

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
BA (Hons) Criminology and Law BA (Hons) Criminology and Law with Foundation Year	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BJ1CAL1 BJ1CAL4
UCAS Code:	CWAL CLFY
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, BA (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	FT
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3yrs / 4yrs with Foundation year
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

The BA (Hons) Criminology and Law degree is an innovative and flexible course, ideal for people interested in developing careers in criminal justice and related sectors. This programme gives students a solid foundation in the disciplines of criminology and law and the synergies between them. As students' progress through the course the programme allows students to choose to specialise in either criminology or law or to continue an equal focus on both. The programme explores the functioning of the criminal justice system and efforts to address the issue of crime, as well as the contemporary challenges that crime poses to society.

The application of knowledge and understanding to real contemporary criminological issues is a key aspect of this programme. This includes such issues as cybercrime, human rights abuses and crimes against humanity as well as criminal justice policy, British legal systems and criminal law. The programme also equips students with the relevant analytical and critical skills that will enable them work in such fields as the Crown Prosecution Service, HM prisons, the police, youth offending and the legal profession. On this programme, you will gain a solid grounding in criminological research methods and practice as well as current legal thought. You will also develop valuable legal skills, including analytic and logical reasoning in addition to academic studies and transferable skills.

The programme will help students to develop multidisciplinary skills in criminology and law and it is this knowledge and experience that will make students versatile and relevant for jobs in the sector. The assessment, teaching and learning strategy enables the student to acquire a repertoire of work-ready skills. The programme will suit students who wish to use their degree to pursue careers to find solutions to crime-related social problems as well as give legal advice. This combined programme would be of interest to students who would like to develop their legal knowledge and skills within a

sociology of crime/criminal justice framework but do not wish to qualify as lawyers or barristers, and who may already be working or interested in a career in the relevant sectors, as well as enhancing postgraduate and employability opportunities as a result of undertaking this combined course of study. Students will develop the knowledge and skills required to work in both the private and public sectors, in areas of legal advice and in a variety of criminal justice agencies, where knowledge of the law is required and/or valuable. Examples would include refugee and victim support; community crime development, and advice, probation and prisons, criminal psychology and profiling.

Programme Aims

1	To provide graduates with a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and understanding in subjects, theories, concepts and research relevant to criminology and law and to be able to apply these to relevant real life social issues
2	To equip graduates with levels of skills and knowledge that enable them to pursue careers in the criminal justice, law, civil service, private, not-for profit and other sectors.
3	To prepare graduates with the level of skill and knowledge to enable them to undertake academic postgraduate study in either disciplines.
4	To equip graduates with the skills, knowledge, and values that provide the foundations for life-long personal development

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Understand, evaluate and apply criminological theories and concepts.
K2	Understand evaluate and apply the concepts, values, rules, procedures, institutions and personnel of the English and Welsh and European legal systems.
K3	Understand the character, causes and effects of crimes and crime control in contemporary societies.
K4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of contemporary criminal justice systems globally.
K5	Demonstrate awareness of social diversity and inequality and of their relevance for understanding crime and the criminal justice system.
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Devise and sustain arguments, and/or devise innovative solutions to problems, using a breadth of inventiveness, ideas and techniques.
C2	Communicate in writing and orally information, ideas, problems and solutions and to justify own work convincingly to an audience.
C3	Demonstrate willingness to learn and explore new ideas
C4	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
C5	Demonstrate a curious and critical mind about criminal justice and law.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	

S1	Demonstrate awareness of the importance of the ethical boundaries of the disciplines and to use ethical practice in research and practice
S2	Apply learning to current social issues relevant to criminology and law and the ethical issues surrounding these
S3	Critically examine the values, practices and processes of the criminal justice system and related agencies in relation to ethical values and human rights
S4	Gain an ethical awareness of issues around crime and law relating to diversity and inequalities in contemporary societies and to apply ethically sensitive knowledge in exploring solutions to such issues.
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Undertake projects independently
L2	Make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts
L3	Demonstrate development of a reflexive approach in managing own learning and progressing career path
L4	Demonstrate a pro-active approach, taking responsibility and assuming leadership for mutual learning and well-being in working with teams of fellow students and other relevant individuals and agencies

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.

