



## About the Criminology MA

### Course overview

Criminology is an interdisciplinary subject that will be of interest to those with a social science, socio-legal or policy studies background. The course is open both to those who have an undergraduate degree in a relevant area and to those whose background is characterised by practitioner experience at an appropriate level in a relevant field who would like to develop their knowledge and skills further. It offers postgraduate-level teaching and learning that encompasses a rigorous academic curriculum alongside independent research skills and the option of field-based learning and programme evaluation.

The core substantive areas of the course will enable you to:

- gain an in-depth knowledge of contemporary criminal justice policy, practice and politics in local, national and global contexts;
- develop a critical appreciation of the dynamics between criminological theory and criminal justice policy-making;
- have an understanding of the relationship of research to the formation, implementation and evaluation of criminal justice policy and practice; and
- be conversant with the current global trends in the exploration of criminological issues.

As well as providing a strong academic curriculum, this MA course recognises the central importance of developing the skills and knowledge that will enable you to engage with the criminal justice system in an effective manner. The course includes a number of modules through which you will acquire practical subject-specific skills concerned with data collection, primary and secondary analysis, and the skills essential for influencing criminal justice policy and evaluating practice. The former includes the application of data analysis software programmes and the skills required to write funding proposals and research reports; the latter includes opportunities to practice policy formation and the writing of media releases and briefing papers, occasions to hone oral presentation skills, and the chance to observe and evaluate the everyday realities of working in the criminal justice system.

The close proximity of Kingston University to London is of great benefit as it allows for access to a wide range of significant locations for field visits. The curriculum also draws on the extensive practitioner experience within the Criminology staff team, as well as the expertise of visiting professionals from multiple criminal justice agencies.

### What you will study

You can study the MA in Criminology as a full field course or in combination (minor, half field or major) with other cognate fields offered by the Faculty.

### Minor field

The minor field provides a strong taught programme for those wishing to gain a solid foundation in contemporary criminology. All students at this level take International Perspectives on Crime Control and Punishment, and either Policing Society or Criminological Perspectives on Law (see module list, right). The first provides you with the theoretical framework to undertake a comparative analysis of criminal justice policies and penal systems in a global context. The second introduces you to the field of socio-legal studies and will provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to critically engage with debates about criminal and civil law sources, concepts of the rule of law and justice, the law in action and the law in error, prosecution procedures, sentencing structures and diversity issues. The third module considers the sociopolitical policy environment of modern policing – it will be of particular interest to those who wish to gain an understanding of the complex contemporary changes and critical policy dilemmas in policing well beyond the specific British context.

All these core modules have both lectures and structured workshops in which you will defend and critique ideas.

### Half field

In the half field, the Research Methods and Policy Making and Analysis modules are introduced into the curriculum, and you can select from a range of specialist option modules. These provide the skills for independent empirical research and policy evaluation, which will equip those who want to undertake a criminology dissertation or project and/or who wish to conduct research or policy evaluation in other settings, such as the workplace. In the half field you can therefore decide whether your programme will emphasise a self-directed approach to learning through independent research, or continue with a more directed, taught syllabus that includes specialist topics.

### Major field

The major field places the emphasis more fully on the 'criminologist as an independent researcher'. All major students are required to take Research Methods for Criminological Study and the Criminology Dissertation/Project. In addition, the major field develops the idea of 'criminologist as practitioner' through consideration of the working environment and occupational cultures of organisations and institutions in the criminal justice system (Organisations and Institutional Practices).

### Full field

The full field further extends the theme of criminologist as practitioner through the module Evaluation and Analysis, which provides an opportunity for you to enhance your applied research skills and critical engagement with praxis within the criminal justice system through an evaluative field project in an institutional setting. You will have the opportunity to compile a fieldwork report that includes a reflective and critical field log, demonstrating your evolving understanding of new working environments and the lessons to be learned from such an experience.

### Careers

The MA in Criminology has a rich and varied programme that will equip you for a range of careers in the criminal justice system, advocacy and policy work. It will also prepare you for entry into an academic doctoral programme, as well as practitioner research posts.

Students graduating from this course will be well equipped to develop a variety of careers, including:

- offender management;
- crime reduction;
- multiagency partnerships;
- security and policing;
- programme evaluation and research; and
- related advocacy and policy based organisations.

