

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:	
BSc (Hons) Criminology and Forensic Studies BSc (Hons) Criminology and Forensic Studies with Foundation Year	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BH1CJF1 BH1CJF4
UCAS Code:	CJF1, CJF4
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours, BSc (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Full Time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3yrs 4yrs with Foundation Year
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	Application for consideration under the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS) Recognition Scheme will be submitted during the 1 st year: https://www.csfs.org/Recognition

Brief Description of the Programme

The *BSc. (Hons) Criminal Justice & Forensic Studies* programme at Bucks is distinctive given its strong links with locally-based Criminal Justice settings (e.g. police, prison, probation and courts), both in terms of site visits and external expertise, which provide a unique applied focus to the programme. Students will also learn from an experienced team of academics qualified in a wide variety of highly related areas: criminology, sociology, and policy. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to interact with practitioners from various criminal justice agencies (governmental, private and charitable), and forensic businesses and scientists.

The *BSc. (Hons) Criminology & Forensic Studies* provides the student with the knowledge and in-depth understanding of all aspects of the Criminal Justice System. It seeks to provide students with a critical understanding of number of fascinating core areas, for example: biomedical criminology; Economy and Crime; forensic analysis of Serious & Organised Crime (and the role of the NCA); the utility of forensic science in tackling crime (incl. contemporary debates around terrorism, internet sex-offending, cybercrime). In addition, it introduces and raises awareness of core aspects of forensic science to enable students to critically examine and question the process, quality standards and ethical oversight of evidence gathering. The illustrative question asked of potential students should be:

“Are you interested in learning how forensic science is used to help understand crime and criminal behaviour?”

The *Forensic Studies* part of the title, rather than *Forensic Science*, provides an opportunity for a broader understanding of forensics (e.g. forensic psychology; forensic examination; anthropology; hypothesis building; jury decision making around evidence presentation and expert witness testimony;

intelligence analysis, etc.) and negates the need for lab-based facilities typically required for *Forensic Science* degrees. There is, however, the opportunity for students to visit, and hear from professionals working in, *Forensic Science (and Digital Forensics) Labs*. Additionally, incorporated into several modules, are forensic science simulations (crime scene investigation; court room forensic evidence presentation).

The programme also equips students with the relevant analytical and critical skills that will enable them to work in such fields as the Crown Prosecution Service, prisons, intelligence and crime analysis, youth offending and the legal profession. On this programme, students will gain a solid grounding in criminological research methods and practice as well as current forensic thought and processes. Students will also develop valuable critical thinking skills, including analytic and logical reasoning in addition to academic studies and transferable skills. Additionally, given the clear *Forensic Science* pathway developed through each year of the programme, graduates are perfectly placed to apply for *Crime Scene Investigator* roles.

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 forensic studies
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 provide graduates with a knowledge and understanding of the three key integrated components of forensic science: (i) <i>crime scene investigation</i> ; (ii) <i>laboratory analysis</i> ; (iii) <i>the evaluation, interpretation and presentation of evidence</i> .
4	To prepare graduates with the level of skill and knowledge to enable them to undertake academic postgraduate study in either, or related, disciplines.
5	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
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	To understand, evaluate and apply criminological theories and concepts.
K2	To understand evaluate and apply the regulations, procedures, institutions and personnel of the Forensic Science systems and to demonstrate a critical knowledge of the theory and application of forensic science laboratory methods.
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, the role of forensic evidence and the criminal justice system.

K6	Understand and describe the potential complexity, and critical importance, of crime scene investigations and the many practical and legal constraints, including the need for timeliness, within which the investigator must work.
K7	Use a range of research strategies and methods, assess the appropriateness of their use, and identify an appropriate strategy for specific research problems
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	Have the ability to communicate, in writing and orally information, ideas, problems and solutions and to justify own work convincingly and effectively to an audience.
C3	To develop the willingness to learn and explore new ideas
C4	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
C5	Demonstrate a curious and critical mind about criminal justice and forensic studies.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	
S1	To develop an awareness of the importance of the ethical boundaries of the disciplines and to use ethical practice in research and practice
S2	To apply learning to current social issues relevant to criminology and forensic evidence and practice and the ethical issues surrounding these
S3	To be able to critically examine the values, practices and processes of all forms of forensics and related agencies in relation to ethical values and human rights
S4	To gain an ethical awareness of issues around crime and forensic practice relating to diversity and inequalities in contemporary societies and to apply ethically sensitive knowledge in exploring solutions to such issues.
S5	Demonstrate an understanding of the investigative process and the requirements of continuity of evidence
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Undertake a sustained piece of independent written work
L2	Make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts
L3	Demonstrate 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
L5	Demonstrate professionalism by effective working as part of a team and recognising how the scope of an investigation, the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of others may affect the strategy (either overall or in terms of a regulatory strategy).
L6	Develop report writing skills ensuring reports are robust, comprehensive, comprehensible, balanced, impartial, logical and transparent.

