



Criminology BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/criminology



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Our programme

Criminology is the study of crime in society. It applies the study of sociology, psychology, politics and economics to an understanding of the major questions in law making, law breaking and law enforcement.

- What is criminal behaviour?
- What are the causes of crime?
- How and why does the definition of crime change over time and between societies?
- How should society deal with criminal activity?

To explore these questions, your studies will focus on three main areas: **Institutions and policies** covering modules such as Youth Justice; Policy Issues in Criminal Justice Systems; the Economics of Crime; Security, Policing and the State; Contemporary Issues in Crime Control and Punishment; Mentally Disordered Offenders.

Socio-cultural perspectives covering modules such as Social Inequality and Social Justice; Youth, Conformity and Transgression; Urban Divisions; Interpersonal Violence; The History of Crime; The Sociology of Crime, Deviance and Social Control; The Crimes of the Powerful; Rights, Law and Justice; Diversity and Discrimination in Criminal Justice; Core Concepts and General Principles in Criminal Law; The Historical and Conceptual Evolution of Human Rights; Terrorism in the Modern World; Human Rights in the Developing World; Human Rights and Armed Conflict.

Research and investigation covering modules such as Ethnography; Evidence and Issues; Introduction to Forensic Science; Forensic Linguistics; Research Proposal Writing and the Dissertation. In each year of the course you will study modules in theory, policy and research. Members of the teaching staff and your academic advisors will help you choose modules as you progress from year to year.

Fieldwork studies

We emphasise the importance of acquiring a socially grounded approach towards crime and justice. You will undertake community-based fieldwork studies, including some experience of working with practitioners, advocates or campaigners. We aim to encourage the sharing of research and the understanding of practice with community-based organisations and activists through community crime audits, exhibitions, presentations and conferences.

Teaching and support

We use a wide range of teaching methods that are designed to help you learn in a supportive and friendly environment. In addition to your course tutors, you will also have an academic advisor to support you throughout your studies.

Why study Criminology at Kingston?

- Criminology is both a single honours degree subject and a joint honours subject at Kingston, so you can combine it with a range of complementary subjects.
- We aim to give you a sound knowledge of the core concepts of criminology, together with the freedom to broaden your studies through optional modules in related topics.
- There are plenty of opportunities to conduct community-based fieldwork studies.
- You can gain first-hand experience of working with practitioners, advocates or campaigners.
- You can choose to study abroad for a semester, either at Kingston's partner universities in the United States, or in Europe through the Erasmus scheme.

Careers

Graduates in criminology have many career opportunities, either directly related to their field of specialism or more generally to their knowledge and skills across policy fields. Your degree will provide you with the academic and practical experience needed to go on to professional training and career paths in a range of traditional areas connected with criminal justice systems. These areas include the police, probation, the prison service, youth justice and harm reduction programmes. Criminologists with a comparative analytical background are increasingly in demand from a range of international advocacy organisations. Due to the strong research emphasis in the curriculum, graduates will be well placed to join independent and governmental policy/research units as well as academic institutions.

First degrees in criminology are well matched by provision at postgraduate level in forensic and criminal justice studies. Kingston offers an MA in Criminology that is focused on offender management and provides students with the opportunity to develop practical experience or longer internships in a range of settings and organisations.

What do our graduates do?

Cherry Khalifa – Criminology graduate

"This degree tackled thorny problems relating to the criminal justice system and delved into the question of what crime actually is, through theory and analysis, research, presentations and fieldwork projects. Often, we also had the choice to carry out analysis and research in areas of our own particular interest. This choice especially applied to the fieldwork projects and the final-year assessments. Over the three years of this course, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I developed transferable skills that certainly helped me to find the exciting and challenging job that I now have with an advocacy group."

Abdi Haybe – Criminology graduate

"Crime is a global phenomenon that has and will always occur in different forms and nature in every country in the world. This makes criminology a very important and interesting field of study, because crime and the causes of crime are preoccupying themes in the media and on agendas across the political spectrum. By studying Criminology at Kingston I was introduced to a wide range of topics, issues and theories regarding crime and the causes of crime. I was well prepared to start a career when I graduated. I am currently working as a social worker in the inner city, which is a very challenging and rewarding profession."



Abdi Haybe

What you study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study Criminology as a full field (single honours) or as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed.

Year 1

Students are provided with a broad understanding of the development and current state of criminology as an academic field of study. They are introduced to the institutional structure and practices of the criminal justice system through classroom teaching and fieldwork visits. Research skills in both quantitative data handling and ethnographic methods are taught and fieldwork study is undertaken. There are introductory modules in Forensic Science, Human Rights and Criminal Law which ensures students have a strong interdisciplinary grounding in criminology as well as providing them with the foundation for later specialisation in Years 2 and 3. Communication and presentation skills are given a specific focus in the first year. This introduction to theory, structure and a range of methods is designed to provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills that will be built upon and applied in Years 2 and 3.

Introduction to Criminology

This module will introduce you to criminology as an academic field of study. You will gain a broad understanding of the development of theories in criminology and learn to make connections between theories of crime and crime control policies in social and historical contexts. The module will enable you to actively participate in academic discussions about criminology. The teaching of this module provides a particularly supportive experience for students in their first semester. Key academic study skills and support from your academic advisor will be embedded in the structure and content of the weekly teaching format.

Ethnography

This module provides a thorough grounding and experience of the ethnographic tradition within criminology and sociology. You will gain an in-depth understanding of social life and meaning through careful hands-on fieldwork. You will learn to conceptualise and formulate a research question embedded in social life, and plan, organise, conduct and present a fieldwork project accessible to the local community. You will also undertake fieldwork observation in magistrates' courts.

Evidence and Issues

This module will introduce you to contemporary public policy debates within criminology and the sociology of deviance. You will learn to critically evaluate statistical evidence advanced within such debates. You will also participate in a large-scale survey, which will involve you interviewing people and administering questionnaires.

Avenues to Justice

This module will provide you with an overview of the principles, practices and institutions of the contemporary British criminal justice system. You will learn to critically evaluate a number of key criminal justice policy debates. The module will cover a number of areas, including: police powers, organisation and accountability; defendants' rights; establishing guilt; and sentencing procedures and processes. You will undertake observations in Crown Courts.

Core Concepts and General Principles in Criminal Law

This module will provide you with a foundational understanding of a range of core legal concepts and principles in criminal law. You will learn how to access and analyse a range of case materials. You will become familiar and competent with accessing legal databases and using systems of legal referencing.

The Historical and Conceptual Evolution of Human Rights

In this module you will be introduced to the major stages in the historical development of contemporary human rights and the range of theoretical approaches inspired by this history. You will study the broad developments in political, social and economic and cultural history relating to human rights. You will analyse and debate the key issues involved in arguments about human rights and the core concepts involved in discussing human rights.

Introduction to Forensic Science

In this module you will be introduced to contemporary issues in forensic science and investigative analysis. You will learn about current approaches to evidence collection and analysis and will be involved in discussions on current techniques in the analysis of a range of biological categories of forensic evidence. You will be introduced to current analytical chemistry techniques used in processing crime scenes and evidence.

Social Inequality and Social Justice

In this module you will develop an understanding and evaluation of patterns of social inequality and marginalisation in contemporary British society. You will explore the relationship between social divisions, social constraints and codes of conduct. You will progress to evaluate a range of interventionists' policies and programmes concerned with promoting social justice and social inclusion.

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts; and
- referencing.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

Year 2

Year 2 features a more detailed and critical examination of the theoretical traditions in criminology. A critical analysis of criminal justice practices and critical approaches to related policy issues are introduced and worked on. You are introduced to modern systems and policies of community governance of social order and crime control. You will do more extensive fieldwork research through involvement with community-based practitioners and have an opportunity to widen communication and presentation skills. A range of practitioners are invited to talk about careers and opportunities for work experience in the second semester. You will have the opportunity to study more specialised topics in your choice of electives such as: youth culture, interpersonal violence, the economics of crime, the history of crime, and terrorism and forensic linguistics. You will also have an exciting opportunity to undertake more extensive fieldwork research through involvement with community-based practitioners. This will enable you to gain first-hand experience and to widen your communication skills. Previous students have undertaken placement work with organisations such as community policing teams, the Crown Prosecution Service, MAPPA projects (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements), mentoring projects, police case progression units, Victim Support, Witness Support, young offenders institutes and youth offending teams. You will also have the opportunity to study more specialised topics.