It will be of particular relevance to those who might be considering careers at the higher levels of strategic planning and policy-making, where a knowledge of comparative and international policy developments are required.

## Special features

- A key feature of this course is the fieldwork component, which has been designed to offer you the opportunity to gain a knowledge and understanding of the operational realities of crime-related policies and practices.
- Students undertaking extended fieldwork will be offered a choice of modes and methods, including shadowing, attachments, volunteering and observational visits.
- The Criminology team has forged links with local crime reduction partnerships, youth offending teams and mentoring projects.
- Due to its location, Kingston is well placed to allow numerous opportunities to see, at first-hand, the criminal justice system in operation in the extensive London network of courts, custodial institutions and community-based crime-reduction programmes.

## Course content – Criminology MA

### Core modules

The **Criminology Dissertation or Project** will demonstrate your ability to produce a sustained and coherent piece of writing incorporating empirical material from a variety of sources within a sophisticated conceptual and theoretical framework. You will prepare for this from an early stage, with research methods modules enabling you to develop and refine your research proposal. The dissertation provides an opportunity to make use of the range of knowledge and skills you have acquired during the previous semesters. You will identify a topic worthy of research, and use the necessary skills and analytical capacity to independently complete a substantial piece of writing of up to 15,000 words.

**Criminological Perspectives on Law** provides an introduction to the field of socio-legal studies and the strong legal nexus within criminology. With a focus on the English legal system, the module also provides a historical, theoretical and procedural foundation before reviewing key legal and socio-legal debates against 21st-century concerns about crime, deviance and social control.

**International Perspectives on Crime Control and Punishment** recognises the increasingly international nature of crime control and is designed to provide the theoretical framework to undertake a comparative analysis of criminal justice policies and penal systems in different countries and across different jurisdictions. The module explores issues of international penal policy-making, and analyses the points of convergence in the language and practices of crime control, as well as the points of divergence and difference.

**Research Methods in Criminology** is designed to stimulate your critical engagement with academic criminological research and analysis of crime and deviance. You will be introduced to the epistemological basis of different methodologies and will develop a framework for evaluating research reports through an assessment of the adequacy of research designs and the implementation of methods.

**Themes and Debates in Policing** will introduce you to key social and political debates in contemporary British policing. From the historic issues arising from the Scarman and Macpherson reports, to recent developments of paramilitary policing, the module examines the nature of contemporary policing, its limitations, governance and functioning as a social service.

**Evaluation and Analysis in an Applied Setting** will provide you with the ability to evaluate a programme or intervention in the criminal justice system/crime prevention arena. You will identify a suitable applied programme and employ evaluation methodologies and organisational analysis to measure the programme's effectiveness in delivering its set aims and objectives. This module is ideal if you wish to develop the necessary skills and understanding to carry out a range of different types of research in a criminal justice setting.

**Influencing Crime and Justice Policy** explores the sociopolitical environment of policy-making in the fields of crime and justice. It will be of particular interest if you want to learn the skills needed to influence policy change and gain an understanding of the processes of criminal justice policy formation.

**Organisations and Institutional Practices** explores the working environment and occupational cultures of organisations and institutions in the criminal justice system. You will critically assess the relationship between organisational structures, practice norms and policies, and their impact on the application of criminology. The central focus allows you to identify how the sociology of organisations and institutions affects service delivery. It also encourages you to consider the complexities of applying pure criminology to the praxis of crime control agents.

**Option modules** (see the course webpage for more information)

- **Mentally Disordered Offenders**
- **Offender management and Contemporary Probation**
- **Cybercrime and Society**
- **Policing Sex and Hate Crime**
- **Women and Violent Crime**

## About the Criminology with Cybercrime MA\* *(subject to validation)*

### Course overview

This MA will provide you with the rare opportunity to study an emergent discipline. The globalisation of the worldwide web has given rise to new opportunities in fields as diverse as business, entertainment and education. However, the internet also possesses intrinsic disadvantages, and one of these major disadvantages is cybercrime. Cybercrime is a comparatively new subject area within criminology, and this new course seeks to examine the increasing use of computer technology for criminal activity.

