Criminology & Criminal Justice by distance learning

This programme is no longer recruiting.

Final award	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE, Ordinary degree
UCAS code	N/A
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Law and Sociology (2000)
Date specification last up-dated	March 2011

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

The BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice is studied by distance learning with ICS, in collaboration with UEL. This programme integrates a practical legal approach with the social science of criminology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry to Level 1 or the Full Programme

To enrol on the first Level or the Full Programme you must normally hold 240 UCAS tariff points or equivalent.

Entry on a Modular Basis

If you do not hold the required tariff points for Level 1 or Full Programme entry, studies will be permitted on a modular basis, following a guidance interview with a student advisor.

In order to be able to complete this programme, a good level of English is required. Where English is not your first language, then IELTS 6.0 overall with 6.0 in Writing and Speaking and 5.5 Reaing and Listening (or equivalent) is required. International qualitifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education undergraduate programmes.

Overseas students should be aware that all exams MUST be taken in the UK at one of the six listed exam venues. Students should also be aware that they are expected to cover all costs in attending the exams.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Criminology & Criminal Justice ?

The BA (Hons) degree is aimed at students who are interested in all aspects of Criminology and the Criminal Justice process. It provides a dual understanding of crime and the criminal justice system, integrating a legal justice approach with the social science of criminology.

Traditionally, criminology programmes are offered by social science departments and do not include related legal studies. This programme, however, gives students the opportunity to acquire foundations in legal principles on the more vocationally relevant aspects of this field. It provides both a strong theoretical grounding through a variety of criminology options, and also a comprehensive coverage of criminal law and criminal justice practice.

Criminology & Criminal Justice with ICS

- Criminology and Criminal Justice is an exciting and dynamic area of study. There are many careers opportunities available for graduates of this programme.
- Broad-based degree preparing you for many careers
- No entry qualifications needed to start on a module – modules make up degrees!
- All programme materials designed by experts in the fields of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Law and Sociology.
- No need to attend classes
- Help and guidance from student advisers
- Academic support from a subject specialist tutor
- Access to our virtual learning environment and online student community

Programme structure

To be awarded a Single Honours Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, you will have to complete 360 credits over three levels. This will comprise 120 credits at Level 1 or higher, plus 120 at Level 2 or higher, plus 120 at Level 3 or higher. All modules in Level 1 and 2 are compulsory. At Level 3 you must study two core modules and pick three further modules from a choice of seven.

It is also possible to study Criminology and Criminal Justice as part of a Combined Honours Degree, either as a Major/Minor or a Joint Honours.

Learning environment

This programme is offered on a distance-learning basis allowing you to select your learning environment – be it your home, office or a public library. Learning material is presented in the format of textbooks with specially written Study Guides containing interactive activities; feedback is provided to enable you to monitor your own progress.

It is essential that you have access to an internet-ready PC computer with Microsoft Windows XP or Higher, in order to utilise various online resources. A broadband connection of at least 350K is recommended.

It is also imperative that your computer has Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook) and you must be able to install your own packages.

Student/ student discussion and student/ tutor discussion opportunities are available via our environment and distance learning student community.. Additional learning resources include access to online journals via ATHENS and access to UK university libraries via SCONUL.

Assessment

Assessment methods vary across the degree according to the learning outcomes of the individual module. There are two opportunities each calendar year at which to take exams or submit final assessments. When students start studying a module, they are automatically enrolled for the next assessment point.

Students are required to pass all six level one modules but their overall degree classification is calculated on their performance at levels two and three.

Work experience/placement opportunities

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Project work

All students on the single honours degree and the combined Criminology major degree are required to undertake a 10,000 word research project on a criminological subject of their choice at level 3. This enables specialisation in a key area of personal interest and allows students to put into practice the research skills acquired during the programme. Students may choose to focus their project work for the purposes of career development or simply to broaden their areas of expertise.

Added value

By successfully completing a distance learning degree programme, you not only display relevant knowledge, skills and understanding to an employer but also that you are able to manage your time effectively, that you are self-motivated and already have a good work ethic – all of which can give you the edge you need to find success in the real world.

There is extensive academic and personal support based on a tutor and mentor system.

Students are expected to be able to organise their time effectively and be skilled at information gathering.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

- The problem of crime
- Offenders and their victims
- The workings of the Criminal Justice System
- Criminal Justice and Social Policy
- Punishment
- Miscarriages of justice
- Social exclusion

- Social theory
- Individual rights

If you enjoy...

