissertation	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules taken from School of Law or elsewhere within the University.

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs. For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £400 to £500 a year. There is no single core textbook for this programme. Many books relevant to the programme are available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

**Placement opportunities**

N/A

**Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught: primarily through seminars and lectures. Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars or workshops.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 240 hours, Part 2 – 156 hours, Part 3 - 156 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

**Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral presentations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

### **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

#### *Part 1*

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a pass of at least 40% in LW1CRM and LW1CRJ

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

#### *Part 2*

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class

40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc Criminology for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

7 December 2023

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