### What you will study

You will study two principal subject areas – Cybercrime: Histories, Forms and Contexts; and Internet Risk: Security, Law and Regulation. These contexts will be used to critically explore cybercrime within the domestic, European and international spheres. Course content will include cybercrime and globalisation, internet fraud, malicious use of the internet, cyberterrorism, intellectual property theft and the use of the internet for victimisation. Topical case studies will be introduced to examine professional, political and public awareness of cybercrime as a social problem, alongside increasing media coverage of high-profile cases, such as the Gary Mackinnon extradition saga and the Wikileaks scandal.

### Careers

This course is designed to appeal to those already involved in information technology investigation and security, those wanting to follow such a career path, and those who wish to develop their understanding and application of cybercrime and security issues as social scientists, managers and lawyers.

## Course content

### Core modules

**Cybercrime: Histories, Forms and Contexts** is the foundation module for this MA. It examines the impact of globalisation, the history of information technology and the establishment of the web. Consideration is given to what cybercrimes are, what is known about them, and how the internet and computer networks have redefined opportunities for criminal behaviour. This innovative criminal behaviour is studied in detail, with computer hacking and cracking, cyberfraud, internet piracy, hactivism and cyberterrorism, offensive online content, internet hate crime, cyberstalking, cyberliberties and cybervictimisation forming the core focus of the syllabus.

**Internet Risk: Security, Law and Regulation** builds on the solid knowledge base provided by the foundation module. Primarily, this module is concerned with a critical examination of how the internet is regulated and policed, and whether cybercrime can be controlled, reduced or eradicated? The social harm caused by cybercrime is considered, alongside the monetary cost of such activity. The response of the police and security industries is evaluated, from national police procedures to international police co-operation, and from personal internet security to the role provided by software manufacturers and internet service providers. The module also focuses on information technology law, international legislation and the challenges of legal pluralism in a globalised legal landscape.

**Research Methods in Criminology** (see left)

**International Perspectives on Crime Control and Punishment**§ (see left)

**Criminological Perspectives on Law** (see left)

**Themes and Debates in Policing** (see left)

**Dissertation** (see left)

### Option modules

Choose two from the Criminology MA list (see left).

## About the Criminological Psychology masters\* minor field *(subject to validation)*

### Course overview

This Criminological Psychology minor field will provide you with the opportunity to study a theoretical and applied discipline, and can be studied alongside cognate subjects such as criminology and psychology at postgraduate level. Criminological psychology demonstrates how psychological and criminological theories may be applied to provide explanations for crime causation, how to manage offenders and reduce offending behaviour. Psychological techniques are also considered in their application to criminal investigations and detection methods and improvement of the provision of evidence. The appeal of this exciting discipline has been further enhanced in recent years by its high profile in the public domain as a result of its popularity in television and film portrayals. Criminological psychology is continually evolving, and this course provides an introduction to this varied discipline and examines the application of this multidisciplinary approach in real-world settings.

### What you will study

You will take the same core modules from Criminology as students who minor in Cybercrime, choose two option modules from Criminology, complete a dissertation and take two core Criminological Psychology modules. You will study two principal subject areas: Understanding the Psychology of Criminal Behaviour; and the Psychology of the Investigative and Judicial Process. Course content will include the application of psychology to the explanation of criminal behaviour, investigative techniques, the improvement of crime detection and its relevance to specific areas within the judicial process, such as the provision of eyewitness testimony and jury decision-making.

### Careers

This course is designed for those who have an interest in the psychology of offending behaviour and wish to obtain employment within criminal justice agencies such as the police and prison service. It will also be attractive to those already involved in careers within the criminal justice system who would like to develop an academic and applied understanding of the diverse areas within criminological psychology, further enhancing their knowledge of the field.

## Course content

### Core modules

**Understanding the Psychology of Criminal Behaviour** covers cognitive theories of offending, stages of moral reasoning and offending behaviour, personality theory and criminality, brain anomalies, injury and offending behaviour, violent offending behaviour, sexually deviant behaviour and sex offending, juvenile offenders, terrorism, imprisonment and recidivism, risk management and assessment of offenders.

**Psychology of the Investigative and Judicial Process** will introduce you to selected topics such as psychology and the British judicial system, investigative approaches to interviewing, detecting deception, bearing false witness, offender profiling, case linkage, eyewitness memory, memory recall in the courtroom, vulnerable witnesses and special measures in court, jury behaviour and decision-making, examining the state of mind and assessment, and expert psychological testimony (ethics, code of practice, report writing and practice).