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	30	Core	Yes
FY026	Preparing for Success, Knowledge and Creativity	30	Core	Yes
FY027	Preparing for Success, Self-Development and Responsibility	30	Core	Yes
FY028	Inquiry based learning	30	Core	Yes

Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC456	Criminal Justice Process	15	Core	Yes
LC471	Introduction to Criminology: <i>The History of Punishment</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC473	Making Sense of Society: <i>The Sociological Imagination</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC474	Introduction to Criminology: <i>The Concept of Crime</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC480	Media, Communication and Society	15	Core	Yes
LC483	Investigative Process: <i>From Crime Scene to Court</i>	15	Core	Yes
PS412	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	15	Core	Yes
SE420	Threat and Risk	15	Core	Yes

Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC559	Contemporary Criminology	15	Core	Yes
LC571	Qualitative Research Methods for Social Scientists	15	Core	Yes
LC572	Quantitative Research Methods for Social Scientists	15	Core	Yes
LC573	Forms of Crime: <i>Crimes of the Powerful</i>	15	Option	Yes
LC558	Discrimination: Issues in Criminology	15	Core	Yes
LC580	Employability and Professional Development	15	Core	Yes
LC583	Introduction to Forensic Science: <i>Pathology, Anthropology, Toxicology</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC584	Evidence in Court: <i>Interpretation, Evaluation, Presentation</i>	15	Core	Yes
SE528	Intelligence Research and Analysis	15	Option	Yes

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally 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	Core	Yes
LC656	Criminal Justice Policy	15	Core	Yes
LC658	Criminal Investigation Systems	30	Option	Yes
LC661	Dissertation	30	Option	No
LC683	Applied Dissertation	30	Option	No
LC685	Leadership and Change	15	Option	Yes
LW604	Law of Evidence	15	Option	Yes
PS651	Investigative and Forensic Psychology	15	Option	Yes
PS652	Victimology	15	Option	Yes
PS653	Interpersonal Violence	15	Option	Yes
PS679	Professional Forensic Practice Issues	15	Option	Yes

Either LC661 or LC683 must be taken. An additional 60 credits must be chosen from the optional modules across the two semesters: Either 30 credits in each semester or 15 credits in each semester plus LC658 (30 credits)

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:

Explanation of the method employed, i.e. Attendance / FDL / Work-Based Learning and the types of teaching activity that applicants/students will encounter (bulleted list) and how they will be supported. The Academic Enhancement Team can provide assistance in developing an appropriate learning, teaching and assessment strategy.

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 specific costs identified in relation to any project material, trips or placements. However, it is recommended indicative costs of £100 are considered to cover travel costs to labs or CSFS, and related, workshops/lectures and to cover purchase of forensic science texts (if needed).

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	348	852	N/A
Year One	336	864	N/A
Year Two	360	840	N/A
Year Three	277	923	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, courtroom and crime scene simulations, verbal cross-examination, 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 the criminal justice system (courts, prison, probation, social care) and 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

The programme offers both a subject-specific and a generic knowledge base, skills and competences that will enable students to pursue a career in any of the applied criminology professions. It is also recognised that many Criminology students will choose from a wide range of graduate career options. Typically, graduating students will focus on roles in various branches of the Criminal Justice System (e.g. the courts, prisons, probation services etc.).

There is a clear *Forensic Science* aspect to the programme which develops through each year. Graduates are, therefore, perfectly placed to pursue a number of *Forensic Science Careers* (e.g., *Crime Scene Investigator; Fingerprint Examiner; Document Examination; CCTV and Imagery Analysis*). These may depend on prior qualifications (at 'A' Level or equivalent) and/or experience and some police forces and forensic service providers require a postgraduate qualification (typically an MSc. Forensic Science). All *BSc. (Hons) Criminology & Forensic Studies* students, however, will be supported, guided and advised on potential careers, job opportunities and work experience as they study their degree.

Consequently, the programme is also designed to inspire and facilitate the development of a variety of desirably transferable skills that will enhance employability in any future career.

Students on this programme benefit from being able to move into a range of roles suitable for Criminology graduates or Forensic Studies graduates. Specifically, given the 50/50 split between the two disciplines, graduates are ideally suited for a career within the criminal justice service. In

addition to this ideal career possibility there are other opportunities in the public and 'not for profit' sector. Some of the key employers may be the Civil Service, Local Government, NGOs, the NHS, Probation Service (NPS and CRCs), Prison Service, Social Services, Housing Associations, social research, the education sector and legal

The thorough grounding in research methods and empirical forensics and research approaches in Criminology will also confer suitability for the pursuit of research-based post-graduate study in Criminology or Forensic-related courses (including MSc. Forensic Science).

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 Student Learning and Achievement Unit for skills and study support, the Library and Learning Resources, the Student Opportunities and Career Success 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 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – Forensic Science 2012 + CSOFS (Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences) Component Standards: <i>Interpretation, Evaluation & Presentation of Evidence (IEPE) Undergraduate v2017-1; Crime Scene Investigation v2017-1; Digital Forensics v2016-1; Forensic Anthropology v2016-1; Forensic Archaeology v2016-1</i>
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations, accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)</i>
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	Social Sciences sub-committee
Date Published / Updated:	September 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:	BSc Criminology and Forensic Studies
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 excluding the Dissertation module or equivalent
Learning Outcome	
Critically evaluate criminological perspective 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.	
Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of crime scene investigation in the crime-scene-to-court-chain and an evaluation of crime-scene-processing case studies.	
Develop an ethical awareness of issues around forensic practice including diversity, boundaries, and standard processes involved in collecting, collating, analysing and presenting evidence.	

Name of Exit Qualification:	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	DipHE Criminology and Forensic Studies
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 of forensic science 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, conceptual and analytical 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)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Cert HE Criminology and Forensic Studies
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4
Learning Outcome	
Demonstrate a broad understanding of key principles, regulations and processes of forensics, and key principles and theories of criminology and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the contexts of criminology and forensic studies.	
Understand risks, threats, vulnerabilities and countermeasures and attempts to assess and manage them	
Collect information from a variety of sources in order to develop lines of argument in accordance with basic perspectives and theories of criminology and forensic science and psychology.	
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.	