

Programme Specification

Award and title: Foundation Year Law and Social Science

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Law, Policing and Social Science
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University, Lord Mayors Walk Campus
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Foundation Certificate Law and Social Science
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time for 4 years (1 year + 3 years Undergraduate)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The Foundation Year in Law and Social Sciences at York St John University (YSJU) is a one-year programme structured to develop you into scholars of theory and practice, possessing the real-world skills that will prepare you to succeed in your undergraduate studies. The structure of the programme is designed to provide you with supportive opportunities to develop the academic resources that are required throughout your degree programme and beyond. These will include presentational and communicative skills as well as critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, you will secure foundational student capabilities that will enable your future success and ease your transition into higher education.

This programme offers a route onto degree level study suitable for entry into most undergraduate programmes at York St John. It has been specifically designed to prepare students for entry to the following programmes:

BA (Hons) Criminology
BA (Hons) Criminology with Police Studies
LLB (Hons) Law
BA (Hons) Professional Policing
BA (Hons) Sociology
BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology

To ease you into your university career, we will provide you with the transitional and pastoral support which will help you develop into confident scholars and researchers. You will receive tutelage and research

opportunities that will make you self-assured scholars in the study and practice of the Foundation Year in Law and Social Sciences. You will also be provided with an academic tutor who can help facilitate your transition into university and guide you through your studies. This pastoral support will offer guidance into both the expectations we have for you in your university career and how to utilise it for the world beyond.

In this way the practical benefits of undertaking a Foundation Year in Law and Social Sciences can be seen in the development of skills (critical thinking, employment-based IT skills, university level study skills), which are transferable to your academic careers as well as the working world. These will include the ability to research, collect and analyse data, use a range of software packages, and conduct comparative analysis. You will learn to administer, organise, plan and manage research projects, write and edit at the academic level, present evidence and arguments, and engage in critical debate. These skills not only make you knowledgeable, but also sought-after candidates in the job market. In a modern society where innovation and evolution are the norm, this programme provides you with precisely the graduate skills required to flourish at university and the working world beyond.

The delivery of the taught elements of the foundation year will be concentrated on a maximum of two days per week – to enable you the maximum flexibility in how you organise your study alongside your work and other commitments.

As a student on the Foundation Year programme, you will join a thriving academic community in the social sciences at York St John University. You will be taught by a team of research-active academic staff, whose work spans the breadth of the disciplines, and supported by an excellent team of teachers.

Special Features

- **Opportunities to explore the range of social science disciplines, in theory and practice**

This Foundation Year is unique in that it will offer you the opportunity to focus on law *and* social sciences, exploring the related disciplines of law, criminology, policing and sociology from academic and professional/vocational lenses: this will ensure that you are exceptionally well placed to make fully informed decisions about your future ambitions.

- **Research specialisms:**

Modules are relevant, engaging and informed by up-to-the-minute research conducted by academics who are actively publishing in the field and who teach across the programmes. Researchers are currently producing work in the fields of murder, sex work, cryptocurrency, employment law, criminal litigation, graffiti, and youth justice to name a few. Through learning alongside research active staff, you will gain comprehensive knowledge of approaches to research, will develop critical and analytical insights, along with practical skills such as argumentative analysis, application of evidence, identification of relevant research and effective note-taking. Combined, these skills and experiences will give you the tools you need for undergraduate success.

- **Individual student support:**

The Foundation Year offers support both inside and outside the classroom. You will be connected to excellent personal and academic support. The Law and Social Sciences team are committed to your success and helping you smoothly transition into your university career. As such, you will be allocated your own personal supportive academic tutor (PAT) who will be a dedicated point of contact and will guide you academically and ease your transition into university life.

- **Induction into Higher Education and employability:**

Training, programme design and ongoing pastoral and assessment guidance across the programme will effectively scaffold your work towards moving into undergraduate programmes across law, policing and social sciences.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, students wishing to enrol on the Foundation Year of the programme should typically have:

- English Language GCSE at grade C, or equivalent level 2 award
- A relevant Level 3 qualification or two A2 levels (for this programme the standard entry level is DD at A Level or equivalent – 48 points on the UCAS tariff)

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The Foundation Year in Law and Social Science aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to enter Higher Education and be confidently prepared to study in your chosen discipline. It will provide you with opportunities to explore the specific disciplines of law and social science and reflect upon your longer-term ambitions, both academic and vocational.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 3

On successful completion of this level of study you will be able to:

3.1 identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems and complete tasks.

3.2 demonstrate an ability to communicate critical information in a variety of forms.

3.3 apply a factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge of concepts applicable to the study of law and the social sciences.

3.4 understand different perspectives and approaches within the study of law and social sciences.

3.5 demonstrate the skills required for ongoing development and learning at undergraduate level

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
SSC3001M	3	1	Exploring Society	20	C	X
SSC3006M	3	1	Contextualising Law and Social Science	20	C	X
SSC3002M	3	1	'Charged: The Anatomy of a Crime' (1)	20	C	X
SSC3003M	3	2	'Charged: The Anatomy of a Crime' (2)	20	C	X
SSC3004M	3	2	Contemporary issues in Law and Social Science	20	C	X
SSC3005M	3	2	Problem-based Project	20	C	X

Learning, teaching and assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment you will receive on this programme has been informed not only by contemporary ideas of best practice from the disciplines of law, social sciences and policing, but also best practice in the delivery of foundation level studies. The programme has two core commitments at its heart: 'student centred' learning and 'real world relevance'. We strongly believe that this approach is one that you will find enjoyable, inspire you and support you in your development as an autonomous independent learner.

On the Foundation Year, you will experience a range of different teaching activities, as appropriate to the particular area of study. Individual modules will be delivered using lectures, seminars and workshops. Lectures will comprise the full year group, whereas workshop size may vary depending on the activities proposed. Seminars will be smaller group sessions where you will have the opportunity to engage in discussion and reflect on your learning and skills in greater depth. The programme will also give you opportunities to familiarise yourselves with forms of technology enhanced learning, similar to those you will experience in your degree level studies. For example, the Moodle system will be used for group forum discussions and online quizzes.

Throughout the year, you will be supported by the Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) system. Upon starting the programme, you will be allocated an individual personal tutor (PAT) from the programme team, who will hold regular meetings with you throughout your studies – to ensure you are on track to succeed. In the first semester, PAT meetings will be held once a week for the first four weeks and then fortnightly for the remainder of semester one. They will be held monthly in semester 2 as you develop to be an independent learner. The PAT will be there in addition to your module tutors to offer academic advice and support and, where necessary, referral onto other University support systems and advisory services.

You will also experience a range of assessments on the programme, designed to develop your skills. The assessments you will engage in will be authentic, not only mirroring those you will face on your degree programme but also replicating the kind of 'real world' problems faced by practitioners of these disciplines. Assessments across the modules include essays, reports, portfolios, oral presentations and research projects. These methods are stipulated in the module descriptors and are chosen as is relevant to the particular module. At the start of the year, you will be provided with an assessment calendar, stipulating when the submission dates of the assessment for each module will be. Within each module, you will be given an opportunity to practice for your assessment and receive feedback on practice work. This ensures that you are fully prepared and confident for the final assessments you will face.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: