

# Criminology with Sociology

<b>Final award</b>	BA (Hons)
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	Cert HE, Dip HE, BA
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	UEL on campus
<b>UCAS code</b>	M9LH
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	Criminology and Sociology
<b>UEL Academic School</b>	Business and Law
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	July 2014

## The summary - UCAS programme profile A

### Banner box

This programme integrates the social sciences of criminology with sociology

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Typical Offer: 240 UCAS tariff points

Our admissions policy is to consider each applicant on their merits, guided by progressive principles, including a commitment to the UEL aim of widening access to higher education to non-traditional groups.

Normal requirements for the full-time undergraduate programme include:

- 240 UCAS points together with 3 subjects at GCSE grade C or above, including English Language.
- BTEC National Certificates and Diplomas or appropriate GNVQ's.
- International qualifications of equivalent standing.
- Access to Higher Education
- [Introduction to Law & Criminology Short Programme](#), (six week short course programme).

All applicants are considered in the light of their previous education and work experience.

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 overall with 6.0 in all components (or equivalent) is required. International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education undergraduate programmes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University's English Language requirements as detailed on the website at time of application must be met – see <http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/>

At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010.

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

### **What is Criminology and Sociology?**

Criminology is the study of crime and society's response to criminality. The study of Criminology at UEL is concerned with the investigation of formal and informal responses to social transgressions, the classification and definition of crimes, explanations of criminal and deviant behaviour and the occurrence and experience of crime and punishment. It is an exciting inter-disciplinary subject, which, as well as Sociology, has been combined with a number of social sciences, notably social psychology, law and politics.

The study of Sociology entails the application of sociological theory to real world practices, a concern with the close relationship between sociological problems and social problems and a critical approach to modern social issues.

### **Criminology with Sociology at UEL**

The Combined degree is aimed at students who are interested in both Criminology and Sociology. It provides both a dual understanding of crime and the criminal justice system, and also an understanding of sociological theories and perspectives. The Programme provides a strong theoretical grounding and has a significant option element, including modules relevant to later professional work.

At UEL, Criminology with Sociology is taught within the School of Business and Law and School of Social Sciences and students acquire additional legal training on the more vocationally relevant aspects of this field.

Criminology and Sociology students at UEL come from a wide range of ethnic & cultural backgrounds with a significant proportion of international students and mature students.

The programme is available full-time and part-time, which offers students maximum flexibility in terms of attendance patterns.

### **Programme structure**

The full-time BA (Hons) Criminology with Sociology degree can be undertaken on either a full-time or part-time basis; the former is a three-year programme and the latter can be

completed in a minimum of four years. The programme has compulsory modules at levels 4 and 5, providing students with the core foundational knowledge required to pursue more advanced studies. At level 6, there is one core project module and a choice from a wide range of options.

In order to provide flexible study arrangements, it is generally possible for students who successfully complete their assessments, to change from full-time to part-time study, or vice versa, after level 4.

### **Learning environment**

Teaching methods vary from module to module but include lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and individual supervision. The emphasis is on student participation and small group work within a supportive learning environment. Student learning is supported by lecture notes, module handbooks and suggested reading. Direct class contact is supplemented by on-line interactive programme materials, individual reading and preparation for assignments. Learning resources include IT and access to electronic databases and specialist library facilities.

The School is committed to the development of key transferable academic and research skills, which are integrated into our teaching and assessment throughout the degree. New students are also provided with additional study skills support to assist them in the early stages of their university career.

### **Assessment**

All modules on the on the Programme are assessed and must be passed. However, assessment at level 4 does not count towards the final award classification. Assessment is by a mix of coursework and examination. Coursework includes essays, research reports, reflective reports, group and seminar presentations and a level 6 project. Assessment methods vary across the degree according to the learning outcomes of the individual module.

### **Work experience opportunities**

At level 6, a work-based-learning module is available as an option and students will also take a core module at level 5 to help develop key employability skills for working in the criminology and criminal justice sector.

### **Project work**

Students on the degree are required to undertake a 15,000 word research project on a criminological subject of their choice at level 6. 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. The student is supported on a one-to-one basis by regular meetings with an academic supervisor with research and/or theoretical expertise in the area.

### **Added value**

The programme is designed to enhance students' general transferable skills; such skills being central to the successful completion of the degree and the future working lives of graduates. The range of expertise available in the School enables students to choose from a wide variety of option modules that will help prepare them for a range of careers.

## **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
- Gaining an understanding of Sociology
- 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 study these issues in the vibrant, multicultural setting that is East London
- To specialise in an area without limiting yourself to one discipline
- 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

Some of our students are already 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**

The University offers facilities for advice on residential matters, student finance, employability, ICT, careers, study skills and training, counselling and student union support. In addition to these general services the School of Law and Social Sciences provides:

- A proactive personal tutoring system with student profiling
- Students can also seek help in their first year from the first year tutor and at all levels from the Programme Leader and the Head of Criminology
- Additional support for new students in Core Study Skills
- Students with problems, whether internal or external to the degree programme, can also be referred to the relevant University experts (for example, the UEL Counselling Service and the SMART team for financial advice);
- Approachable and efficient teaching and administrative staff.
- The School and also the UEL Careers Service, offers comprehensive careers advice, including the provision of talks from external speakers. The School benefits from a full time Employability Manager.
- The School is continually developing links with local and national employers to further the practical careers support given to students; and
- Students receive IT training and instruction in utilising on-line materials.

