

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MA Criminology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MA Criminology
Named Exit Awards	PgD Criminology PgC Criminology
Entry Requirements ⁴	<p>Academic Requirements Minimum of a 2:2 undergraduate degree or equivalent. A social science subject is advantageous but not necessary. Relevant experience will be considered.</p> <p>International Requirements Students whose first language is not English are required to hold one of the following English language qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS: minimum overall score of 7.0, with 7.0 in Writing and 6.5 in all other sub categories; • TOEFL (Internet-Based Test): minimum overall score of 100, with 25 in Writing and 22 in all other sub categories; • Cambridge Proficiency: minimum grade of C; • Pearson English: minimum overall score of 66, with 66 in Writing and 59 in all other sub categories. • The School will also refer applicants who meet the necessary entry requirements to the University's pre-sessional English language courses.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA Criminology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#)

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Course Summary

The MA Criminology is designed to meet the ambitions of postgraduate students, by developing students' intellectual, critical and analytic skills in the academic areas of criminology, criminal justice and social interventions.

The MA in Criminology gives students the opportunity to develop a comprehensive specialist knowledge of debates around crime causation and control, within a comparative and international context. Students undertake a wide variety of modules which aim to combine theoretical concepts with real-world problems such as gangs, organised crime and victimisation from an internationally comparative perspective.

Therefore, graduates will be equipped with a thorough understanding of the key theoretical and political positions and concepts within these areas and the ability to use this knowledge in sophisticated ways in the critical assessment and development of public policy and interventions. The course will equip students with the quantitative and qualitative research skills consistent with the demands of the discipline and the professional market. Students will develop transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communication commensurate with the levels at which they are likely to be operating when they have left the course, plus the capacity for independent learning and the ability to reflect about the ethical and ideological components of their work.

Course Aims

In providing the MA Criminology the University and the course team aim to:

1. Develop students' intellectual, critical and analytic skills in the academic areas of criminology, criminal justice and social interventions.
2. Produce graduates who have a thorough understanding of the key theoretical and political positions and concepts within these areas and the ability to use this knowledge in sophisticated ways in the critical assessment and development of public policy and interventions.
3. Provide students with the opportunity to explore areas of study that are either professionally relevant or of academic interest.
4. Provide students with quantitative and qualitative research method skills in a way that is consistent with the demands of the discipline and the professional market.
5. Enhance students' transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communication; the capacity for independent learning and the ability to reflect about the ethical and ideological components of their work.
6. Develop the theoretical knowledge and research skills for writing a Masters-level dissertation.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA Criminology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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1. An in-depth knowledge of criminology informed by current scholarship, and the ability to work independently and critically review and analyse scholarship.
2. A systematic knowledge and critical awareness of the theoretical dimensions of criminology and how they relate to the current social and political frameworks.
3. How the theory and frameworks of the discipline influence and determine the application of practice to criminal justice, crime and offending.
4. An ability to undertake a critical discussion, systematic review and analysis of a complex, unfamiliar or unpredictable criminological problem and by using appropriate methodologies work independently to produce, with some originality, an understanding informed by current scholarship.
5. An ability to undertake either on their own, or in collaboration with others, investigations of social issues in relation to criminological debates and be able to apply appropriate ethical standards with regards to a range of research strategies and methods to assess the appropriateness of their use.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland (2015).
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Criminology (Master's) (2022)

Course Structure

The MA Criminology comprises 7 modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Theories of Crime & Social Deviance	20	M
Victimisation and Vulnerability	20	O
Criminal Justice: Ideology, Policy and Practice	20	O
Principles of Research	20	M
Young People, Group Offending and Violent Crime	20	O
Collaborative Working and Partnership	20	O
Green Criminology	20	O
Organised Crime	20	O
Dissertation	60	M

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MA Criminology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Criminology on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC Criminology on successful completion of 60 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on MA Criminology are likely to have approximately 9 hours of tutored structured learning per week. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, practical activity and guided learning activities through our online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake a further 12 hours of directed online activities and 15 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 100% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MA Criminology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,090 per year
Part-time UK	£1,010 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£14,625 per year
Part-time EU/International	£1,625 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).