

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 Social Studies BSc (Hons) Criminology and Social Studies with Foundation Year	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BH1CSS1 (3 Years) BH1CSS4 (4 Years)
UCAS Code:	CSS1 - BSc (Hons) Criminology and Social Studies CSS4 – BSc (Hons) Criminology and Social Studies with Foundation Year
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours, BSc (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	FT
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3 years, not including Foundation Year 4 years, including Foundation Year
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

This BSc (Hons) Criminology and Social Studies programme will offer a unique opportunity to study the social and societal factors underlying and influencing crime, criminal justice and associated social problems and solutions to these problems. Students will learn from an experienced team of academics qualified in a wide variety of highly related areas: criminology, sociology, social policy and politics. Students will also have the opportunity to interact with practitioners and external settings to recognise the application of their learning. This programme is uniquely designed to cultivate a praxis approach which develops students' expertise in providing solution-focused approaches to social problems.

This programme grounds study of criminology within the wider social context of crime and criminal justice in the contemporary world. This unique joint-honours programme allows students to gain expertise in social and societal factors influencing crime and criminal justice, and to work in the many fields surrounding and upholding social and criminal justice. Community level social problems, and the consequent criminological issues which emerge from such problems, will be the focus of this new programme. Graduating students will be well-qualified to work in organisations striving to find solutions to social problems at a community level upwards; such as engaging in the exciting new arena of social prescribing:

“People with social, emotional or practical needs are empowered to find and design their own personal solutions, i.e. ‘co-produce’ their ‘social prescription’, often using services provided by the voluntary and community sector” (Westminster.ac.uk)

Students on this programme will take a unique mix of relevant modules from our existing range of modules across the social sciences as well as modules distinctive to this course. As a joint-honours degree, the programme involves key criminology modules alongside relevant social science modules which, combined, involve training in developing skills, knowledge and understanding linked to enacting social change through evidence-based solutions to social problems around crime and related societal issues. The programme is designed to support students’ theoretical and research-based learning to equip them with the skills to understand and enact social change as active citizens.

Thus, the programme will provide students with the competencies intrinsic to the four Bucks Graduate attributes. These will be at the heart of the intellectual debates explored in the programme (e.g. ethical issues, social justice, gender, policy making), as well as the pedagogical methods through which the programme will be delivered, including for example, reflection and self-assessment, communication and team work, digital research and the evaluation of evidence. The programme aligns with the University’s Placement Plus strategy at all levels of study and employability is embedded into the modules that students will be offered. Studying this programme will ensure that students attain a wide range of transferable skills (e.g. critical thinking, research, presentation and problem-solving skills). Students will also be able to enhance their employability through the work-related module offered at Level 5, Employability and Professional Development, and the Applied Dissertation option at Level 6. Thus, students will be well-placed through their study of the social science curricula furnished by this programme to be able to link their academic and work-related learning experiences to prepare them for graduate employment and career development.

This new offer responds to the changing nature of managing crime and deviance. The evolution of crime in contemporary societies, and recognition of the need for multi-disciplinary teams to address social vulnerability demonstrates the need for professional practitioners at the community level. Examples of this are the role of community practitioners who work with the police in street triage teams (York Pathways Project; Together.uk.org) and the importance of sociologists and criminologists to inform initiatives on social inclusion and social justice to address the underlying causes of terrorism (The Guardian, August 2019). The exploration and promotion of social change central to this programme emphasises how criminality can be averted via a focus on societal and policy interventions that promote social inclusion and address the root of social problems. This is evidenced through, for example, the Level 5 Crime and Social Justice module. The inclusion of, for example, policy modules and those exploring globalisation and cybercrime provide students with opportunities to explore a broad range of contemporary challenges facing both the criminal justice system and wider society.

The social praxis element of this programme works in line with the QAA Benchmark Statements for Sociology (2019) which state:

“Sociology is a reflexive discipline that aims to develop a critical awareness of and engagement with the social world...This approach enables better informed understanding of current beliefs and practices and consideration of the possibilities of innovation and change. Sociological knowledge provides a basis for examining and evaluating all social constructions, including social, public, and civic policy. It informs interventions and strategies for dealing with social problems at the local and global level and enables innovative thinking about remaking social worlds” QAA Sociology Benchmarks 2019 p3

The recognition within the QAA Criminology (2019) Benchmark Statement, that best practice in Criminology is informed by wider social sciences, and of the links between criminal and social justice, is reflected in and key to this programme:

“The major theories which are deployed throughout the social sciences that seek to explain the social and personal context of all aspects of crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance ...Criminology draws on a wide range of human and social science disciplines. The subject's theoretical and methodological development reflects the rapid social changes of contemporary society and is responsive to the increasing cross-fertilisation of ideas and methods between the human and social sciences. In its modern form, it is characterised by robust debates over how to: ... inform debates over crime control policy; the scope of human rights; **the links between criminal and social justice**; and the expanding knowledge bases of crime prevention, security and justice-related professions”

Our contemporary world demands graduates who have the skills to develop evidence-based practice in devising solutions to social problems. We anticipate this course will produce highly employable graduates in directly relevant fields who have gained valuable transferable skills equipping them for a wide range of fields of employment. The programme draws from the benchmark statements of QAA Criminology (Oct. 2019) and QAA Sociology (Dec. 2019) and upholds the goals of the Campaign for Social Science (Campaign For Social Science.org.uk) by recognising the significance of critical awareness of social issues, reflective practice and the cross-fertilisation of ideas to create the capacity to foster a sound understanding of the nature of social and criminal justice problems and the presentation of evidenced-based solutions.

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 social studies
2	To equip graduates with levels of skills and knowledge that enable them to pursue careers in the criminal justice, public, 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, or related, 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
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Demonstrate systematic understanding of criminological and social science theories and concepts, and the ability to critically evaluate and apply these.
K2	Develop applied strategies of social praxis - informed solutions to social problems - at a range of societal levels.
K3	Demonstrate coherent and detailed knowledge and understanding of the character, causes and effects of crimes and crime control in contemporary societies.

K4	Show critical understanding of contemporary criminal justice systems globally.
K5	Devise and sustain arguments regarding social diversity, inequality and power and their relevance for understanding crime and the criminal justice system.
K6	Critically evaluate diverse perspectives on processes that underpin social stability, change and conflict and how these impact on individuals, groups, social practices, institutions and structures
K7	Accurately apply criminological and sociological knowledge, and established methods and techniques of enquiry and analysis, to investigate a variety of social, public and civic policy issues and professional and organisational contexts.
K8	Critically evaluate a range of research strategies and methods, assessing the appropriateness of their use, and identifying appropriate strategies for specific research problems.
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Devise and sustain arguments, and develop innovative solutions to problems, using a breadth of inventiveness, ideas and techniques.
C2	Communicate in writing and orally information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
C3	Manage their own learning, and apply methods and techniques learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding.
C4	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
C5	Demonstrate the learning ability needed to use scholarly resources or undertake appropriate further training to respond to curiosity about issues in criminal justice and social studies.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	
S1	Show coherent and detailed knowledge of the ethical boundaries of the disciplines of criminology and social studies, and uphold ethical standards in research and practice.
S2	Apply understanding of ethical values and approaches to current social issues relevant to criminology, social studies and related practice.
S3	Critically examine the values, practices and processes of criminal justice and related agencies in relation to ethical values and human rights.
S4	Devise and sustain normative arguments regarding issues around crime and social practices that relate to diversity and inequalities in contemporary societies, and apply ethically sensitive understanding in formulating solutions to such issues.
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Undertake a sustained piece of independent written work.
L2	Make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts to support social change.
L3	Develop a reflective approach in managing own learning and progressing career path.
L4	Develop a proactive 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 good oral and presentational skills which are understandable to the intended recipients.
L6	Demonstrate professionalism by working effectively as part of a team and recognising how the scope of an intervention, the roles of others and the methods they employ, may affect the strategy.

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)
LC474	Introduction to Criminology: <i>The Concept of Crime</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC471	Introduction to Criminology: <i>The History of Punishment</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC456	Criminal Justice Process	15	Core	Yes
LC481	Political Ideologies in Society	15	Core	Yes
LC473	Making Sense of Society: <i>The Sociological Imagination</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC470	Making Sense of Society: <i>Understanding the Social World</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC480	Media, Communication and Society	15	Core	Yes
LC482	Policy and Strategy	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
LC579	Social Justice	15	Core	Yes
LC560	Gender, Sexuality and Society	15	Core	Yes
LC574	Forms of Crime: <i>Crime in Late Modernity</i>	15	Core	Yes
LC580	Employability and Professional Development	15	Core	Yes
LC561	'Race', ethnicity and Migration	15	Core	Yes
LC564	Citizenship, Community and Welfare	15	Option	Yes
LC581	Power and Political Institutions	15	Option	Yes

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC661/LC683	Dissertation/ Applied Dissertation	30	Core	No
LC684	Globalisation and Contemporary Societies	15	Core	Yes
LC685	Leadership and Change	15	Core	Yes
LC656	Criminal Justice Policy	15	Option	Yes
LC655	Comparative Criminal Justice	15	Option	Yes
LC652	Cybercrime	15	Option	Yes
LC654	Disability and Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System	15	Option	Yes
LC653	Radicalisation and Terrorism	15	Option	Yes
LC687	Ageing well through the life course	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:

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 6, students are offered optional modules from a range of complementary 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 Employability and Professional Development and Applied Dissertation.

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.

Books and other texts:

All core texts will be in the library for students to borrow without charge, and wherever possible texts on reading lists will also be available to borrow from the library. Students may be required to purchase texts and journals/reports to support their study programme. The average cost of books for students studying on a degree course is assumed as £100 per year.

Printing:

We recommend a minimum budget of £100 per year for printing costs including dissertation printing and binding. This relates to the printing of written documents and/or posters through the photocopiers.

Graduation:

Graduation costs per student are estimated at £100 - £200 total. This is an optional cost for all students as attending graduation is not a requirement in order to have a degree conferred.

Any additional costs over and above those listed above can be found listed below:

Study Tours and visits: These may be organised during your degree. They are optional, but are intended to enhance your studies. The course team will endeavour to keep such costs to a minimum.

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	312hrs	888	N/A
Year One	312hrs	888	N/A
Year Two	312hrs	888	N/A
Year Three	312hrs	888	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' criminological 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, reports, blogs, portfolios and media products as well as more traditional forms of assessment as outlined below. This degree also uniquely offers students the option to do more explicitly work-based and applied assessments in the Employability and Professional Development module and the Applied Dissertation; including CV development, for example.

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.

More traditional assessment methods are included as they offer students important opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in a number of formats. Examinations permit students to demonstrate achievement of a range of Learning Outcomes in some of the modules and essays encourage achievement of important critical and analytical skills. Other types of assessment give students the opportunities to develop key skills directly transferable to work-places, such as oral presentations, reports and portfolios.

All students will be required to demonstrate the skills of sustained research, critical analysis and independent study required to achieve success in a dissertation. The Applied Dissertation option students have on this programme enables them to apply class-based learning in an applied scenario, so equipping students with the skills to conduct a live piece of research in a relevant work-based setting.

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

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 as well as those in the social sectors surrounding criminal justice. It is also recognised that many criminology and social science 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.), and relevant social sectors and organisations (e.g. public sector; civil service; voluntary and third sector organisations such as drug and alcohol services). Students may seek employment or further education following their degree. The programme is therefore 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 Social 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 professions.

The emphasis on 'social praxis' and the opportunities for applied study, experience and research in this programme will equip students with the skills, knowledge and understanding useful for

work in any setting working with people where developing strategies for positive, transformative change are useful and required, such as in not-for-profit organisations.

The thorough grounding in research methods and research approaches in criminology and social science will also confer suitability for the pursuit of research-based post-graduate study in criminology or social science related courses.

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 2019 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement - Sociology 2019
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 led
Date Published / Updated:	September 2020

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:	Ordinary Degree in Criminology and Social 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 dissertation
Learning Outcome	
Explain the key relevant criminological and social science theories.	
Apply those theories to real social situations, evaluate their effectiveness in explaining social and criminological issues and analyse alternative approaches and outcomes and areas of uncertainty.	
Critically evaluate key criminological and social science perspectives/theories 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:	Diploma in Criminology and Social 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 criminological and social science perspectives/theory and the way in which these have developed.	
Apply underlying theories and concepts outside the context in which they were first studied	
Use a range of established techniques to explain conceptual and ethical 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:	Certificate in Criminology and Social Studies
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4
Learning Outcome	
Demonstrate an understanding of key criminological and social science theories and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the contexts of societies, crime and criminal justice.	
Collect information from a variety of authoritative sources in order to develop lines of argument in accordance with basic principles, concepts and theories of criminology and social science.	
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.	