

# Criminology and Psychosocial Studies

<b>Final award</b>	BA (Hons)
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	Cert HE, Dip HE, BA
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	UEL on campus
<b>UCAS code</b>	M9CW
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	Criminology
<b>UEL Academic School</b>	Business and Law
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	July 2014

## The summary - UCAS programme profile

### BANNER BOX:

This programme offers an exciting combination of criminology, psychology and sociology. The degree programme offers an in-depth study of crime, offenders, criminal justice and victimisation. It aims to develop knowledge and understanding of the major criminological theories, current issues and debates, and working of the criminal justice system. Additionally this degree aims to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of socially aware psychology, alongside an individual-sensitive sociology, in an interdisciplinary framework.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Typical Offer: 240 UCAS tariff points (of which a maximum of 160 points must be for 6 and/or 12 module awards).

Our admissions policy is to consider each applicant on their merits, guided by progressive principles, including a commitment to the UEL aim of widening access to higher education to non-traditional groups.

Normal requirements for the full-time undergraduate programme include:

- 240 UCAS points together with 3 subjects at GCSE grade C or above, including English Language.
- BTEC National Certificates and Diplomas or appropriate GNVQ's.
- International qualifications of equivalent standing.
- Access to Higher Education
- Introduction to Law & Criminology Short Programme, (six week short course programme).

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International qualifications of equivalent standing.

Access to Higher Education

[Introduction to Law and Criminology Short Programme](#), (six week short course programme).

All applicants are considered in the light of their previous education and work experience.

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 overall with 6.0 in all components (or equivalent) is required. International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education undergraduate programmes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University's English Language requirements as detailed on the website at time of application must be met – see <http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/>

At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010.

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

### **What is Criminology and Psychosocial Studies?**

Criminology is the study of crime and Criminal Justice is the study of society's response to criminality. Within this programme the criminology elements are concerned with the investigation of formal and informal responses to social transgressions, the classification and definition of crimes, explanations of criminal and deviant behaviour and the occurrence and experience of crime and punishment. It is an exciting inter-disciplinary subject, combining a number of social sciences, notably sociology, social psychology, law and politics.

Psychosocial Studies offers new ways of exploring the relationships between individuals and their society. It encompasses both the individual focus of psychology and the broader concerns of the social sciences with society, history and culture. It provides a unique opportunity to study a socially-aware psychology and alongside an individual-sensitive sociology in an interdisciplinary framework.

### **Criminology and Psychosocial Studies at UEL**

At UEL, Criminology provides both a strong theoretical grounding and more applied study through a variety of criminology options, and also a comprehensive coverage of criminal justice practice. Psychosocial Studies has been a distinct area of teaching at UEL since 1983. It emerged in response to growing student demand for programmes that addressed both individual experience, and larger-scale social processes, and UEL was the first university to offer a degree in this area.

Students come from a wide range of social, national and educational backgrounds, a diversity that we view positively as enriching the degree experience.

Staff who teach on the degree are strongly involved in research and policy, and this cutting-edge work feeds into many modules.

The BA programme has a significant option element, including modules relevant to later professional work.

Our BA programme is available full-time and part-time which offers students maximum flexibility in terms of attendance patterns.

### **Programme structure**

The full-time BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychosocial Studies degree can be undertaken on either a full-time or part-time basis; the former is a three-year programme and the latter can be completed in a minimum of four years. The programme has compulsory modules at levels 4 and 5, providing students with the core foundational knowledge required to pursue more advanced studies. At level 6, there is one core dissertation module and a choice from a wide range of option modules.

In order to provide flexible study arrangements, it is generally possible for students who successfully complete their assessments, to change from full-time to part-time study, or vice versa, after level 4.

### **Learning environment**

Teaching methods vary from module to module but include lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and individual supervision. The emphasis is on student participation and small group work within a supportive learning environment. Student learning is supported by lecture notes, module handbooks and suggested reading. Direct class contact is supplemented by on-line interactive programme materials, individual reading and preparation for assignments. Learning resources include IT and access to electronic databases and specialist library facilities.