**Research Methods in Criminology** (see left)

**International Perspectives on Crime Control and Punishment** (see left)

**Criminological Perspectives on Law** (see left)

**Themes and Debates in Policing** (see left)

**Dissertation** (see left)

### Option modules

Choose two from the Criminology MA list (see left).

## About the Criminology with Law LLM/ Law with Criminology MA

### Course overview

You will study these two complementary disciplines in an integrated way, drawing on the specialist knowledge of practitioners and academics from two faculties within Kingston University.

### What you will study

If you take law as a major award, you take 90 credits of law modules and 30 credits of criminology modules, plus a dissertation (60 credits); if you take law as a minor award, you take 90 credits of criminology modules and 30 credits of law modules, plus a dissertation (60 credits).

### Law with Criminology LLM

This degree brings together two different disciplines to investigate and analyse the socio-legal processes involved in law making and law breaking, law enforcement, and penal sanctions. You explore these issues within both national and global contexts. Expert practitioners work alongside academics to deliver a postgraduate programme that encourages informed debate and evidence-based evaluation on a range of topical issues in the field of crime and crime control. We also encourage you to undertake a placement in a criminal justice organisation for some period during your studies and draw upon this experience in your dissertation.

### Criminology with Law MA

This MA offers a very flexible programme of taught modules, with the opportunity to create a programme of study designed to suit your own interests and aspirations. Students who successfully complete the course will acquire significant research and analytical skills in the relevant area of law, substantially enhancing their prospects of gaining employment as, for example, professional or in-house legal advisors and in other areas of work where the ability to apply and advise upon legal issues is significant.

## Course content

### Law with Criminology LLM

**Core modules** (see the course webpage for more details)

**International Perspectives on Crime Control and Punishment**

**Influencing Crime and Justice Policy**

**Legal Research Theory and Methods**

**Dissertation**

**Option modules** (choose three)

**Arbitration**

**Family Mediation OR The Single European Market**

**Alternative Dispute Resolution**

**UK Immigration Law**

**Refugee Law and Forced Migration**

**Termination of Employment**

### Criminology with Law MA

**Core modules** (see the course webpage for more details)

**Frontiers of Criminological Theory**

**Influencing Crime and Justice Policy**

**International Perspectives on Crime Control and Punishment**

**Organisations and Institutional Practices**

**Research Methods in Criminological Study 1**

**Research Proposal Writing**

**Dissertation**

**Option modules** (choose one)

• **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

• **Arbitration**

• **Family Mediation**

• **The Single European Market**

• **Termination of Employment**

• **UK Immigration Law**

## Teaching staff

**Professor Julia Davidson** is professor of criminology and sociology and is director of research in criminology and sociology; she is also co-director of the Centre for Abuse and Trauma Studies. Professor Davidson is a leading researcher whose work has been internationally influential in child protection policy-making, particularly with respect to cybercrime and abuse. She is widely published in the criminal justice field and has extensive experience of applied policy and practice research. She has directed work with young victims, serious violent and sexual offenders, and criminal justice practitioners and sentencers. Her recent research has focused on: the impact of community treatment programmes on convicted child sexual abusers; child safety on the internet and the role of the police in raising children's awareness of sexual abuse; risk assessment and management of internet sex offenders; and young victims' experiences and perceptions of the investigative process.

**Professor Antonia Bilfucio** is a research psychologist and director of the Lifespan Research Group at the Centre for Abuse and Trauma Studies (CATS). Her area of research is the lifespan psychosocial investigation of common mental health problems in high-risk families. Her ongoing research grants include the EU Online Groomers Project (with Professor Julia Davidson, lead by NATCEN with partners in Norway, Belgium and Italy). She also has grants from health and social care services to evaluate the use of lifespan assessment tools in child and family services, as well as evaluating a Youth Violence project for Guy's & St Thomas' A&E department.

**Dr Bridget Towers** is director of studies in criminology and sociology. Her doctoral research was on the use of injunctions in criminal justice policy, which has contemporary resonance with the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Dispersal Orders as key elements in local crime-reduction policies. She is particularly interested in the use of the law to enforce compliance in medical care and treatment. Bridget's current work is on the use of legal compulsion in the containment and treatment of epileptics. Her postgraduate teaching is in specialist modules on Mentally Disordered Offenders.

