

MA International Criminology and Security Studies



Programme Overview

The MA in International Criminology and Security Studies draws on Liverpool Hope's significant research strength in extremism studies, green criminology, and transnational crime to offer an innovative programme for aspiring academic researchers, policy makers, and practitioners with an interest in subjects at the cutting edge of contemporary criminology.

As the first programmes of its type in the North West, this unique degree aims to give students a robust grounding in the study of terrorism and extremism, transnational crime, and the interplay between crime and the environment. Across four taught modules and an original research dissertation students will engage with in depth subject teaching in these areas, as well as advanced quantitative and qualitative research skills and the ethics and practicalities of conducting research on crime and security issues. This will build towards the production of an original research dissertation that explores a contemporary crime or security issue in line with the course content.

By providing students with a world-leading understanding of the core issues around this field and the skills to produce and consume high-quality original research, it will allow them to pursue careers in and around crime and security policy or practice, or to engage in advanced academic study via further postgraduate research qualifications.

Why Choose Liverpool Hope

This innovative course is designed as a blended delivery taught Masters to increase flexibility and accessibility to students. Online lectures and short intensive face-to-face study blocks mean that you can fit this course around work and other personal commitments.

Here at Hope we have a group of criminology scholars who are active researchers in the fields of terrorism and extremism, green criminology and transnational crime. Our research underpins the teaching delivery, ensuring that classes are grounded in cutting-edge knowledge from these fields of scholarship.

The course has an impressive research methods dimension which prepares students to participate as active researchers in their own right. The experience that is built in this part of the course provides students with important transferable skills to take into their future careers or doctoral study.

Key Information

Award: MA International Criminology and Security Studies

Study Mode: Full-time & Part-time

Duration: 12 months (FT) or 2 years and one term (PT)

Intake: Annually, beginning in October.

Entry Criteria: An applicant should, as a minimum EITHER possess a first class or upper second class honours degree from a UK University; OR possess a degree from an overseas institution that is judged by the Registrar or Nominee to be equivalent to a first class degree or upper second class honours degree from a UK University.

For students whose first language is not English there is a language requirement of IELTS 6.5 overall with 6.0 minimum in all components.

Fees and Funding: For tuition fee information, please go to the Student Finance pages at www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding

How to Apply: Direct Entry

Faculty: Business, Law and Criminology

Contact Details: Dr John Walliss
wallisj@hope.ac.uk

Student Recruitment,
ecourses@hope.ac.uk

Disclaimer: Information is correct at time of print, however programme details can change.



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Curriculum

The MA in International Criminology and Security Studies comprises four compulsory taught modules of 30 credits each and a compulsory dissertation of 60 credits. Assessment methods may include coursework, in the form of essays, reports, presentations, and an empirical research dissertation.

Modules

During the course you will study

Green Criminology and Environmental Crime (30 credits - compulsory)

This module will critically explore key contemporary concepts and issues in the fields of green criminology and environmental crime. It will critically consider relevant theories and perspectives, such as ecological and species justice, to support analysis of the nature and drivers of environmental and nonhuman animal harms and possible responses to them. This exploration will be situated within local, national and international contexts and politics, including inequality and development, human rights, the animal industrial complex, consumerist societies, and the legacies of colonialism on indigenous communities and the Global South. Approaches and challenges relating to green criminology research will also be considered.

Lectures will be grouped into themes of Fundamentals of Green Criminology, Dynamics of Green Criminology, Dimensions of Green Criminology, Responding to Green Criminology, and Researching Green Criminology.

Terrorism and Extremism (30 Credits - Compulsory)

This module will critically explore key contemporary concepts and issues in extremism and terrorism studies. It will provide a broad-ranging perspective on the field through consideration of national and international controversies, research, and areas of academic and policy debate. It will investigate areas such as radicalisation, counter-violent extremism (CVE), and political violence, and will provide students with a holistic overview of criminological research around contemporary terrorism and extremism.

Lectures will be grouped into four themes: defining extremism and terrorism; causes of extremism and terrorism; counter violent extremism policy frameworks; case studies in extremism and terrorism.

Transnational Crime (30 credits - compulsory)

This module will critically explore key drivers

of transnational crime, its historical evolution, manifestations, and law enforcement responses at both national and international levels. Drawing on insights from criminology, sociology, and political science, the module will address a wide spectrum of historical and contemporary risks including drug trafficking, cybercrime, human trafficking, and environmental crime. Supporting case studies will be situated within economic, social, and institutional contexts across different geographic regions such as Latin America, Western Europe, and East Asia.

Lecture content will address concepts, theories, actors, and responses to transnational crime, while seminars will take a problem-based approach, focusing on case studies and exercises aimed at consolidating the theoretical content from the lectures.

Advanced Research Methods (30 credits - compulsory)

This module will provide students with an overview of the advanced social research methods that provide the foundation for their dissertation research. It will cover a range of relevant topics and skills, including quantitative and qualitative research methods, research design, ethical issues in research, sources of data collection, and the use of specialist software.

Lectures will be grouped into themes of quantitative and qualitative research methods, and cover topics such as research design, ethical issues, sources of data, and analyzing data using specialist software.

Dissertation (60 credits - compulsory)

The dissertation offers students the opportunity to produce a piece of original research on a topic of interest from within the broad field of Criminology and Security Studies. This may draw on themes introduced in taught modules, or may alternatively speak to interests and/or topics from outside the programme syllabus.

Produced under the guidance and oversight of a member of academic staff through monthly individual supervisory meetings, the 15,000-word dissertation will involve the collection, analysis, and presentation of results from original primary and/or secondary research. In so doing it will provide a test of the student's knowledge and understanding of ethics, research practice, planning, and time-management.

Research Environment

The MA in International Security and Security Studies is taught by highly-regarded criminologists with strong teaching and

research reputations. Our academics have published highly-cited papers and developed concepts that are pushing the boundaries of the discipline. They are actively involved in various academic networks, meaning you will be taught by professionals who are at the cutting-edge of developments in this subject area. They have contributed to research projects in various countries, including Ethiopia and Malaysia, and Latin America, and their work has informed advocacy and policy.

Teaching follows Liverpool Hope University's Learning and Teaching strategy, with an emphasis on small-group teaching. The programme is delivered through asynchronous online lectures, reading and activities, tutorial webinars, and on-campus block-taught weekend seminar sessions, when you have the opportunity to work with other students to further explore these topics and critically apply your learning.

All face-to-face seminars are held at Liverpool Hope University's main campus, Hope Park. The campus is situated just four miles from the city centre and offers superb academic and support facilities, including a library with extended opening hours, computer and wi-fi access, a gym and sports centre, and a careers service for advice on part-time work opportunities and post-study careers.

Future Career Opportunities

The MA International Criminology and Security Studies will support students to pursue careers in a variety of fields, including protective services, public sector management, and policy/research roles. This may include policing, crime and security analysis, PREVENT coordination, security policy development and evaluation, and security and risk consultancy. The international focus of the programme is also suited to those interested in joining agencies such as Interpol or the UN.

There is also a clear pathway into doctoral study at Hope, as we have a growing reputation for research and advocacy in several of the areas of focus in this programme.



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