Programme Specification

BSc Criminology **UCAS Code: M900**

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027 **UFCRIM**

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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	BSc Criminology with Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: M903) BSc Criminology with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: M902)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Criminology

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, 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 criminal law. Students will begin to develop their legal and criminological study skills.
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. 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.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students on a four-year programme will undertake a professional placement or study abroad year between Parts 2 and 3. Placement students will undertake an approved role related to their programme of study. A placement will provide you with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in your first two years of study, as well as to develop your skills in a professional context. Study abroad students will follow several courses at one of our partner institutions. You may take courses that deepen your understanding of subjects you have already studied, or extend your knowledge into new areas that are relevant to your personal or career goals.
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. Students can do either a criminological dissertation or research writing credit.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Criminology

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Understand a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within criminology, and critically evaluate their applicability to real life problems.
2	Evaluate the criminal justice system and allied agencies, and consider the impacts on particular groups in society.
3	Summarise and analyse quantitative and qualitative empirical data on crime, harm, deviance and victimisation.
4	Explain and evaluate complex social problems in terms of criminological theories of crime, class, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance.
5	Identify a range of research strategies and methods within the discipline of criminology, have an insight into their relative strengths, and be able to identify the appropriate strategy for a specific research question.
6	Carry out discipline-appropriate research and use this make reasoned arguments.
7	Demonstrate an understanding of legal principles and their application to legal questions.
8	Critically assess the weight of sources and utilise legal materials in the development of well-constructed arguments.
9	Communicate effectively in writing.
10	Develop teamwork skills.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
N/A

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
LW1ICJ	Introduction to Criminal Justice	20	4
LW1ICR	Introduction to Criminology	20	4
LW1LSC	Legal Skills for Criminologists	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or modules from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW2ACT	Advanced Criminological Theory	20	5
LW2CCJ	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice	20	5
LW2RES	Criminological Research Methods	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or modules from an approved list.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):			
Module	**Name**	**Credits**	**Level**
LW2PPY	Professional Placement Year	120	5
LW2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5

Students who enrol on or transfer to a 4-year programme will take one 120 credit module: Professional Placement Year (LW2PPY) OR Study Abroad Year (LW2SAY). The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

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

Part 3 Modules:

Students can choose either of the following modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW3CDS	Criminology Dissertation	40	6
OR			
LW3CRW	Criminology Research Writing (Optional) in either semester	20	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or modules from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

Placements:
You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:
You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

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.

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 lecturers and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars or workshops.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 different types of assessments including more traditional methods such as written examinations, individual and group presentations and coursework, as well as, for example, writing policy briefings, participation in advocacy or negotiation, writing client letters and writing reflectively about learning experiences. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1
To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:
(i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
(ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

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

(i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
(ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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.

Professional placement/study abroad year:
Students are required to pass the professional placement/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement/study abroad year transfer to the 3-year version of the programme.

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
Study Abroad/Placement Year: Not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, you may wish to budget between £150 to £200 a year.

Reading lists are provided for each individual module.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus, but essential costs in this area will be low as coursework and exams will be submitted electronically.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the DTS Student Hub.

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 2027/28
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