- Engaging in critical debate
- Keeping abreast of current affairs
- Discussing social issues
- Investigating the causes of crime
- Inter-disciplinary studies
- Research

If you want...

- To know more about crime, justice and the society in which we live
- To specialise in an area without limiting yourself to one discipline (e.g. Sociology/Philosophy/Psychology/Law).
- To develop social research skills
- To have a degree with vocational relevance whilst not limiting your career options
- To follow a flexible programme which can fit in around your outside commitments.

Your future career

There are a number of opportunities open to our graduates including:

- The Police Force
- The Probation Service
- Social Work
- The Prison Service
- The Private Security Industry
- Community and Voluntary Organisations
- Local Government
- Civil Service
- Research
- Journalism

Students may already be working within the criminal justice field and are seeking to enhance their career or use their existing expertise to acquire a degree and facilitate a change in direction.

How we support you

On enrolment, you will be provided with an induction pack containing all the information you need to prepare you for your studies.

UEL has a team of dedicated Distance Learning Student Advisors who will be the first point of contact for all non-academic support matters. The Distance Learning Student Advisors will:

- welcome you by email, and provide advice on how to log to UEL Plus (the virtual learning environment) and Connecting UEL (the Resource & Community site)
- work with you in conjunction with your academic tutor to agree a study programme, discuss your progress and remind you about deadlines
- explain university procedures and policies
- help you plan for assessments and exams and provide advice on time management
- help you determine which university Award suits your career or personal needs
- refer you to the best learning and support resources including dyslexia and disability support and career advice.

In addition all distance learning students receive academic support from course tutors. Tutors will communicate with you via UEL Plus (the virtual learning environment). Support is also available via the Learning Resource Centre where there are dedicated librarians and the 'ask a librarian' feature. Peer support is very important and you will find a broad range of opportunities to build networks and exchange ideas with other students via our online communities.

Bonus factors

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Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Engage in a critical and inter-disciplinary approach to the study of crime and criminal justice practice.

In addition ICS, in collaboration with UEL, aims:

- To provide a high quality of education which is responsive to the needs of the student.
- To provide students with a stimulating, challenging and supportive learning experience.
- To maximise the potential of students through the provision of flexible and responsive patterns and modes of learning.
- To enhance the employability of our students by equipping them with a range of substantive and transferable skills.
- To provide equal opportunities in our teaching and learning provision.
- To widen access to Higher Education for mature, non-traditionally qualified and ethnic minority students.
- To provide our students with the necessary skills and enthusiasm to engage with the lifelong learning experience.

What will you learn?

Knowledge and understanding

- An understanding of the key concepts and theoretical perspectives which relate to the study of crime and criminal justice.
- An understanding of the distinctive characteristics of criminal justice and the discipline of criminology
- An awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of criminological inquiry.
- An understanding of criminological theory in its cultural and socio-political context.
- An understanding of the relationship between argument and evidence in criminological discourse.
- An understanding of the historical context of crime and punishment
- An understanding of the structure, role and function of the criminal justice process.
- An understanding of the substantive criminal law.
- An understanding of crime and criminal justice policy.

'Thinking' skills

- How to gather, retrieve and synthesise information
- How to evaluate evidence
- How to develop a reasoned argument
- How to demonstrate individual judgement and self reflection.

Subject-Based Practical skills

- An ability to report and evaluate empirical criminological research findings.
- An ability to formulate criminological questions
- An ability to use different methods of criminological enquiry
- An ability to identify the ethical issues in social research
- An ability to examine the relevance of criminological theory in relation to criminal justice policy and practice.
- An ability to apply legal concepts to provide arguable conclusions to concrete problems (actual and hypothetical)
- An ability to undertake socio-legal research

Skills for life and work

- An ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- Convey ideas in an appropriate format, including, where appropriate, the presentation of data
- Participate in groups to achieve joint learning outcomes
- Manage time effectively
- Critically reflect on the value of one's own work
- The ability to select and utilise appropriate computer software.
- Set goals, plan a work programme
- The development of your own style of independent learning
- Work independently

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All ICS/ UEL programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do, e.g. reading, activities, formative assessment).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years when attended in full-time mode or 4-5 years in part-time mode.

How the teaching year is divided

There are three entry points per year onto the programme: September, February and May. A student, normally registering for 6 modules in one year would do so in a full-time attendance mode of study and a student registering for up to 4 modules in one year would do so in part-time attendance mode of study.

What you will study when

A typical full-time student will take six 20-credit modules per year, but you may choose to take fewer. To graduate as an honours degree student you will need to have completed 120 credits at level one, 120 credits at level 2 and 120 credits at level 3.

