

MSc Criminology (Distance Learning)

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Sciences
Department	Criminology
Main campus	Newton Park (distance learning)
Other sites of delivery	None
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	MSc Criminology
Qualification (final award)	MSc
Intermediate awards available	PgCert Criminology, PgDip Criminology
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	1 year full-time, two years part-time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Distance Learning
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A

Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	CRIMS-DL/MSCRI-DL
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Criminology, March 2014 Master's Degree Characteristics Statement, September 2015
Date of most recent approval	April 2024
Date specification last updated	May 2024

[1]This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

Programme Overview

This innovative MSc in Criminology delivered as a distance-learning programme allows you to develop specialist knowledge of the current themes and policy debates surrounding crime, criminal justice, crime control, policing, penology and offender management. It equips you with the intellectual, analytical and research skills needed for understanding and applying criminological theories and concepts in practice. The programme also provides an in-depth understanding of the interactions between politics, criminology and criminal justice on a national and international level, and the impact of public policy in these areas. You will be taught by experts from criminological, sociological and legal backgrounds with professional criminal justice experience. You will also benefit from research-led teaching, as well as strong links to wider criminal justice professions and industry.

In this thought-provoking programme, you will explore the changing contours of national and international criminal justice and engage with mainstream theoretical approaches as well as newer concepts in criminology that act as a catalyst and provocation for development of our knowledge of crime. You will examine contemporary and critical issues in crime, policing and justice, which will encourage you to find innovative ways to deal with national, international and transnational challenges for criminal justice systems worldwide. You will also be equipped with the necessary analytical and methodological tools to understand and implement research in criminal justice contexts. The thorough engagement with research methods and their application in your dissertation will further encourage you to find innovative approaches or solutions to key issues criminal justice professions are faced with.

Delivered by our experienced team of academic experts and practitioners, the programme aims to provide you with an active overall learning environment to help you strengthen your opportunities for future job markets. This MSc in Criminology is offered as an online, distancelearning curriculum to suit those of you that seek a range of specialist skills that include research, analytical, practical and communication skills, and that are not only relevant to a career within criminal justice, but that are transferable to any field of professional employment. The range of online learning tools we offer are designed to develop your competencies in online communication and team working. The interactive teaching and learning is delivered via Bath Spa University's virtual learning environment, Minerva.

Recognising your evolving needs as a student and professional, as well as the pressures of the modern workplace, this MSc uniquely allows you to not only choose between studying full-time or part-time, but gives you the opportunity to transfer to a campus-based version of the programme, should this better suit your circumstances.

Programme Aims

1. To enable you to develop your intellectual, critical and analytic skills in the academic areas of criminology and criminal justice.
2. To provide you with a combination of compulsory modules that equip you with an advanced understanding of the key theoretical and political debates, and concepts within criminology and criminal justice, as well as the ability to use this knowledge in the critical assessment and development of public policy and academic interventions.
3. To support you to develop a range of the key skills necessary for the successful management of continuous career and professional development, life-long learning and further postgraduate study.
4. To support you to acquire research method skills in a way that is consistent with the demands of the discipline and the professional market.
5. To enhance your transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communication; the capacity for independent learning; the ability to reflect on the ethical and ideological components of your work; and the capacity for working co-operatively with others to produce professional outputs in a timely fashion.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A: Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

A 1	A comprehensive understanding of developments in Criminology and criminal justice systems against the background of changing national and international contexts, and the ability to propose new insights.
A 2	Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and theory are used to study criminology, crime and criminal justice systems.
A 3	A comprehensive understanding of existing as well as new and emergent forms of crime in national and international criminal justice arenas, and the ability to propose systematic and creative solutions.
A 4	Critical evaluation of methodologies and theoretical approaches in Criminology and their application in the systematic analysis of a range of complex criminological problems.
A 5	Ability to identify and select appropriate strategies to explore a range of publications and technologies related to criminological practice to underpin your learning and the presentational delivery of your learning.

B: Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B 1	Ability to analyse and synthesise complex criminological problems systematically and be able to communicate them effectively.
B 2	Ability to pro-actively source, generate and apply evidence to develop evidence-based arguments and inform public policy decisions.
B 3	Ability to articulate advanced critical thinking and reflection upon research methodologies and professional practice.
B4	Ability to apply advanced criminological learning to a field of practice or scholarship in an area of interest.

C: Skills for Life and Work

C 1	Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.
C 2	Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
C 3	Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and nonspecialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically.
C 4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively.

