

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Criminology

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Social Sciences
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025-26
<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
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Criminology Diploma of Higher Education Criminology BA (Ord) Criminology
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	L6L1
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Criminology 2014
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

BA Criminology at YSJU is a three-year programme structured to develop our students into scholars of criminological theory and practice, possessing the real-world skills sets that will make you an asset in the job market. We never forget that your life after YSJU will be much longer and less predictable than your life at YSJU and the structure of the programme is designed to provide you with supportive opportunities to develop the sorts of skills that are required in graduate jobs. These will include presentational and communicative skills as well as criticality and problem-solving.

We want you to do well and to secure employment. To help, we will provide you with the pastoral support to develop as individuals as well as the academic instruction, tutelage, and research opportunities that will make you confident scholars in the study and practice of criminology. You will also be provided with opportunities to engage with employers as part of the Working with criminology module as well jobs and volunteering fairs. This will help you to get an insight into both job roles and employer requirements.

In this way the practical benefits of undertaking a degree in criminology can be seen in the development of general and specific skills, which are transferable to the working world. These will also include the ability to research, collect and analyse data, use a range of software packages, conduct comparative and policy analysis, administer, organise, plan and manage research projects, write and edit at the academic level, present evidence and argument, and engage in critical debate. These skills not only make our students knowledgeable scholars of criminology, but also sought-after candidates in the job market. In a post-

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

industrial society where innovation and evolution are the norm, this programme provides you with precisely the graduate skills required to cope with a future that demands critical thinking and research ability in addition to real world practical skills.

Criminology offers you the ability to enhance your critical thinking through the study of the social world that you can utilize towards future employment. Criminology considers the diversity and complexity of societies and the forms of criminality that exist within them. It examines them through research at a macro level (institutions, governments, international corporations, large-scale social structures, etc.) and at a micro level (such as everyday social interactions, interpersonal networks, social media, consumption habits, etc). Through research-led teaching, it works to develop critically engaged individuals who understand, and can respond to a variety of social, cultural and political challenges by fostering citizens who are able to have a meaningful impact upon the world within which they live.

The distinctive and unique contribution of Social Scientists to the world is a critical and interpretive way of seeing that unpicks the structures, systems, partialities, and inequalities which influence how sectors, organisations and people behave. Our interpretation of Work-Related Experiential Learning, authentic to the subject, is to reframe this embedded critique using a lens of opportunity – gearing up York St John Social Scientists to not only see, but also affect and offer positive change to whatever structure (family, relationships, education, community) or organisation that they exist or work in or with. Embedded in our programme, this approach can be dissected into three main strands. 1) **Skill acquisition via taught content and assessment:** the nature of the assessments and taught content refocuses on problem solving of contemporary, relevant, problems, and of developing the skills to make social justice-oriented contributions predominantly in the third sector. 2) **Awareness and Articulation:** where modules highlight relevant career pathways associated with taught content and help you to communicate your skills and contribution to relevant employers. 3) **Partnership:** where exposure to and networking with industry stakeholders via classroom time and assessment, live briefs and real-world industry-led or designed problems allows you to practice authentic uses of your Social Sciences skills.

As students you will be challenged, changed, and improved by your experiences and successful completion of the programme will enhance your existing skills, develop new skills and offer you new and improved understandings of the world around you.

Special features

- **Research specialisms**
Modules are relevant, engaging and informed by up-to-the-minute criminological research conducted by academics who are actively publishing in the field and who teach across the programme. Researchers are currently producing work in the fields of murder, terrorism and political violence, sex work, and white-collar crime, cryptocurrency, graffiti, and youth justice
- **Tailored specialisms**
The third year of the programme (Level 6) gives you the opportunity to specialise and tailor your interests towards a variety of different areas across the whole Social Sciences portfolio
- **Support with employability**
Through structured pastoral supervision and Careers support across the degree programme, you will be equipped with the necessary skills and competencies to prepare you for life after undergraduate study

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

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)

BA (Hons) Criminology is the path for students who wish to become critically engaged and aware individuals who are more able to have a meaningful impact on their world and who possess the knowledge and skills to work with police forces, governments, and any other organisation to do so.

The programme, in terms of both structure and content, offers a valuable springboard to those wishing to pursue graduate study and research.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Demonstrate an awareness of differing criminological perspectives
- 4.2 Define key concepts in criminology and explain how they apply to social life
- 4.3 Locate and evaluate relevant academic literature
- 4.4 Construct convincing arguments and communicate information and ideas clearly
- 4.5 Demonstrate the ability to work both independently and collaboratively with fellow students
- 4.6 Demonstrate a range of digital skills as appropriate

Level 5

- 5.1 Apply criminological theories to a range of situations and issues
- 5.2 Explain and evaluate complex social problems in terms of criminological theories of crime, class, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance
- 5.3 Identify the value of the discipline of criminology to working environments
- 5.4 Appraise critically political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in light of criminological theories
- 5.5 Demonstrate how qualitative and quantitative research methods are used to generate evidence and identify an appropriate, ethical, strategy for specific research problems
- 5.6 Critically reflect on your own progress as criminology undergraduate

Level 6

- 6.1 Critically analyse criminology as a distinct form of knowledge and practice
- 6.2 Work independently to plan and carry out research with appropriate supervision
- 6.3 Appraise and select evidence to challenge assumptions and formulate alternatives
- 6.4 Critically evaluate evidence and competing explanations
- 6.5 Critically analyse evidence and communicate this clearly and effectively
- 6.6 Demonstrate the use of criminology within critical understanding of social issues