The School is committed to the development of key transferable academic and research skills, which are integrated into our teaching and assessment throughout the degree. New students are also provided with additional study skills support to assist them in the early stages of their university career.

### **Assessment**

All modules on the BA are assessed and must be passed. However, assessment at level four does not count towards the final award classification. Assessment is by a mix of coursework and examination. Coursework includes essays, research reports, reflective reports, group and seminar presentations and a level six project. Assessment methods vary across the degree according to the learning outcomes of the individual module.

### **Work experience opportunities**

At level six, a work-based-learning module is available as an option module. Students will also take a core module at level 5 to help develop key employability skills for working in the relevant sectors.

### **Project work**

All students on the degree are required to undertake a 8,000-10,000 word research project on a relevant subject of their choice in their final year. This enables specialisation in a key area of personal interest and allows students to put into practice the research skills acquired during the programme. Students may choose to focus their project work for the purposes of career development or simply to broaden their areas of expertise. The student is supported on a one-to-one basis by regular meetings with an academic supervisor with research and/or theoretical expertise in the area.

### **Added value**

The programme is designed to enhance students' general transferable skills; such skills being central to the successful completion of the degree and the future working lives of graduates. The range of expertise available in the School enables students to choose from a wide variety of option modules that will help prepare them for a range of careers.

### **IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?**

*If you are interested in...*

- The problem of crime
- Offenders and their victims
- The workings of the Criminal Justice System
- Criminal Justice and Social Policy
- Punishment
- Miscarriages of justice
- Social exclusion
- Social theory
- Individual rights
- What makes people tick
- The relationships between individuals and their society
- How factors such as 'race,' ethnicity, national background, religion, class, gender, age, sexuality affect our life experiences.
- How people develop throughout their lives, from birth through to old age
- How popular media impact on our lives
- Unconscious aspects of human experience, that influence and shape our daily lives
- Why we experience certain emotions - such as love, envy and jealousy

### *If you enjoy...*

- Engaging in critical debate
- Keeping abreast of current affairs
- Discussing social issues
- Investigating the causes of crime
- Inter-disciplinary studies
- Research
- Understanding the mysteries of human behaviour
- Thinking about the world around you and your place in it
- Having animated discussions about human experience and the social world
- Learning about varying perspectives on an issue
- Working with people from many different backgrounds

### *If you want...*

- To know more about crime, justice and the society in which we live
- To study these issues in the vibrant, multicultural setting that is East London
- To specialise in an area without limiting yourself to one discipline (eg Sociology/Philosophy/Psychology/Law).
- To develop social research skills
- To have a degree with vocational relevance whilst not limiting your career options
- To follow a flexible programme which can fit in around your outside commitments.

### **Your future career**

There are a number of opportunities open to our graduates including:

- The Police Force
- The Probation Service
- Social Work
- The Prison Service
- The Private Security Industry
- Community and Voluntary Organisations
- Local Government
- Civil Service
- Research
- Journalism
- PR and Marketing
- Welfare Work
- Youth Work

### **How we support you**

Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds, and we aim to help each student reach their own unique potential. On arrival, students are allocated a personal tutor who will be their first point of call for academic guidance and pastoral care throughout their time with us. Students should normally meet their personal tutor on a weekly basis through the first 2 semesters. Personal tutors may be consulted during their office hours, or contacted by phone or email. Students may also consult the year tutors on matters relating to their level or

programme of study. The year tutors also run regular sessions, such as Year Meetings, Careers Days, Module Choices days.

The University offers facilities for advice on residential matters, student finance, employability, ICT, careers, study skills and training, counselling and student union support. In addition to these general services the School of Business and Law provides:

- Additional support for level four students in Core Study Skills
- Students with problems, whether internal or external to the degree programme, can also be referred to the relevant University experts (for example, the UEL Counselling Service and the SMART team for financial advice);
- Approachable and efficient teaching and administrative staff.
- The School and also the UEL Careers Service, offers comprehensive careers advice, including the provision of talks from external speakers. The School benefits from a full time Employability Manager.
- The School is continually developing links with local and national employers to further the practical careers support given to students; and
- Students receive IT training and instruction in utilising on-line materials.

## **Programme aims and learning outcomes**

### **What is this programme designed to achieve?**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Engage in a critical and inter-disciplinary approach to the study of crime and criminal justice practice.
- Explore the relationships between individuals and their society

In addition the School of Law and Social Sciences aims:

- To provide a high quality of education and research which is responsive to the needs of individuals and communities within the region.
- To provide students with a stimulating, challenging and supportive learning experience.
- To maximise the potential of students through the provision of flexible and responsive patterns and modes of learning.
- To enhance the employability of our students by equipping them with a range of substantive and transferable skills.
- To provide equal opportunities in our teaching and learning provision.
- To widen access to Higher Education for mature, non-traditionally qualified and ethnic minority students.
- To provide our students with the necessary skills and enthusiasm to engage with the lifelong learning experience.

### **What will you learn?**

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- An understanding of the key concepts and theoretical perspectives which relate to the study of crime and criminal justice.
- An understanding of the distinctive characteristics of criminal justice and the discipline of criminology
- An awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of criminological inquiry.
- An understanding of criminological theory in its cultural and socio-political context.
- An understanding of the relationship between argument and evidence in criminological discourse.
- An understanding of the historical context of crime and punishment
- An understanding of the structure, role and function of the criminal justice process.
- An understanding of crime and criminal justice policy.
- An understanding of key concepts in psychosocial studies theory, including and combining where relevant, psychological, psychoanalytical and sociological understandings of the self and society
- An understanding of psychoanalytic and psychological theories of the self
- An understanding of the shaping of identities in different cultural contexts and social settings
- An understanding of theories of the unconscious
- An understanding of the different psychosocial stages of human development
- An understanding of the study of social and cultural modes of difference including gender and sexualities, 'race' and ethnicities.

### **'Thinking' skills**

- How to gather, retrieve and synthesise information
- How to evaluate evidence
- How to develop a reasoned argument
- How to demonstrate individual judgement and self reflection.

### **Subject-Based Practical skills**

- An ability to report and evaluate empirical criminological and psychosocial research findings.
- An ability to formulate criminological and psychosocial research questions
- An ability to use different methods of criminological and psychosocial research enquiry
- An ability to identify the ethical issues in social research
- An ability to examine the relevance of criminological and psychosocial theory in relation to policy and practice.
- An ability to apply legal concepts to provide arguable conclusions to concrete problems (actual and hypothetical)
- An ability to undertake socio-legal research

### **Skills for life and work**

- An ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- An ability to evaluate basic statistical information
- An ability to use information technology for presentation and research
- An ability to participate in group work

## **The programme structure**

### **Introduction**

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

### **Credit rating**

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

### **Typical duration**

The typical duration of this programme is 3 years full-time or a minimum of 4 years part-time. It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

### **How the teaching year is divided**

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June.

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 90 credits in any academic year.

### **What you will study when**

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per level. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15 or 45 credits modules. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Distance Learning Y/N	Credits	Status*
4	CR4001	Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice	N	30	Core
4	CR4002	Contemporary Issues of Youth Justice and Criminology	N	30	Core
4	PS4002	Psychosocial Perspectives on Psychology	N	30	Core
4	PS4003	Introduction to Psychosocial Studies	N	30	Core
5	CR5002	Applied Criminology and Professional Practice	N	30	Core
5	CR5003	Theoretical Criminology	N	30	Core
5	PS5001	Research and Reflective Practice	N	30	Core
5	PS5002	Self Culture and Society	N	30	Core
6	PS6000	Dissertation	N	45	Core
60 credits from these criminology options:					
6	CR6010	Global Illicit Drug Trafficking	N	15	Option
6	CR6011	Mentally-disordered Defendants and Suspects	N	15	Option
6	CR6012	Preventing and Correcting Offending Behaviour	N	15	Option
6	CR6013	Prison Studies	N	15	Option
6	CR6014	Terrorism Studies	N	15	Option
6	CR6015	Psychological Criminology	N	15	Option
6	CR6016	Race, Ethnicity, Crime and Justice	N	15	Option
6	CR6017	Youth Crime and Sub-culture	N	15	Option
6	CR6018	Work-based learning	N	15	Option
6	CR6019	Football Hooliganism	N	15	Option
6	IS6054	Surveillance, Technology and Society	N	15	Option
15 credits from these Psychosocial Options:					
6	PS6010	Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society	N	15	Option
6	PS6011	Psychosocial Perspectives on Criminal Behaviour	N	15	Option
6	PS6012	HIV in the World	N	15	Option
6	PS6013	Psychosocial Approaches to Space	N	15	Option
6	PS6014	Intro to Counselling	N	15	Option
6	PS6015	Family Studies	N	15	Option
6	PS6016	Exploring Emotion Psychosocially	N	15	Option
6	PS6017	'Race' and Difference in Context	N	15	Option

\*Please Note – A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.

### **Requirements for gaining an award**

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher.

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level four or higher.

### **Degree Classification**

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating:

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6  $\times 0.8$  + The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6  $\times 0.2$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

- 70% - 100% First Class Honours
- 60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
- 50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
- 40% - 49% Third Class Honours
- 0% - 39% Not passed

### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

## **Teaching and learning**

### **Knowledge and understanding is developed through**

- Module design and content
- Lectures
- Guided independent study
- Seminar and workshop discussion and debate
- Group work
- Worked examples
- Formative assessment

### **'Thinking' skills are developed through**

- Foundation subjects at level one
- Additional core-skills provision
- Seminar work and feedback
- Profiling and the personal tutor system

### **Practical skills are developed through**

- Research Methods teaching
- Seminar work and feedback
- Dissertation work and supervision

### **General skills are developed through**

- Seminar participation
- Formative assessment and feedback
- Core skills tuition and referral support

## **Assessment**

### **Knowledge and understanding is assessed by**

- Coursework essays, problems and case studies
- Seen/unseen Examinations
- Project work

### **'Thinking' skills are assessed by**

- Attention to structure, evidence and critique in the marking criteria
- Research based coursework
- Reflective coursework

### **Practical skills are assessed by**

- Subject specific assessment design e.g. practical exercises for methods programmes.
- Completion of project/dissertation

## **General skills are assessed by**

- Diagnostic test on induction.
- Clear marking criteria for all assessments in relation to expression, spelling, grammar and presentation.
- Assessed oral presentations
- Assessed group work

## **How we assure the quality of this programme**

Before this programme started

Before the programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

## **How we monitor the quality of this programme**

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the University's Quality Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

## **The role of the programme committee**

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement

Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

### **The role of external examiners**

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.
  
- The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & Responses'. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

### **Listening to the views of students**

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Informal seminar discussions
- Student representation on programme/field committees
- Student representation on School committees e.g. Student Experience Committee and School Board.
- Effective personal tutor system and level of study representation
- Accessible staff office hours

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Communication to student representatives
- Circulating the minutes of the committees
- Providing details on the programme noticeboard

### **Listening to the views of others**

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Discussions with former students

- External representation on the School Board
- Market research for developing programme provision
- Professional links e.g. with Essex Constabulary and the British Society of Criminology.

### **Where you can find further information**

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site <http://www.uel.ac.uk/>
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- School web pages <http://www.uel.ac.uk/lss/>