Foundation Level (Optional for students on degree programmes)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
FY008	Ways of Knowing about the Social World	N/A	Core	Yes
FY026	Preparing for Success, Knowledge and Creativity	N/A	Core	Yes
FY027	Preparing for Success, Self-Development and Responsibility	N/A	Core	Yes
FY028	Inquiry based learning	N/A	Core	Yes

Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC480	Media, Communication and Society	15	Core	Yes
LC456	Criminal Justice Process	15	Core	Yes
LC471	Introduction to Criminology: The History of Punishment	15	Core	Yes
LC474	Introduction to Criminology: The Concept of Crime	15	Core	Yes
LW402	Criminal Law	30	Core	Yes
LW403	English Legal Systems	15	Core	Yes
LW405	EU Constitutional and Procedural Law	15	Core	Yes

Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC571	Qualitative Research Methods for Social Scientists	15	Core	Yes
LC572	Quantitative Research Methods for Social Scientists	15	Core	Yes
LC558	Issues in Criminology: Discrimination	15	Core	Yes
LC559	Contemporary Criminology	15	Option	Yes
LW501	Law of Tort	30	Core	Yes
LC551	Human Rights and Crimes Against Humanities	30	Option	Yes
LC560	Gender, Sexuality and Society	15	Option	Yes
LC561	Race Ethnicity and Migration	15	Option	Yes
LC580	Employability and Professional Development	15	Core	Yes
LW506	Law – Criminal Justice	15	Option	Yes
LW507	Media law 1	15	Option	Yes
LW509	Family Law	15	Option	Yes

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC656	Criminal Justice Policy	15	Core	Yes
LC661	Dissertation	30	Option	No
LC683	Applied Dissertation	30	Option	No
LW605	Media Law 2	15	Core	Yes
LC652	Cybercrime	15	Option	Yes
LC653	Radicalization and Terrorism	15	Option	Yes

LC654	Disability and Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System	15	Option	Yes
LC655	Comparative Criminal Justice	15	Option	Yes
LW604	Law of Evidence	15	Option	Yes
LW607	Intellectual Property	15	Option	Yes
LW612	Environmental Law	15	Option	Yes
PS652	Victimology	15	Option	Yes
PS653	Interpersonal Violence	15	Option	Yes
LC665	Leadership and Teamwork	15	Option	Yes

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

This will be an attendance based course and will include teaching activities such as:

- Lectures – classroom based teaching.
- Interactive use of the VLE
- Seminars and workshops – activities are student centred and include group discussions, role play, presentations, videos to provide a context for use of knowledge gained in plenary sessions and in private study, case study problems, problem solving, questions and research activities that are set out in study materials.
- Independent study
- Field trips
- Employment forums
- Formative assessment and feeding forward strategies

Students will be expected to undertake and be guided in independent study for each module weekly throughout the course. Students will regularly be given instructions for independent study in preparation for seminars. This will often include references for reading (reading material may be provided where necessary), and specific tasks or questions will be asked in relation to the reading and students will be expected to attend the seminar with written answers for discussion. Independent learning is developed progressively through the programme by means of seminar research, and coursework preparation, with students at lower levels being given greater guidance on sources and indicative reading.

Skills in oral and written technique, research and critical analysis are developed progressively throughout the levels. The research and dissertation modules provide particular focus of the development of those skills, which are assessed in these modules, and through the varied diet of assessments in other modules.

In level 5 and level 6 students are required to undertake two option modules in each level, from a range of complimentary options available. Students will be supported in their option selection through the provision of an Options Event where academic staff will be on hand to explain the content and assessment of the optional modules being offered, and answer any questions. Students will also have the opportunity to undertake informal discussions about their optional modules with their lecturers or personal tutor.

Professionalism and ethics form a theme throughout the programme, introduced primarily in the Skills modules, but inculcated in other modules with clear expectations that students behave appropriately and contribute to the achievement of teaching aims in class. Particular focus for the demonstration of these skills arises in a variety of assessed elements, including team- or group-based assessments; oral presentations; the legal advice exhibition and the court day. During the Foundation Year, students will be exposed to a variety of summative and formative assessments whilst developing the academic skills to be a successful student at university; course content and Learning Outcomes strongly relate to students developing their knowledge and understanding of the subjects being studied and assessed.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

No particular costs identified in relation to any project material, trips or placements.