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
SSC4002M	4	1	Communicating Ideas	20	C	X
CRI4001M	4	1	Fundamentals of Criminological Theory	20	C	X
CRI4002M	4	1	Crime and Deviance in the Contemporary World	20	C	X
CRI4003M	4	2	Preventing and Punishing	20	C	X
CRI4004M	4	2	Victimology	20	C	X
CRI4005M	4	2	Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	20	C	X
SSC5002M	5	1	Social Research Methods 2	20	C	X
CRI5001M	5	1	Working with Criminology	20	C	X
CRI5002M	5	1	Issues in Criminal Justice	20	O	X
CRI5003M	5	1	Crime and the Economy	20	O	X
CRI5004M	5	2	Ethnicity, Nationality and Social Control	20	O	X
CRI5006M	5	2	Cultural Criminology	20	O	X
PCS5003M	5	2	The Culture of Contemporary Policing	20	O	X
SSC5001M	5	2	Social Research Methods 1	20	C	X
SSC6001M	6	1&2	Social Science Investigation	40	C	NC
CRI6002M	6	1	Sex Work	20	O ¹	X
CRI6006M	6	1	Critical Criminology	20	O ¹	X
CRI6011M	6	1	Green Criminology: Social and Ecological Justice	20	O ¹	X
SOC6002M	6	1	Spatial Sociology	20	O ¹	X
SOC6011M	6	1	Investigating Games	20	O ¹	X
CRI6003M	6	2	Crime and Media	20	O ¹	X
CRI6004M	6	2	Prisons and Penology	20	O ¹	X
CRI6009M	6	2	Youth and Resistance	20	O ¹	X
SOC6004M	6	2	State, Nation and Migration	20	O ¹	X
SOC6005M	6	2	Health, Illness and Society	20	O ¹	X

¹ At Level 6, Criminology students are required to select four optional modules, two of which must have a CRI module code.

Please note that all modules are subject to staffing and timetable availability, and sufficient student numbers each year.

Learning, teaching and assessment

As a student on BA (Hons) Criminology you will experience a range of teaching styles and settings and a variety of approaches to support and direct your learning. Classes will generally involve tutor-led input interspersed with student activities. Activities may include small group work, discussions, guided reading and library-based research leading to feedback. Modules with lectures will also benefit from the provision of

seminars (small groups of students with a tutor) and tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor). In addition, there is an emphasis on independent study outside of formal teaching sessions including directed reading tasks, student-based project work, engaging with the online virtual learning environment (VLE) and encouragement to attend guest lectures and research seminars.

The range of resources is designed to enable you to work collaboratively and build your knowledge beyond guided reading so that you are able to engage with key debates within the approaches to theory.

Criminology is a rich and varied discipline and, as such, you must be able and willing to explore the depth of knowledge and experience at your disposal. You will study a variety of challenging issues and cases.

Although learning about the discipline of criminology is important, the development of academic skills is not overlooked and there will be various activities which are aimed at making you more effective in the work that you produce whilst on the course. As part of this, skills which are valued by employers, such as communication, presentational and organisational skills are intrinsic to assignments. You will find further support in relation to the development of academic skills on the programme's Moodle site.

York St. John University adopts the position that students are co-producers of knowledge rather than just recipients of it. We see students as an important aspect of a student-centred approach. As such there will be opportunities for students to engage in research in different ways such as through the Research Assistant scheme. This provides students with the opportunity to take part in research projects being carried out by staff if successful. York St John University aims to ensure that you have opportunities to engage in the study of criminology rather than just hear about how knowledge is produced.

Transferable skills and competencies as evident within graduate attributes will be achieved through the tiered learning progression. As such, Level 4 has increased contact time to ensure that you have a sound grounding in the subject area in key modules; this is gradually reduced at Level 5 and 6 in order to develop your autonomy, whilst still providing a supportive environment through regular tutorials. At Level 6, you will be expected to engage in critical enquiry-based learning to develop your individual autonomous reasoning, analytical and research skills to a high standard.

Throughout your studies you will have an opportunity to undertake modules that are related to the careers that you may wish to pursue in the future. At Level 5, you will study a specialist module that will allow you to reflect upon work and employability in the context of criminology. In addition, Social Science Careers events will feature guest speakers from related sectors to provide relevant insight. You will also be encouraged to undertake volunteering activities to enhance your future employability; this will be with organisations or agencies and voluntary groups that support a range of issues related to criminology.

You will be assigned an academic tutor in addition to module tutors. The role of the academic tutor is to provide additional support with your studies where necessary. Further to this support the university provides extensive support in a range of academic skills, such as writing assignments and the use of the library for locating relevant information.

York St John University is committed to embedding formative assessment activities as part of its approach to teaching, learning and assessment: these are activities which develop your understanding of how assessed work is marked and how you might produce work to a higher standard. The intention is to ensure that you receive on-going feedback relating to your learning and development which will assist you in being successful in your studies. You will encounter a range of assessment approaches which are designed to enable you to develop a range of skills and meet the learning outcomes detailed earlier. Formative and summative assessment will be by a variety of methods appropriate to the specified Programme Learning Outcomes, the level, and the specific module.

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-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement for Criminology March 2014](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 26/04/16

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