

# Applied Criminology - Undergraduate -2021/22

**Award Level: BA or BSc**

**UCAS Code: M900**

**Start Date: September 2021**

**Mode of study: Full-time, Part-time**

**Duration: 3 years, 6 years**

**Location: Canterbury**

## **Main quote**

My Christ Church degree has opened up a whole new world and inspired me to examine my true potential as a graduate. I am now looking beyond my current role to what I can achieve personally and professionally.

## **Main quote source**

Anthony, Christ Church alumnus, now Detective Investigator, Metropolitan Police

## **Course overview**

**Criminology is the study of crime, criminal justice and its relationship with society; it dominates national and world news reports and is a constant feature in entertainment media. This degree prepares you for a range of exciting career paths focusing on criminal justice and the treatment of victims and offenders.**

You will explore the true nature, extent and causes of crime, along with the methods used to manage crime and criminal behaviour. Our experienced teaching staff will take you through key criminological theories, applying them to your understanding of crime, the experiences of offenders and victims in the criminal justice system, and the ways in which society constructs crime problems and responds to criminal behaviour.

The varied expertise of the teaching staff allows you to explore these themes from a range of perspectives. You will also be supported by a range of criminal justice professionals and agencies, who teach on the course and provide volunteering and networking opportunities to help prepare you for your career.

## **Why study (course name)**

Why study Applied Criminology?

81% of our Applied Criminology students were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teaching on their programme (NSS 2021)

Through compulsory modules the Applied Criminology programme at Christ Church will cover key criminological concepts to provide you with a strong grounding in criminology. Optional modules will allow you to specialise in the areas of crime that interest you most, such as, interpersonal violence, terrorism, political violence, cybercrime, youth crime and gangs or social harm and mental health and crime.

The nature of the programme enables you to develop your research skills and to cast a critical eye over the processes of criminalisation and crime control. Further, to be able to set these processes within wider social, economic and political contexts.

Our degree is delivered by staff who have worked as practitioners or researchers within criminology, or its related fields. As such they have an excellent understanding of the core knowledge and skills required for criminology job roles. This allows them to support and prepare our students for future employment through volunteer work, paid work and projects with external partners. Students will also benefit from visiting lecturers through our 'insights from

practice initiative', most of who are professionals working in the criminal justice field, will also support the core content of the course providing lectures on their field of expertise.

96% of our Applied Criminology students were in jobs or further study 15 months after completing their course (Graduate Outcomes survey 2021)

Finally, we view our students as partners in learning and will aid students in developing the personal qualities required to achieve their chosen career. We invest significant resources in helping you to understand yourself as a professional and provide you with opportunities to develop your personal and professional skills. We also support you in developing the personal qualities that may impact your chances of attaining employment, such as confidence, resilience and curiosity. This holistic approach is appreciated by our students and has been noted as excellent and innovative practice by professionals working in the field.

## Entry requirements

*In some instances there may be specific entry requirements for a course. Please use this field to describe those. Add links if the information required sits on a different web page. (Please paste the full link into the text field)*

A typical offer would be 88-112 UCAS Tariff points.

[\[More information about entry requirements.\]\(/study-here/applying/entry-requirements\)](#)

## All about the course Year 1 text

The course provides a thorough grounding in core criminological themes, concepts, debates and perspectives through a range of compulsory modules and applies these theories to a range of crime problems, allowing you to see their relation to real life problems or scenarios. A

range of optional modules are then offered in specialised topics related to criminology, such as mental health, media, prisons, policing and transnational and organised crime, allowing you to specialise in specific areas of interest. Sessions that focus on study skills and employability are also included as a core part of the programme, to ensure your success in study and gaining a career after graduation.

Criminology works well studied in combination with other degree programmes, as it is a rendezvous subject in which ideas from a range of disciplines are applied to the problem of crime. Students can combine Applied Criminology with a number of other subjects, including Psychology, Sociology or Business Management. Students who combine with another subject study will study 60 credits in both subjects in the 1st year and then in the 2nd and 3rd year can choose to keep this split or study 80 credits in one subject and 40 in the other to gain more flexibility. Combined Honours students will complete all core Criminology modules.

Where possible, trips or visits are offered to provide additional insight into the workings of the justice system and you will be guided in attaining relevant volunteering activities and part time work within the university and externally to improve your employability, including in prisons, the probation service, the police, victim support, and in a variety of charities. Employability is also enhanced through exposure to guest lecturers, who are experts and professionals in the field who contribute to the applied nature of the course and offer advice in gaining employment.

## Year 1 modules

Crime: Representations and Realities

## Core module - (20 Credits)

The aims of the module are to introduce students to key concepts relating to crime, crime control and the social construction of criminal problems in order to establish a solid foundation for their future studies. As well as seeking to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the relationship between crime and society, it equips them with key skills to evaluate different sources of knowledge about crime and crime control, thus enabling them to assess competing claims about crime as a social problem.

### Crimes, Punishments and Societies

#### Core module/single honours only - (20 Credits)

This module is an opportunity for you to explore some of the contextual issues that arise when exploring academic areas of criminology, criminal justice and policing. In particular, this module is concerned with the different societal, historical, cultural, geographical and political contexts in which crime and justice occur.

### Crime: Narratives and Explanations

#### Core module - (20 Credits)

This module will introduce students to the ways in which notions of crime and criminality are constructed, explained and understood. Students will be introduced to the historical, social and cultural context of the development of criminology and to key shifts in criminological thinking about crime and the criminal justice system. Research issues in criminology, and how different theorists have reached the conclusions that they have, will also be discussed. The approach is to break down theories into manageable independent units but at the same time to recognise that theories overlap, develop over time, and often contradict one another. The focus is on applying these theories to crime and deviance and understanding the impact of theoretical explanations for crime on criminal justice policy and the criminal justice system.

### Introducing Psychology and Crime

#### Core module/single honours only - (20 Credits)

The module aims to introduce students to the discipline of psychology and to explore how psychological concepts can be used to understand crime and criminal behaviour. The module covers a range of psychological theories and encourages students to apply the theory to common offences and to critically evaluate the literature they read, by examining the strengths and limitations of relevant research and literature.

### **Optional for Combined Honours**

### Transnational Crime and Global Markets

#### Core module/single honours only - (20 Credits)

The aims of the module are to allow students to explore criminality from the perspective of global markets in goods and services, whilst also looking at traditional transnational crime and how the opening up of global markets has changed the crimes. Students will look at crime as a form of commodity and how criminal justice agencies approach international cooperation. Within this, the students will study areas directly affected by globalisation and international cooperation. Students will look at this from the perspective of perpetrators of crime, victims of crime and criminal justice agencies that work internationally to combat crime. The module will acquaint the students with the major policing 'wars' on terrorism and drugs and will discuss how changes to trade have changed these crimes, how it has impacted the victims and the policing/criminal justice issues it raises.

### **Optional for Combined Honours**

#### Crimes, Punishments and Societies

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module is an opportunity for you to explore some of the contextual issues that arise when exploring academic areas of criminology, criminal justice and policing. In particular, this module is concerned with the different societal, historical, cultural, geographical and political contexts in which crime and justice occur.

### **Optional for combined honours**

#### Introducing Crime, Offences & Justice

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will learn about the core principles and practices regarding crime types, crime agencies (national and international), crime classifications and crime severity scores. This will include the sentences and the frameworks in which these are investigated, ranging from volume crime such as car theft to major crime (murder and rape), major incidents (disasters and mass murder) and organised crime (drugs, terrorism). You will gain knowledge of offence types and the various stages of the investigative process undertaken by agencies. This will include national and international legislation and agencies, as well as UK and transnational crime and incidents.

### **Optional for combined honours**

## **Year 2 modules**

#### Crime and Social Control

Core module - (20 Credits)

You will develop a comprehensive understanding of formal and informal modes of control in the context of crime and responses to crime. The module draws on a number of theoretical approaches, including social structure theories and social process theories.

#### Crime, Power and the State

Core module - (20 Credits)

You will critically examine the relationship between crime, power, poverty and the State. You'll be introduced to perspectives that highlight the importance of recognising crimes of the powerful within society including the State. You will also examine the relationship between crime and social policy, and the role of politics and the State in influencing this. On completion of the module, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of criminological and sociological research into the relationship between various areas of power, social policy and crime.

#### Crime and Social Harm

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will learn about the harm associated with behaviours that are not necessarily controlled by the criminal justice system. This will include behaviour that causes individual and wider harm and how these behaviours are explained and controlled. You will consider why it is that some harms are considered criminal and others are not or are dealt with through civil sanctions. Topics covered include environmental harm, workplace harm and financial harm.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

## Criminology for a Just Society

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will develop a broad and nuanced understanding of the relationship between criminology and ideas of harm, justice and equality. You will focus on environmental, social, cultural and economic spheres and you'll explore concepts such as sustainability and global citizenship as a way of understanding criminology's role in facilitating justice and equality.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

Cybercrime and Digital Policing Optional module -

(20 Credits)

You will develop knowledge and understanding of digital crime and the increasingly important requirement for global business and modern society to protect digital assets and activities in cyberspace. You will explore the threats faced by individuals and organisations, the extent of cyber-criminal activities and the techniques and skills required to meet the challenge of digital crime.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

Mental Health & Violence

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will explore the relationship between mental health and violent crime, and how this is responded to by the criminal justice system and other institutions. You will look at criminological and psychiatric research into the relationship between mental disorder and violent offending. You will also understand and critically evaluate how this is responded to by the criminal justice system and the forensic mental health system, and the ideologies and practices that are central to the management and treatment of mentally disordered and violent offenders.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

News Media, Crime & Justice

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will explore the multifaceted relationship between news media, crime and criminal justice. You'll have opportunities to familiarise yourself with key theoretical debates in different areas of news media criminology. You will also consider how news media portrayals of crime, criminals, victims and the criminal justice system have changed over time by examining them within their broader social, economic and political context. You will also explore the connections between news media portrayals of crime and criminal justice policy. The experience you gain will help you to undertake media analysis from a criminological standpoint.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

Psychology and the Criminal Justice System

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module, you'll develop an understanding of forensic psychology and its impact on the criminal justice system. You will explore how psychology has changed criminal justice procedures, impacted on police practice and given a

better understanding of people involved in the criminal justice system such as: perpetrators, victims and witnesses. Special attention will be paid to vulnerable people and there will be lectures on addiction and mental health. You will also explore the psychology of the court process and the prison system to understand trial proceedings, the impact of psychological processes on sentencing and the application of psychology to the treatment of offenders.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

#### Sexual and Domestic Abuse

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will learn about the psychology of offences of sexual and domestic abuse and the unique complexities they cause in the criminal justice system (CJS), including why it is often not possible to get a conviction in these cases. The impact, scope and issues of sexual and domestic abuse will be explored, highlighting the difficulties of investigating these complex crimes, the problem of consent in sexual violence and of witnesses in domestic abuse. Discussion will be made of the need for specialist conditions for individuals who choose to report these serious offences, and the role and value of psychology to help them do this. There will also be discussions about how psychology has changed procedures in the CJS, impacted on practice across the CJS, and given a better understanding of sexual and domestic abuse with a focus on conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. This module also covers perpetrators and treatment programmes for domestic and sexual abuse.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

#### Youth, Crime and Justice

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will explore the notion of 'youth' in relation to issues of crime, deviancy and criminal justice. The module introduces you to issues of youth in relation to the roles of offender and victim, and you'll explore changing public and political discourse of youth offending and state responses to youth crime and deviancy.

### **Optional for single and combined honours**

#### Research Methods for Criminology

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will be introduced to a range of methodologies that are used to generate and analyse information in the social sciences. This will include qualitative and quantitative research, as well as more practical aspects such as the challenges of fieldwork and ethical considerations.

