

Criminology BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: M990 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Crime and society's response are key issues today. Criminology looks at why crime happens, its effects, and how we can prevent it. At Liverpool Hope University, you'll explore how crime is defined. You'll learn who makes these decisions and why people commit crimes. You'll also study what happens in the criminal justice system.

You'll also learn about important institutions like the police, courts, prisons, probation services, and government bodies such as the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office. The degree prompts you to think about big questions. Is criminal behavior learned or inherited? Why are some actions criminalized and others not? Does punishment really reduce crime?

Criminology at Liverpool Hope is a respected course taught by experienced staff. They are dedicated to helping you excel in a vibrant learning environment. The course focuses on justice—its delivery, access, and fairness—reflecting the university's commitment to social justice locally and globally.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2026/2027 are £9,790 for full-time undergraduate courses.

We advise you to consider the cost of the books that will be suggested as key reading/reference books. All books will be available in the library, but in limited numbers. We suggest setting aside around £100 for purchases, but remember that costs of books vary depending on where you buy them.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls



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Criminology BA (Hons) Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Criminology

In your first year, you will gain the core foundational knowledge of criminology. You'll be introduced to the key ideas, concepts, theories, and agencies that underpin criminology and criminal justice. You will study:

Fought the Law – Introduction to Criminal Justice in England and Wales

This module offers an introduction to the institutions, processes, and debates that shape the criminal justice system. You will explore how the police, courts, prisons, and probation services function in theory and practice, and examine the challenges they face in delivering justice.

From Origins to Innovations – Criminological Thought

This module explores the key ideas that have shaped our understanding of crime and deviance. You will study a wide range of criminological theories, from classic thinkers to contemporary developments, and consider how these perspectives help explain why people commit crime.

Thinking Society – Behavioural and Social Frameworks*

This module introduces criminology students to the wider social sciences and the issues that shape everyday life. You will consider how human behaviour is influenced by social, cultural, economic, and political factors, and how these forces connect to crime and justice.

Crime in the Media – Headlines and Hype*

This module examines how crime is represented and shaped by the media. From documentaries and tabloid headlines to social media and streaming platforms, you will study the powerful role the media plays in constructing public perceptions of crime, justice, and criminality.

Year Two

Explorations in Criminology

In your second year, core modules build on the threshold concepts and knowledge developed in the first year. You will explore contemporary areas of criminological interest, including: Victimology, Human Rights, the Politics of Crime and Criminal Justice Policy, Critical Criminology,

Psychological Criminology, Drugs and Substance Misuse, Hate Crime, Sex and Crime, Criminology of the Global South, Transnational Crime, Corporate Crime, and Research Methods.

Year Three

In your final year, you will study a range of specialist modules shaped by our team's research expertise. These modules are subject to change, but currently include:

Exploring the 'Manosphere': Online Misogyny in the 21st Century

This module examines the rise of extreme misogyny in digital spaces and its social impact. You will trace the development of the men's rights movement and study how its ideas have evolved and spread online, giving rise to groups such as pick-up artists, MGTOW, and Incels.

Organised Crime

This module provides a critical introduction to the structures, activities, and global reach of organised criminal groups. You will explore the operations of organisations such as the Italian 'Ndrangheta, Chinese Triads, and Mexican drug cartels. The module considers how these groups interact with nation-states, infiltrate legal markets, and shape societies in both local and global contexts.

Evidence-Based Policing

This module focuses on how research and data can be used to inform and improve policing practices. You will study the key concepts and methods behind evidence-based policing and consider how they shape decision-making in investigation, enforcement, and crime prevention.

International Crime

This module explores crimes that cross national borders and affect the global community. You will examine offences such as war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity within their historical, social, and political contexts.

Advanced Studies in Criminology 1

This module introduces two key areas in contemporary criminology: extremism, terrorism and security, and cybercrime. You will explore the social and political contexts in which these issues arise, the theories that help explain them, and how they manifest in the modern world.

Advanced Studies in Criminology 2*

This module gives single honours students the chance to focus on two important and evolving areas of criminology: race, crime, and identity, and green criminology. You will study the social, political, and historical contexts of these issues, as well as the theories that underpin them.

*single honours only

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, seminars and tutorials.

If you are studying Criminology as a single honours degree, in your first year there will be approximately 12 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours in your second and third years. If you are studying Criminology as a combined honours degree, in your first year there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years.

On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as group study to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

You'll complete a variety of assessments designed to build your academic skills and prepare you for a career in criminology and criminal justice. These include case study analyses, essays and academic reports, workbook assignments, group presentations and written exams.

You'll receive written feedback on coursework within four working weeks, giving you clear guidance on how to improve and progress. You'll also be encouraged to meet with your tutor to discuss feedback in person, ensuring you get the tailored support you need to succeed in your studies.



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