For the BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice single honours programme all six modules at Levels 1 and 2 are core modules. At Level 3 students must study two core modules and three modules from a choice of seven.

To study Criminology and Criminal Justice as a Major, you must take four core modules at Levels 1 and 2. At Level 3, you will study 2 core modules (including the Project module, which is a 40 credit module) and one other module from a choice of seven.

To take Criminology and Criminal Justice as part of a Joint degree, students must study three core modules at Levels 1, three core modules at Level 2 and the equivalent of three core modules at Level 3.

To study Criminology and Criminal Justice as a Minor, you will take two core modules at Levels 1 and 2. At Level 3 you will study one core module and choose another one from a choice of seven.

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single and major pathways for this programme

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE	STATUS MAJOR	STATUS JOINT	STATUS MINOR
1	**CR1100 Developing Crimonological Skills***	20	Core	Core	Not Available	Not Available
1	**CR1000 Criminal Justice Process***	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	IS1206 Thinking Sociologically	20	Core	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
1	CR1600 Contemporary Issues in Criminology	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	CR1200 Youth Justice	20	Core	Core	Core	Not Available
1	LA1250 Constitutional and Administrative Law	20	Core	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
2	CR2550 Theoretical Criminology	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
2	LA2300 Criminal Law	20	Core	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
2	CR2130 Research Methods in Criminology	20	Core	Core	Core	Not Available
2	CR2000 Crime and Social History	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
2	CR2180 Applied Criminology & Professional Practice	20	Core	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
2	CR2600 Preventing and Correcting Offending Behaviour	20	Core	Core	Core	Not Available
3	CR3190 Crime, Deviance and Culture	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
3	CR3900 Project	40	Core	Core	Core	Not Available

3	CR3620 Mental Disordered Suspects, Defendants and Offenders	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option
3	PY3905 Forensic Psychology	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option
3	CR3150 Prison Studies	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option
3	CR3100 Police Studies	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option
3	CR3160Crime & the City	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option
3	CR3310 Community-based Crime Prevention	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option
3	CR3170 Terrorism Studies	20	Option	Option	Not Available	Option

* Asterisk indicates modules which are supported by ICS Ltd

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

(A foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree.)

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

$$\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3} \times 2/3 + \text{The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3} \times 1/3$$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% First Class Honours
60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49% Third Class Honours
0% - 39%   Not passed

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge and understanding is developed through

- Guided independent study
- Group work
- Worked examples
- Formative assessment
- Guided reading
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- On-line question/ answer forum

'Thinking' skills are developed through

- Reflective/ thinking activities with feedback
- Analytical activities with feedback
- Evaluative activities with feedback
- Problem-solving activities with feedback
- On-line question/ answer forums
- Additional core-skills provision

Practical skills are developed through

- Practical/ physical activities with feedback
- IT activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Project work and supervision

General skills are developed through

- The study medium, i.e. distance learning
- Planning activities with feedback
- IT activities with feedback
- Formative assessment with feedback
- Project work

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding is assessed by

- Coursework essays, problems and case studies
- Seen/unseen Examinations
- Project work

'Thinking' skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Examinations
- Project work

Practical skills are assessed by

- Practical reports
- Portfolio compilation
- IT exercises
- Case study exercises
- Completion of Project

General skills are assessed by

- Project work
- Group work
- IT exercises

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

- There would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme
- Adequate resources would be in place

- The overall aims and objectives were appropriate
- The content of the programme met national benchmark requirements
- The proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy, and student support mechanisms

This is done through a process of programme approval, which involves convening a panel of academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions. Each panel member scrutinises available documents and talks to the staff who will teach the programme before deciding whether it can be approved.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, the programme team undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process, which is coordinated at school level and includes student participation.The process is monitored by the School Quality Standing Committee.

Once every five years the University undertakes an in-depth review of the whole subject area. This is undertaken by a panel that includes at least three External Subject Specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in University of East London's quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one External Examiner. External Examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students

External Examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/ assignments
- Attending Assessment Boards

- Reviewing samples of Student work and moderating marks
- Ensuring that regulations are followed
- Providing feedback to the University through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Programme evaluations
- Polls via our website
- Student representation at programme committee meetings held twice yearly.

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Individual mailing letters as required
- Postings on the virtual learning environment and Connecting UEL (the Resource & Community site)

Listening to the views of others

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Further Information

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
-	-	-	-	-

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (http://www.uel.ac.uk)
- The Student Handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of Regulations and Policies