# Programme Specification

## Award and title: BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology

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|---|---|
| *School:* | School of Humanities |
| *Subject area:* | Social Sciences |
| *Entry from academic year:* | 2026-27 |
| *in the month(s) of* | September |
| *Awarding institution:* | York St John University |
| *Teaching institution:* | York St John University |
| *Delivery location:* | York Campus |
| *Programme/s accredited by:* | N/A |
| *Exit awards:* | BA (Ord) Sociology with Criminology<br>Diploma of Higher Education Sociology with Criminology<br>Certificate of Higher Education Sociology with Criminology |
| *UCAS code / GTTR / other:* | LL33 |
| *Joint Honours combinations:* | N/A |
| *QAA subject benchmark statement(s):* | https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-sociology.pdf?sfvrsn=6ee2cb81_4 |
| *Mode/s of study:* | Undergraduate periods of study[1] for full time / part time |
| *Language of study:* | English |
| *Paired with Foundation Year* | Yes |
| *Study abroad opportunities:* | Yes |
| *Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:* | Yes |
| *Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?* | No |

## Introduction and special features

BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology at YSJU is a three-year [full time] programme structured to develop you as a critically-engaged scholar who can understand and challenge a variety of social, cultural and political challenges, and situate these in the context of crime, criminality and social harm; at York St John we do this by using research-led teaching to examine 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 society and the types of crime and deviance they foster, with a focus on play, inequalities, gender, health, climate, crime media, criminal justice systems and crime prevention strategies.

[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.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/ for information on standard periods of study

You will develop both general and specific skills, which 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 is situated.

Whilst engaging with social, cultural and criminological issues is a vital part of your learning journey, how these are of practical use in your future career is also paramount. We'll support you to develop skills and aptitudes that will make you an asset in the job market. We know that your life after YSJU will be much longer and less predictable than your life at YSJU, so 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 critical thinking and practical problem-solving. We want you to do well and to secure employment: to that end you will be provided with opportunities to engage with employers at key stages across the degree, drawing on our connections with a variety of local, regional and national organisations in the criminal justice sector, government, education, the culture industries and the third sector to name a few, 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.

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 Sociology and Criminology in both a historical and contemporary context. For Sociology, this may include areas such as: play, gaming and social justice; identities in a changing world; technology and culture; health and illness; sex, gender and the body; statehood and socio-political discourse; globalisation, mobilities and myth-making. Our Criminological research focuses on 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 offers a variety of University-funded field trips to embed your learning in specific locales of both sociological interest - cultural centres like The Hepworth, Wakefield; understanding social justice through film at the Aesthetica Film Festival; or socio-spatial mapping around York – alongside those related to the criminal justice sector, including working prisons 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. For example, this may include working alongside researchers and arts organisations at Games Lab events or dissertation research projects with local charities; it might also include more criminologically-focused work with law enforcement and support organisations.

## 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.yorksj.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 aims of the programme are:

- To develop you as a critically-engaged sociologist, able to tackle a wide variety of cultural, political and social injustices, with expertise in relation to crime and deviance.
- To equip you with specific research and soft skills to apply to a 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, allowing you to understand and address future social and 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 sociological and criminological perspectives

4.2 Define key concepts in sociology and 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 sociological and criminological issues and areas of employment

**Level 5**

5.1 Apply sociological and 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 social and cultural processes in relation to environmental harm, social justice and associated 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 sociological and criminological issues and their own career aspirations

**Level 6**

6.1 Critically analyse sociology and criminology as distinct forms 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 sociological and 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) |
| SOC4007M | 4 | 1 | Theorising Society | 20 | C | X |
| SOC4008M | 4 | 1 | Sociology 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 |
| SOC4010M | 4 | 2 | Global Perspectives | 20 | C | X |
| | | | | | | |
| Students must choose three optional modules, one in semester 1 and two in semester 2. Students must choose at least one Criminology module (starting with CRIM) | | | | | | |
| SSC5003M | 5 | 1 | What's next in your career | 20 | C | X |
| SOC5010M | 5 | 1 | Quantitative Methods for Sociologists | 20 | C | X |
| CRI5007M | 5 | 1 | Crime to Court | 20 | O | X |
| SOC5011M | 5 | 1 | Seeing Gender: Feminism and Visual Culture | 20 | O | X |
| SOC5012M | 5 | 1 | Global Disaster | 20 | O | X |
| SOC5016M | 5 | 2 | Qualitative Methods for Sociologists | 20 | C | X |
| CRI5009M | 5 | 2 | Cultures of Contemporary Policing | 20 | O | X |
| CRI5011M | 5 | 2 | Life on the Margins: Inequality, Exclusion & Social Control | 20 | O | X |
| SOC5014M | 5 | 2 | Play, Social Justice & Resistance | 20 | O | X |
| SOC5015M | 5 | 2 | Sickness & Society | 20 | O | X |
| | | | | | | |
| Students must choose four optional modules, two in each semester. Students must choose at least two Sociology modules (starting with SOC) and two Criminology modules (starting with CRIM) | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| SOC6012M | 6 | 1 | Gaming for Good | 20 | O | X |
| CRI6016M | 6 | 2 | Critical Criminology | 20 | O | X |
| CRI6018M | 6 | 2 | Green Criminology: Social & Ecological Justice | 20 | O | X |
| SOC6015M | 6 | 2 | Health & Harm in a Changing World: Inequality, Vulnerability, and (In)Justice | 20 | O | X |
| SOC6016M | 6 | 2 | Technology & Critique | 20 | O | X |
| SOC6017M | 6 | 2 | Critical Theory | 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) in order 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.

For example, at Level 4 you will explore both micro and macro issues in Sociology through the study of everyday experiences and global issues that are assessed through case study work (looking at inter-agency co-operation in criminal justice organisations), alongside presentations and more traditional essay-based work: this variety ensures your initial skills are developed across multiple areas. At Level 5, creative problem-solving 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 on working on a live brief with a partnership organisation. Ultimately all of our assessments offer authentic engagement between theories and practice, informed by our partnerships and networks in the department and the 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 both Sociology and 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 – 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
- Freedom of Speech Code of Practice
- The University’s Approach to Dignity and Respect

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*Date written / revised:*
*Programme originally approved:*