### **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, criminal justice practice and sociology.

In addition the School of Law and Social Sciences aims:

- To provide a high quality of education and research which is responsive to the needs of individuals and communities within the region.
- 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, criminal justice and sociology.
- An understanding of the distinctive characteristics of criminal justice and the disciplines of criminology and sociology.
- An awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of criminological inquiry.
- An understanding of criminological and sociological theory in its cultural and socio-political context.
- An understanding of the relationship between argument and evidence in criminological and sociological 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 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 and sociological research findings.
- An ability to formulate criminological and sociological questions
- An ability to use different methods of criminological and sociological enquiry
- An ability to identify the ethical issues in social research
- An ability to examine the relevance of criminological and sociological 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
- An ability to evaluate basic statistical information
- An ability to use information technology for presentation and research
- An ability to participate in group work

## **The programme structure**

### **Introduction**

All 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. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

### **Credit rating**

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

### **Typical duration**

The typical duration of this programme is 3 years full-time or a minimum of 4 years part-time. It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part-time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

### **How the teaching year is divided**

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June.

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 90 credits in any academic year.

### **What you will study when**

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per level. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15, 45 or 60 credits modules. An honours degree student will

complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Distance Learning Y/N	Credits	Status*
4	CR4001	Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice	N	30	Core
4	CR4002	Contemporary Issues of Youth Justice and Criminology	N	30	Core
4	LA4002	Constitutional and Administrative Law	N	30	Core
4	IS4002	Thinking Sociologically	N	30	Core
5	CR5001	Research Methods in Criminology	N	30	Core
5	CR5002	Applied Criminology & Professional Practice	N	30	Core
5	CR5003	Theoretical Criminology	N	30	Core
5	SC5003	Social Theory	N	30	Core
6	CR6000	Project	N	60	Core
<b>Two Criminology Options from the following:</b>					
6	CR6010	Global Illicit Drug Trafficking	N	15	Option
6	CR6011	Mentally-disordered Defendants & Suspects	N	15	Option
6	CR6012	Preventing and Correcting Offending Behaviour	N	15	Option
6	CR6013	Prison Studies	N	15	Option
6	CR6014	Terrorism Studies	N	15	Option
6	CR6015	Psychological Criminology	N	15	Option
6	CR6016	Race, Ethnicity, Crime and Justice	N	15	Option
6	CR6017	Youth Crime and Sub-culture	N	15	Option
6	CR6018	Work-based learning	N	15	Option
6	CR6019	Football Hooliganism	N	15	Option
6	PS6011	Psychosocial Perspectives on Criminal Behaviour	N	15	Option
<b>Two Sociology Options from the following:</b>					
6	IS6003	Construction of Race	N	15	Option
6	IS6005	Nationalism in the Global Age	N	15	Option

6	IS6002	Critical Approaches to Class	N	15	Option
6	IS6053	Sociology of Identity and Difference	N	15	Option
6	IS6050	Housing and Urban Regeneration	N	15	Option
6	IS6054	Surveillance, Technology and Society	N	15	Option
6	IS6051	Generations, Age and Meaning	N	15	Option
6	IS6052	Gender Studies	N	15	Option
6	SC6016	Life Histories	N	15	Option

\*Please Note – A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.

### ***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 four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six 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 four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six 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 four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher.

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

## **Degree Classification**

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating:

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6  $\times 0.8$  + The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6  $\times 0.2$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal 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

## **Teaching, learning and assessment**

### **Teaching and learning**

#### **Knowledge and understanding is developed through**

- Module design and content
- Lectures
- Guided independent study
- Seminar and workshop discussion and debate
- Group work
- Worked examples
- Formative assessment

#### **'Thinking' skills are developed through**

- Foundation subjects at level one
- Additional core-skills provision
- Seminar work and feedback
- Profiling and the personal tutor system

#### **Practical skills are developed through**

- Research Methods teaching
- Seminar work and feedback
- Project work and supervision

#### **General skills are developed through**

- Seminar participation
- Formative assessment and feedback

- Core skills tuition and referral support

## **Assessment**

### **Knowledge and understanding is assessed by**

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

### **'Thinking' skills are assessed by**

- Attention to structure, evidence and critique in the marking criteria
- Research based coursework
- Reflective coursework

### **Practical skills are assessed by**

- Subject specific assessment design e.g. practical exercises for methods programmes.
- Completion of project/dissertation

### **General skills are assessed by**

- Diagnostic test on induction.
- Clear marking criteria for all assessments in relation to expression, spelling, grammar and presentation.
- Assessed oral presentations
- Assessed group work

## **How we assure the quality of this programme**

### **Before this programme started**

Before the programme started, the following was checked:

- 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 programme met any professional/statutory body 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 consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

### **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 programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the University's Quality Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two 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 the University'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 through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.
- The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & Responses'. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

### **Listening to the views of students**

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

- Module evaluations
- Informal seminar discussions
- Student representation on programme/field committees
- Student representation on School committees e.g. Student Experience Committee and School Board.
- Effective personal tutor system and year representation
- Accessible staff office hours

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Communication to student representatives
- Circulating the minutes of the committees
- Providing details on the programme noticeboard

### **Listening to the views of others**

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Discussions with former students
- External representation on the School Board
- Market research for developing programme provision
- Professional links e.g. with Essex Constabulary and the British Society of Criminology.

### **Where you can find further information**

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site <http://www.uel.ac.uk/>
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- School web pages <http://www.uel.ac.uk/lss/>