

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-session 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 2025-26 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 \(2024\)](#)

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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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. Enable students to focus on particular aspects of criminology in which they have prior knowledge or experience through previous study or employment.
2. Offer students the opportunity to explore criminological topics in greater depth than encountered during their undergraduate study, with options for interdisciplinary exploration.
3. Provide students with the tools to undertake substantial research within criminology or a project topic through work-based learning, which will form most of their overall assessment.
4. Equip students with advanced research methods and methodologies, enabling them to conduct qualitative and quantitative criminology research.
5. Enable students to specialise in areas of criminology that align with specific professional pathways, such as criminal justice policy, community safety, or rehabilitation.

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.

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of criminology informed by current scholarship and the ability to work independently and critically review evidence of crime and victimisation.
2. Apply a systematic knowledge and critical awareness of the theoretical dimensions of criminology and how they relate to the current global, social and political debates.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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3. Develop and use theories, skills and frameworks relevant to the discipline to shape professional criminal justice partnerships and practices to help reduce crime and victimisation.
4. Produce 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.
5. Critically discuss, systematically review and analyse complex, unfamiliar or unpredictable criminological problems using appropriate methodologies and work independently to produce a project, with some originality, informed by current scholarship.

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 (2024).
- 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	Module Type*	Credits
Criminal Exploitation, Group Offending and Modern Slavery	M	30
Partnerships for Criminal Justice and Community Safety	M	30
Theories of Crime & Social Deviance	M	30
Victims and the Criminal Justice System	M	30
Independent Project A: Dissertation (Criminology)	M	60
Independent Project B: Placement (Criminology)	M	60

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.

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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	£9,150 per year
Part-time UK	£1,525 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£15,210 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,535 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.

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](#).