Intermediate awards

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A4, A5

B1,

C1, C3, C4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A5

B1, B2, B3

C1, C2, C3, C4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single

MSc Criminology				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	CRI7111-30	Advanced Criminological Theory	30	C	
7	CRI7112-30	Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice	30	C	
7	CRI7114-30	Global Crime and Criminal Justice	30	C	
7	CRI7116-30	Doing Criminological Research	30	C	
7	CRI7115-60	Dissertation	60	C	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Work experience and placement opportunities

There are no formal work experience and placement opportunities as part of the programme, but the final 60-credit project module includes the option of and support for the design of a research project in consultation and collaboration with external agencies or employers.

Additional Costs Table

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In MSc Criminology, this means...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Acquiring advanced criminological knowledge and practical skills to pursue or develop your career in criminal justice or related fields

2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Developing your skills in critical thinking, creative problem-solving, flexible working methods and independent, selfdirected learning in module learning activities and assessment
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Undertaking a research project in your field of practice or area of interest, building on learning in other modules about the interdisciplinary nature of criminology
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Developing your ICT skills and digital literacy in online learning and use of technologies in assessment
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Studying in a learning community comprising academic staff and students from a number of countries
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Developing and using creative thinking and practical skills in learning activities and assessments; encouraging you to apply these in practitioner or career development contexts
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Engaging in learning activities which prompt debate with others and enable you to demonstrate communications skills in assessments
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Learning from a syllabus that reflects the ethical and moral dimensions of human behaviour that is inherent in debates about crime and justice and locates this in local, national and global socio-legal contexts

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
CRI7113-30 Criminological research Design: Evaluation and Evidence-based Practice replaced with CRI7116-30 Doing Criminological Research	Approved April 2024 via Chair's Action on Behalf of Curriculum Approval Panel	2024/25

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – MSc Criminology

Trimester 1 [Sept - Jan]	Trimester 2 [Feb - June]	Trimester 3 [June-Sept]
CORE CRI7111-30 Advanced Criminological Theory [30]	CORE CRI7114-30 Global Crime and Criminal Justice [30]	CORE CRI7115-60 Dissertation MSc Criminology [60]
CORE CRI7112-30 Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice [30]	CORE CRI71163-30 Doing Criminological Research [30]	

September entry (part-time)

	Trimester 1 [Sept - Jan]	Trimester 2 [Feb - June]	Trimester 3 [June-Sept]
YEA R 1	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7111-30 Advanced Criminological Theory</p> <p>[30]</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7114-30 Global Crime and Criminal Justice</p> <p>[30]</p>	
YEA R 2	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7112-30 Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice</p> <p>[30]</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7116-30 Doing Criminological Research</p> <p>[30]</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7115-60 Dissertation MSc Criminology</p> <p>[60]</p>

February entry (part-time)

	Trimester 2 [Feb – June]	Trimester 1 [Sept – Jan]	Trimester 3 [June-Sept]
YEA R 1	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7114-30 Global Crime and Criminal Justice</p> <p>[30]</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7111-30 Advanced Criminological Theory</p> <p>[30]</p>	
YEA R 2	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7116-30 Doing Criminological Research</p> <p>[30]</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7112-30 Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice</p> <p>[30]</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>CRI7115-60 Dissertation MSc Criminology</p> <p>[60]</p>

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes												
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge					Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	CRI7111-30	Advanced Criminological Theory	C		x		x	x	x				x		x	x
7	CRI7112-30	Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice	C	x	x		x	x	x				x		x	x
7	CRI7114-30	Global Crime and Criminal Justice	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x
7	CRI7116-30	Doing Criminological Research	C		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
7	CRI7115-60	Dissertation	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[5]	Assessment method															
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination				
				Composition	Research Exercise	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Vive Voce	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)	
7	CRI7111-30	Advanced Criminological Theory	C				1 x 5000								1 x equivalent to 2000 words	Online Discussion on Board Participation equivalent to 1000 words			
7	CRI7112-30	Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice	C				1 x 5000								1 x equivalent to 2000 words	Online Discussion on Board Participation equivalent to 1000 words			
7	CRI7114-30	Global Crime and Criminal Justice	C				1 x 5000								1 x equivalent to 2000 words	Online Discussion on Board Participation equivalent to 1000 words			
7	CRI7116-30	Doing Criminological Research	C					1 x 6000	1x										
7	CRI711560	Dissertation	C				1 x 16,000												

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional