

Programme Specification

Award and title: BA (Hons) Criminology

<i>School:</i>	School of Humanities
<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 Campus
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Ord) Criminology Diploma of Higher Education Criminology Certificate of Higher Education Criminology
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	L6L1
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	NA
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/criminology
<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>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

BA (Hons) Criminology is a three-year [full time] programme structured to develop you into a scholar of criminological practice and theory. Criminology offers you the ability to enhance your critical thinking through the study of the social world that you can utilise towards future employment; it considers the diversity and complexity of societies around the world, and the forms of criminality that exist within them. It does so by examining 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) in relation to crime and deviance. Through research-led teaching – with a focus on criminal justice, cultural and critical criminology in particular you will work to develop yourself as a critically-engaged criminologist who understands, and can respond to, a variety of social, cultural and political challenges: as a student you will be challenged, changed, and improved by your experiences, and successful

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated; please refer to the Regulations for Undergraduate/Taught Postgraduate/Professional Doctorate Awards <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/> for information on standard periods of study

completion of the programme you will have developed new skills and critical thinking to enable you to tackle the criminological issues of tomorrow's world.

We'll support you to develop skills and aptitudes 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 here, and the structure of the programme is designed to provide you with supportive opportunities to develop the sorts of skills that are required in related graduate jobs; these will include presentational and communicative skills alongside critical thinking and practical problem-solving. You will be provided with opportunities to engage with employers at key stages across the degree, drawing on our connections with local, regional and national criminal justice agencies, alongside understanding how these organisations interact with the modules you are studying. This includes practical assessed work in conjunction with different agencies, guest speakers and volunteering/job fairs with related employers.

You will develop both general and specific skills that are transferable to the working world. These will 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. This is integrated with our work-related experiential learning framework to ensure your skills acquisition is matched by support to articulate those skills to different audiences and develop your own professional connections with organisations who work both with the department and with the School of Humanities where Social Sciences and Criminology is situated.

The programme supports the option to Study Abroad (Semester 1 of Level 5/Year 2, subject to University Threshold Standards).

Special features

- Research-led teaching: your optional modules across Level 5 and 6 are delivered by research experts, drawing on their own field work to inform key aspects of Criminology in a contemporary context, including; green crime and ecological harm; migration, immigration, housing, and detention; prisons and probation; crime media and representation; policing and custodial practices; exclusion, inequalities and communities; and crime prevention strategies. There are also opportunities to work with staff on their research projects as part of the students-as-researchers scheme.
- Field trips: the programme funds a variety of field trips at no cost to the student to embed your learning in specific locales within the criminal justice system. Previous trips have involved visits to working prisons of varying categories and criminal courts
- Partnerships: the programme is designed to integrate partnership work with organisations outside of the University at a local, regional and national level, enabling you to situate your learning in a real-world context. This may include working with law enforcement agencies and support organisations, alongside a number of community stakeholders in and around York and North Yorkshire.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

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 aim of the programme is to:

- To develop you as a critically–engaged criminologist, able to tackle a wide variety of cultural, political and social injustices through your knowledge and application of criminological theory and practice.
- To equip you with specific research and soft skills to support your career development in variety of related job roles, alongside collaborative opportunities with sector partners and organisations.
- To enable you to tackle a diverse range of issues related to your interests in criminology, allowing you to understand and address future criminological challenges at a regional, national and international level through engagement with research specialists on the programme.

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 detail how they apply to social life
- 4.3 Present, evaluate and interpret relevant academic literature alongside qualitative and quantitative data that is discipline specific
- 4.4 Communicate information and ideas clearly through constructed arguments
- 4.5 Demonstrate the ability to work both independently and/or collaboratively
- 4.6 Explore the relationship between criminological issues and areas of employment

Level 5

- 5.1 Apply criminological theories to a range of situations and issues
- 5.2 Explain and evaluate complex social problems in relation to the criminal justice system and social inequalities
- 5.3 Critically appraise key criminal justice issues, processes and policies
- 5.4 Apply qualitative or quantitative research methods to generate evidence and identify an appropriate, ethical, strategy for specific research problems
- 5.5 Critically reflect on the relationship between criminological issues and their own career aspirations

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 critically evaluate evidence to challenge assumptions and formulate alternatives
- 6.4 Critically evaluate the use of criminological approaches to tackle real-world social issues
- 6.5 Apply their skills, knowledge and attributes to employment contexts in a related sector

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
CRI4006M	4	1	Criminology Uncovered	20	C	X
CRI4007M	4	1	Criminology of Everyday Life	20	C	X
SSC4003M	4	1	Becoming a Social Scientist	20	C	X
CRI4008M	4	2	Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	20	C	X
CRI4009M	4	2	Losing the Plot: Debunking Media Myths	20	C	X
SOC4010	4	2	Global Perspectives	20	C	X
SSC5003M	5	1	What's Next in Your Career?	20	C	X
CRI5008M	5	1	Qualitative Methods for Criminologists	20	C	X
Students must choose either CRI5007M or SOC5012M in Semester 1						
CRI5007M	5	1	Crime to Court	20	O	X
SOC5012	5	1	Global Disaster	20	O	X
CRI5013M	5	2	Quantitative Methods for Criminologists	20	C	X
Students must choose two optional modules in Semester 2						
CRI5009M	5	2	Cultures of Contemporary Policing	20	O	X
CRI5010M	5	2	Police Custodial Practice	20	O	X
CRI5011M	5	2	Life on the Margins: Inequality, Exclusion & Social Control	20	O	X
CRI5012M	5	2	World in Motion	20	O	X
Students must choose four optional modules (two each semester), three of the optional modules must be from the Criminology modules (starting with CRI)						
CRI6012M	6	1	Prisons & Probation	20	O	X
CRI6013M	6	1	Under Siege: Politics & (Mis)information and Social Threats	20	O	X
CRI6014M	6	1	Communities, Justice & Social Change	20	O	X
SOC6013M	6	1	Go Home: State, Society & Media Responses to Immigration	20	O	X
CRI6015M	6	2	Crimetime Media	20	O	X
CRI6016M	6	2	Critical Criminology	20	O	X
CRI6017M	6	2	Sex Work	20	O	X
CRI6018M	6	2	Green Criminology: Social & Ecological Justice	20	O	X
SSC6002M	6	1&2	Applied Social Science Investigation	40	C	NC

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Our modules are delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies including lectures, seminars, guest speakers, tutorials, workshops and a range of events both at the University and via field trips. You are supported in the use of guided learning strategies at Level 4, developing your skills towards both autonomous and collaborative learning strategies at Level 5 and 6.

To develop your skills, you will be introduced to a range of different approaches to learning. For example, at Level 4 you will explore both micro and macro issues in Criminology through the study of your own everyday experiences, alongside global issues that are assessed through case-based work (inter-agency collaboration in the criminal justice system for instance). This is augmented by assessments including creative mapping, presentations and more traditional essay-based work: this variety ensures your skills develop across multiple areas. At Level 5, creative problem-solving work is allied with research skills training in both qualitative and quantitative methods, enabling you to both identify your own interests alongside developing competencies with different types of software to support your own research projects. This culminates at Level 6, where alongside a diversification of assessments on specialist research-led modules (including poster showcases, mini conferences [dissertation module], policy briefs and white papers) you will produce a long-form piece of research with the option of working on a live brief with a partnership organisation related to crime/criminal justice. Ultimately all of our assessments offer authentic engagement between theories and practice, informed by our partnerships and networks in the department and School of Humanities more broadly. Throughout the degree, you will have opportunities for formative feedback to inform your assessed work prior to submission, and you will receive detailed feed-forward support on assessments to help you continuously improve your performance whilst on the programme.

An essential part of our pedagogy is to combine learning and the development of skills, alongside preparing you for the requirements of the workplace. You will have the opportunity for study support including academic writing and research skills to enhance employability and career development in relation to Criminology. As an employable graduate, you will encounter the term 'transferable skills', which employers value as they offer adaptability in many senses in a variety of workplaces. Our programme seeks to develop and enhance your skills in team working, problem solving and communication through diverse approaches to teaching, learning and assessment activities, allied with practical opportunities to engage in a range of activities which will support and evidence your achievements as your progress through the degree and into your chosen career.

All of our modules are benchmarked against our graduate attributes – those targets for the type of graduate employers want to see on degree completion. To that end, our modules are designed to integrate the above approaches towards developing confident, authentic, resilient, enterprising and professional learners, who combine intellectual curiosity, creative problem solving, emotional and ethical intelligence and commercial awareness.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [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, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: