

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	LLM Criminal Law and Justice
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	LLM Criminal Law and Justice
Named Exit Awards	PgD Criminal Law and Justice PgC Criminal Law and Justice
Entry Requirements ⁴	An undergraduate degree with a minimum of 2:2 classification, or sufficient professional experience
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the LLM Criminal Law and Justice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2027-28 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The LLM aims to integrate criminal law, evidence and procedure with the insights of criminology and psychology into the practices of the criminal courts. The aim of the course is to offer an interdisciplinary approach to criminal law and evidence with particular insights from psychology.

Your course will provide you with a practical and theoretical understanding of criminal law and justice and allow you to develop expertise in the principles of English criminal law with a focus on the practices of presenting, analysing and evaluating evidence. The course will draw on the insights of psychological research to deepen your understanding of the practical application of witness testimony and other types of evidence. You will further explore and use your knowledge of psychological research to assess witness evidence. Our psychology labs and mock courtroom are used to test and develop ideas about the impact of context and memory on the reliability of testimony and evidence. Mock court sessions will allow you to participate in a range of different roles and types of court hearing - applying your knowledge

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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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of criminal law and procedure. You will use the specialist equipment in our psychology labs to evaluate witness testimony.

The course will be taught by specialist lecturers in Law and Psychology to enable students to develop an integrated understanding of criminal law, evidence and procedure. You will have guest speakers from the legal profession and psychology and the course aims to allow you time to make friends and build links with fellow students.

Course Aims

- Develop your knowledge and insights into contemporary criminal law and evidence in the light of relevant social scientific research.
- Facilitate the development of innovative legal arguments in the area of criminal procedure and evidence.
- Enhance research, argumentation and presentation skills in both legal and social scientific contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the LLM Criminal Law and Justice 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.

1. Show a deep and systematic knowledge of key contemporary aspects of criminal law, evidence, and procedure, integrating insights from criminology and/or psychology into criminal justice practices;
2. Apply advanced knowledge based on critical awareness of current legal problems to generate new insights and arguments in a range of different contexts;
3. Systematically apply and evaluate evidence using the principles of English Criminal law showing originality of argument;
4. Deal with complex issues using originality in problem solving to synthesize knowledge across the disciplines of law, psychology and/or criminology;
5. Demonstrate self-direction and initiative in tackling and solving problems through the independent design, production and communication of a research project that shows advanced use of appropriate research methods from social science or legal disciplines;
6. Research and present complex legal arguments orally and in writing on issues showing sound judgement where the law is equivocal.

Course Design

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

- [Characteristics Statement for Master's Degrees](#)
- [European Higher Education Area](#)

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

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Course Structure

The LLM Criminal Law and Justice comprises 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	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Contemporary Criminal Law	30	M
	Criminal Evidence and Psychology	60	M
	International Criminal Justice Systems	30	M
	Independent Project A: Dissertation	60	M
	or		
	Independent Project B: Placement	60	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a LLM Criminal Law and Justice. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Criminal Law and Justice on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC Criminal Law and Justice on successful completion of 60 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on LLM Criminal Law and Justice are likely to have approximately 6 contact hours across 1-2 days per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activities.

Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 36 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

If the *Independent Project B: Placement* is chosen, students should expect to complete approximately 140 hours of placement.

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 majority coursework (including law reform projects, seminar paper, presentations, structured debate, portfolio, and dissertation/placement report).

Course Team

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

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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Course Costs

Students undertaking LLM Criminal Law and Justice will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£10,260 per year
Part-time UK	£1,710 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£16,500 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,750 per 30 credit module

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

Students are likely to incur other costs for books and specialist texts amounting to approximately £200 per year.

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](#).