**Sue Hobbs** is responsible for admissions to the MA programme and is the course tutor. Her professional background is in management and education within the Probation Service. This has given her a particular interest in penal policy and practices. She currently teaches modules in contemporary issues in punishment in crime control on both the undergraduate and postgraduate programme. Sue also teaches a module on new perspectives within criminology and the elective on Offender Management and Contemporary Probation.

**Dr Stephanie Eaton** teaches in the area of criminal justice policy, policing and state security, and the history of criminological ideas. Her research centres on the use of surveillance and CCTV and she has also acted as a consultant to the Foreign Office and the Prison Service in relation to the training and development of Iraqi justice personnel. Stephanie is a regular contributor to both broadcast and print media.

**Amy Mitchell** is from a youth justice practitioner background and has undertaken research in bail supervision programmes and child protection. Currently she is on the steering group for the Institute of Child-Centred Interprofessional Practice and her research area is on prison education. Amy manages all of the departmental work-based learning, including the internship programme, and teaches Evaluation and Analysis.

**Dr Carlie Goldsmith** is from a community safety and youth work background. Her specialist research interests are youth and social exclusion, and she has been involved in a number of intervention evaluation studies. Carlie teaches on Organisations and Institutional Practices and Policing in Society. She has a particular interest in developing student-staff consultation processes.

**Dr Joanna Jamel** (leader of Criminological Psychology minor option) has a multidisciplinary background in criminology, sociology, investigative and forensic psychology. She teaches on the undergraduate and postgraduate courses, drawing on her applied research on sexual violence, transphobic hate crime, policing, masculinities and male sex work. She teaches Research Methods and is the dissertation co-ordinator.

**Dr Christopher Hamerton** (leader of the Cybercrime minor option) has a professional background in criminal and family law, and is a qualified barrister (Middle Temple). His teaching practice encompasses cybercrime, media depictions of deviance and the criminal justice process. He is responsible for the core module in Criminological Perspectives on Law. His wide research interests include legal anthropology, cybercrime and victimology. In terms of research practice, he has considerable experience of designing and conducting fieldwork with vulnerable subjects and scientific experts. Chris is the director of legal studies at Kingston's Centre for Abuse and Trauma Studies, and is an elected fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

**Dr Cecilia Cappel** teaches the specialist elective on Women and Violent Crime. Her general research and teaching interests are in the fields of race, gender and interpersonal violence. Her current research interests are diverse and include the responses of Black majority churches to domestic abuse, as well as the development of curricula and pedagogies within criminology that encourage active student participation.



## Criminology courses

### Entry requirements

One or more of the following:

- A second-class degree or above in a cognate subject
- Evidence of relevant certificated professional practice
- Evidence of extended non-certificated practice in relevant operational settings

Law with Criminology MA applicants will need specific Law qualifications – please see [www.kingston.ac.uk/pglawjoint](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/pglawjoint) for full details.

### International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier 4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

### Duration

One year full time or two years part time

### Attendance/delivery

The study commitment varies depending on which course you take, but may include evening, weekend or day-release sessions, and can vary from semester to semester. Timetables are subject to change. Please contact the postgraduate admissions office for further details.

### Assessment

The assessment strategies are designed to assess the development and extent of your knowledge and understanding of criminology, and to test presentation and practical skills in a variety of ways, such as interactive workshops, portfolio compilation and report writing, ethical reviews, media releases, briefing notes, presentations and peer review that reflect demands likely to be encountered in professional work settings. Assessments have been designed to foster critical reflection in different ways and involve both oral and written work. You will be expected to produce a number of academic essays and reports, and will also be expected to analyse critically a variety of official reports and case studies in a style reflecting the professional nature of your existing or future work. All modules have some element of formative feedback, from discussions of draft work to assessed fieldwork reports.

### \*Subject to validation

At the time of writing, the courses marked with an asterisk were awaiting validation. Please see the University's website for the latest information.



## Further information

### Contact details

Please contact the Faculty's Admissions Office for an application form or with any further queries.

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[www.kingston.ac.uk/pgcriminology](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/pgcriminology)

## Location

Located beside the River Thames, Kingston University is within the London travel-pass zone. Easily accessible from surrounding areas such as Surrey and Middlesex, its local train stations (Kingston; Surbiton) are also only 25 minutes from London Waterloo.