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
Foundation Year	336	864	N/A
Year One	324	876	N/A
Year Two	342	858	N/A
Year Three	266	934	N/A

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

Specific assessment methods are determined at modular level, but are designed to reflect the programme aims and learning outcomes, to equip students with relevant knowledge and experience; academic and cognitive, and critical and transferrable skills. To this end there is a varied diet of assessment at all three levels designed to mirror 'real world' legal and sociological issues, problems and situations, as well as providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have acquired.

Students are assessed using a range of innovative assessment methods which facilitates students with differing learning styles. All assessments are designed to equip students with important transferrable skills and so preparing them for the world of work. These include modes of innovative assessment such as poster presentations, blogs, portfolios as well as more traditional forms of assessment as outlined below.

Seminars provide one of the contexts in which students can demonstrate learning in a variety of modes, including presentations, group discussions based on independent learning tasks, preparatory reading, workshop activities.

Examinations permit students to demonstrate achievement of a range of Learning Outcomes in some of the modules. Other modules will be assessed in part by time limited "take-home" assessment: a case-study will be released to students via the virtual learning environment with limited time to undertake the required task and submit a written report. Modules may also be assessed in part by problem based case-study or essay based coursework questions, and oral presentations or portfolios.

All students will be required to demonstrate the skills of critical analysis and independent study required to achieve success in a dissertation.

Classification

Calculation of final award:

Level 5 - 33%

Level 6 - 67%

For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

There are no programme specific entry requirements for this course beyond the university's general requirements, above.

It is anticipated that students will be drawn from the following profile types:

- School leavers who wish to prepare for a career in law and social care within the range of occupations and sectors identified in this programme
- Mature applicants who have been out of the education system for some time and who wish to focus on developing a career in this subject area
- Graduates from other relevant programmes offered by the University or other institutions who wish to continue their professional and academic development in this subject area
- Employees who are currently working in, or have the potential to work in a variety of roles within the criminal law and criminal justice sector and who may wish to gain a high level academic award to develop their knowledge and skills. This will include applicants who have changed career and wish to focus on a career in this subject area.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?

No

Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

Students may not wish to study a professional, legally, accredited course like the LLB but may instead want to study a Criminology and Law programme that is relevant to their intended career or areas of work or that gives the scope to seek graduate opportunities within the criminal justice system including private law practice and legal advice clinics, the police, the courts, probation, young offenders.

They will also be equipped to continue with further postgraduate study. In addition, those who wish to pursue a career in the legal profession may be eligible to take the Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules

- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Buckinghamshire New University
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – Criminology 2014 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement - Law 2015
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	Social Sciences sub-committee
Date Published / Updated:	September 2018, October 2019, Sept 2020, Sept 2021

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Ordinary Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	BA Criminology and Law
Credits requirements:	300 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5 PLUS 60 Credits from any Level 6 Modules except LC661

Learning Outcome

Explain the key principles and rules of law and key principles and theories of criminology.

Apply those principles and rules to complex factual situations and evaluate doctrinal and conceptual difficulties and analyse alternative approaches and outcomes and areas of uncertainty.

Critically evaluate key legal principles and rules of law and criminological perspective/theory by applying techniques of interpretation within a changing environment.

Take responsibility for personal development and mutual learning, using reflection and feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives and implement appropriate action.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Dip HE Criminology and Law
Credits requirements:	240 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5

Learning Outcome

Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the principles and rules of law and criminological perspectives/theory and the way in which these have developed.

Apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied including the application of those principles.

Use a range of established techniques to explain doctrinal and conceptual difficulties and recognise alternative approaches and outcomes of areas of uncertainty and propose solutions to problems.

Effectively communicate information arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
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Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Cert HE Criminology and Law
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Credits requirements:	120 Credits
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Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4
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Learning Outcome

Demonstrate an understanding of key principles and rules of law, and key principles and theories of criminological and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the contexts of law and criminology.

Collect information from a variety of authoritative sources in order to develop lines of argument in accordance with basic principles, concepts and theories of law and criminology.

Communicate the results of their study/work accurately using a variety of communication styles

Display a range of personal and interpersonal skills including effective team work and performing to deadlines.