Examples of Year 2 modules include:

- Policy Issues in Criminal Justice Systems – A Comparative Analysis
- Diversity and Discrimination in Criminal Justice
- Human Rights in the Developing World
- Control in the Community
- Community-based Learning – A programme of visits or placements with criminal justice agencies
- Terrorism in the Modern World
- Forensic Linguistics
- A History of Crime and Punishment
- Interpersonal Violence
- Terrorism in the Modern World
- Youth, Conformity and Transgression
- The Sociology of Deviance and Control
- Visions of Crime and Deviance

Year 3

By Year 3 you will have built up a strong theoretical knowledge base and will be equipped to engage actively with and contribute to current debates in penology, policing and criminological theory. The refinement of advanced research skills is continued and all students are required to demonstrate their ability to write a formal project proposal. The programme culminates in the production of a substantial piece of independent research-based work: either an academic dissertation or the Capstone Project, which allows you to extend your work-based learning into a higher level of reflective practice which encompasses your own personal development throughout the programme. In your choice of electives you may choose to build upon your specialist areas of interest developed in Year 2 by taking independent study topics in Youth Justice, or Crimes of the Powerful or you may widen your field of study to include electives in new areas such as urban conflict and mentally disordered offenders.

Examples of Year 3 modules include:

- Research Proposal Writing
- Capstone Research Project
- Dissertation
- Contemporary Issues in Crime Control and Punishment
- Frontiers of Criminological Theory
- Mentally Disordered Offenders
- Security, Policing and the State
- Offender Management and Contemporary Probation Management
- Urban Divisions and Social Disorder
- Cyber Crime and Society



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
criminology](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/criminology)



Criminology staff

Professor Julia Davidson is the Director of Research in Criminology and Sociology; she leads a large team of research students and associates. Her research centres on child sexual abuse, with a particular focus on internet child safety. She has extensive experience of applied research and has directed and conducted work with young victims, serious violent and sexual offenders, criminal justice practitioners and sentencers. She is Co-Director of the Centre for Abuse and Trauma Studies. She has acted as a reviewer for the Department of Health and National Institute for Mental Health Victims of Violence and Abuse Prevention Programme (VVAPP).

Dr Bridget Towers is the Director of Studies for Criminology and Sociology. She is responsible for modules in *Evidence* and *Issues* and *Mentally Disordered Offenders*. Her research and publications are in medical policing and mental health.

Dr Cecilia Cappel is the third-year tutor. She is responsible for teaching and researching the area of interpersonal violence. She plays a major role in the career preparation module in Year 3.

Dr Sylvia Collins is the Research Advisor for Criminology and Sociology. She is responsible for modules in ethnography and youth studies. Her research interests and publications are in young people's worldviews and implicit religion.

Dr Stephanie Eaton is the second-year tutor and is responsible for modules in the sociology of deviance and policing. Her research interests are in policy making and accountability in the criminal justice system. She is also responsible for undergraduate and postgraduate modules in policy making and general principles in criminal law.

Dr Carlie Goldsmith is the co-ordinator of student life and is responsible for extracurricular activities as well as student engagement and participation in the organisation and management of the Department. She teaches modules in comparative criminal justice, social justice, and control in the community. Her research work is with young people and local criminal justice organisations.

Dr Chris Hamerton is responsible for modules on Visions on Crime and Deviance and Cyber Crime and Society. His background is in socio-legal studies and has an expertise in Trauma Studies.

Sue Hobbs is the Course Director of the MA programme; she is responsible for modern criminological theory modules and contemporary issues in crime control and punishment. She comes from a probation practitioner background and has experience in probation training.

Dr Joanna Jamel is a first year tutor who has a multidisciplinary background in criminology, sociology, investigative and forensic psychology. She teaches on Evidence and Issues and Diversity and Discrimination in Criminal Justice and draws on her applied research on sexual violence, transphobic hate crime, policing, masculinities and male sex work.

Pat Lane is from the School of Humanities and heads the teaching of forensic linguistics.

Amy Mitchell is responsible for modules in criminological theory, youth justice and looks after the community-based learning placements. She is from a youth justice practitioner background.

Arthur Shaw, from the School of Economics, runs modules in the economics of crime.

Devyani Vyas is from the School of Humanities and researches and teaches terrorism studies.

Mike Whittingham's teaching focuses on urban disorders and inter-group conflict.

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



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Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Single honours: 260 points
- Joint honours: 240–320 points depending on combination.
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent.
- Subjects: A-level: General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels or equivalent.
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff.
- Plus GCSE (Grade C minimum): Mathematics, English Language and Literature and at least one Science subject required.

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for 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.

Other entry routes

- Access course.
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Joint honours combinations

You can choose to study Criminology as a major, half or minor field in combination with one of the following subjects:

- Creative Writing
- Economics (Applied)
- English Language & Communication
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Forensic Science
- French
- History
- History of Art, Design & Film
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Media & Cultural Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

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Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560
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Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

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Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411
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