



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

### ***BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice (DL)***

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>BSc (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice</b>
<b>Final Award</b>	BSc (Hons)
<b>Exit Awards</b>	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
<b>Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)</b>	U3249PTD
<b>Mode of study</b>	Part time
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Distance Learning
<b>Normal length of course</b>	4.5 years
<b>Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies</b>	All students from September 2022 onwards
<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of Portsmouth
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Portsmouth
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
<b>School/Department/Subject Group</b>	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)
<b>School/Department/Subject Group webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-criminology-and-criminal-justice">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-criminology-and-criminal-justice</a>
<b>Course webpage including entry criteria</b>	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-crime-and-criminology">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-crime-and-criminology</a>
<b>Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations</b>	N/A
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	FHEQ Levels 4, 5 and 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- To provide a degree programme for those who have a general interest in academic debates around crime, criminology and criminal justice.
- To offer those who may aspire to work in professions associated with criminal justice to gain knowledge and transferable skills that may improve their employability.
- To provide practitioners who may already be employed in criminal justice to gain knowledge and transferable skills to enhance their career in the field.
- To foster knowledge of criminology and criminal justice in a multi-disciplinary context and critical engagement with its subject areas.
- To provide a broad education presenting multiple perspectives on criminology and criminal justice and the supporting disciplines of law, sociology, psychology and crime management.
- To enable students to study the multi-disciplinary subjects of criminology and criminal justice and develop further specialist interests and knowledge within the subject area.
- To provide an opportunity for students to create and understand links between the disciplines making up the fields of criminology and criminal justice
- To facilitate students' understanding of and competence in a range of qualitative and quantitative research skills for exploring crime and its management.
- To provide opportunities to develop transferable skills required for future professional success.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop key skills
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career progression and access to postgraduate study opportunities.

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Core and specialist aspects of criminological theory and criminal justice processes, including a range of sub disciplines influencing research and social policy development.		
A2	The development of academic skills, reading and research, the writing of academic essays and undertaking independent research, including a dissertation		
A3			

	The relationship of diversity to social justice in relation to crime, victimisation and social responses to these phenomena.	Delivered by online learning materials (in Moodle), supported by telephone &/or computer aided communication such as video calls and emails, tutor led webinars.	Assessed through summative coursework, including essays, report writing, briefing notes, portfolios, posters, projects, assessed group work, presentations, examinations, dissertations and in some cases relevant online tools in Moodle.
A4	A range of criminal justice research paradigms and methods		
A5	The development of academic skills, reading and research, the writing of academic essays and undertaking independent research, including a dissertation		
A6	Use a range of research strategies and methods, assess the appropriateness of their use, and identify an appropriate strategy for specific research problems		
A7	The changing nature of the 'criminal justice state' and the inherent variability of crime causation explanations and responses.		
A8	Core and specialist aspects of criminological theory and criminal justice processes, including a range of sub disciplines influencing research and social policy development.		
A9	The development of academic skills, including a range of criminological research paradigms and research methods.		

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Generate and explore creative and original ideas and apply multiple and competing perspectives to existing criminology and criminal justice issues and debates		
B2	Gather, retrieve and synthesise information from a range of sources, recognising the validity and reliability of some sources over others		
B3	Think analytically and critically about the multidisciplinary nature of criminological publications		

B4	Select appropriate theories in developing research methodologies to support projects, dissertations and other written work	Delivered by online learning materials (in Moodle), supported by telephone &/or computer aided communication such as video calls and emails, tutor led webinars.	Assessed through summative coursework, including essays, report writing, briefing notes, portfolios, posters, projects, assessed group work, presentations, examinations, dissertations and in some cases relevant online tools in Moodle
B5	Evaluate evidence from a range of sources and make informed judgements		
B6	Use evidence-based reasoning to make informed judgements in developing research methodologies to support projects, dissertations and other written work.		
B7	Identify and focus on topical and pertinent issues, placing debates in their wider social and political contexts		
B8	Use evidence-based reasoning to reflect on practical, theoretical and ethical issues involved in criminology research		

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Communicate criminological and criminal justice ideas via a range of formats.	Delivered by online learning materials (in Moodle), supported by telephone &/or computer aided communication such as video calls and emails, tutor led webinars.	Assessed through summative coursework, including essays, report writing, briefing notes, portfolios, posters, projects, assessed group work, presentations, examinations, dissertations and in some cases relevant online tools in Moodle
C2	Retrieve and use information effectively from a range of sources in order to problem solve and develop reasoned arguments.		
C3	Problem solve and develop reasoned arguments.		
C4	Work effectively under pressure and exercise effective time management skills		
C5	Conduct a substantial piece of criminological research, under appropriate supervision		

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Contribute to online group discussions and debates about a complex subject, involving the management of tasks and problem-solving skills (C3.1)		
D2	Research, read and synthesise information from a range of sources and documents about a complex subject, making decisions regarding the reliability and validity of the sources used		

D3	Develop written communication skills by employing different types of written documents (essays, reports, articles, dissertation) to convey knowledge and understanding of complex subjects and debates (C3.4)	Delivered by online learning materials (in Moodle), support by telephone by ne and email tutor support, supported by telephone &/or computer aided communication such as video calls and emails, tutor led webinars.	Assessed through summative coursework, including essays, report writing, briefing notes, portfolios, posters, projects, assessed group work, presentations, examinations, dissertations and in some cases relevant online tools in Moodle.
D4	Present information from a range of sources for different purposes and audiences		
D5	Recognise, explore and describe a problem, agree standards and outcomes for its solutions, involving team working and problem solving		
D6	Work towards achieving agreed objectives, seek to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships in meeting responsibilities		
D7	Make use of feedback to plan, organise and review own performance, using analytical and reflective skills		

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides the following:

The course is managed by a Course Leader.

A Course Induction programme introduces the student to the University and their course.

Each student has a nominated Personal Tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance.

Within SCCJ there are also Learning Development Tutors for both academic skills and research support, and Student Engagement Officers for further academic and pastoral needs.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)

- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Criminology](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## Document details

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