### **Core module for single honours Optional module for**

**combined honours**

## **Year 3 modules**

#### Contemporary Issues in Criminology

Core module - (20 Credits)

In this module, you'll apply your criminological skills and the 'criminological imagination' you've developed earlier in the course to a range of current problems of criminological interest, both in Britain and internationally. You will be able to further develop the skills of independent critical thought and analysis and you'll analyse changing patterns of

crime and contemporary developments in criminal justice policy and practice. The content will reflect current debates and developments and will closely follow the political developments that drive 21<sup>st</sup> century ideas of criminal justice.

## Victimology

Core module - (20 Credits)

You will learn about the theory of victimology, together with the policy and practice of victim orientated initiatives within criminal justice. You'll look at debates about the impact of crime on victims. You'll also be encouraged to think critically about the relationship between victim, offender and the criminal justice system while considering alternative approaches to conflict resolution between victim and offender.

## Applied Criminology Individual Study

Core module - (40 Credits)

The aim of the Individual Study is for you to develop your ability to carry out in-depth research on a specific aspect of applied criminology, crime and the criminal justice system. Supported by an academic supervisor, you will identify a specific topic that you wish to study and you'll produce a research proposal before carrying out in-depth research/review of the literature and sources in order to prepare a dissertation.

## Crime, Deviance & Popular Culture

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will examine theories and issues in criminology through the lens of popular culture. This will include the role of popular culture in reflecting and shaping public views on crime and criminal justice. Through studying a wide range of crime-related popular culture products (films, TV shows, music, novels, comic books, video games etc.), you will develop an in-depth understanding of the cultural processes through which crime is constructed as a social problem. This will enable you to apply and further develop your criminological knowledge. It will also enable you to think critically about fictional representations of crime and justice and understand how pertinent social trends and anxieties manifest themselves in popular culture.

## Cybercrime: Ethical, Professional and Legal Issues

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will explore the ethical considerations surrounding technology, the roles of professional bodies in the development of careers in public service, industry and commerce, and the ethical obligations of a professional.

## Gangs and Serious Youth Offending

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will learn about how theory and research contribute to the development of initiatives and what the challenges of this are. There will be focus on serious offending and gangs as these are often at the forefront of contemporary policies. Within this context, you will learn to successfully analyse difficult topics and literature and extract specific information.

## International Justice and Human Rights

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will think critically about law and the way in which it is constructed, conceived of and manifested in reality. This will involve you looking at key schools of legal philosophical thought – natural law, positivism, legal realism and so on - and using the ideas and critiques which flow from these as a platform to interrogate law's bias. You will consider current legal, moral and political issues such as abortion, euthanasia, the war in Iraq and the trial of Saddam Hussein.

### Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will develop an understanding of: the impact of mental health conditions on an individual's ability to manage involvement with the criminal justice system; how mentally ill people need specialist treatment when they come into contact with the criminal justice system as victims/witnesses/offenders; how the role and value of psychiatry and psychology helps in delivering such treatment; and how psychology has changed criminal justice procedures, impacting on police practice and giving a better understanding of people with mental health conditions. You will explore the community, prison and in patient psychiatric care schemes, MARAC and MAPPA programmes, and joint working between mental health services and the criminal justice services. You will also look at the effects of policing on officers such as stress and post traumatic stress disorder.

### Police Cultures and Society

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will explore the role that sociology has had in examining the role, work and symbolism of police work. The module will introduce you to the broad area of 'police culture' and, in particular, you'll explore themes such as the part that culture plays in late modernity, the relationship between culture, behaviour and language and the challenges of changing occupational culture.

### Psychology of Serious and Prolific Offending

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will explore specialist areas of research within criminal and forensic psychology, particularly in relation to serious and prolific offending behaviours and ways to address them.

You will critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the featured research and literature.

### Punishment and the Prison: Reimagining Incarceration

Optional module - (20 Credits)

You will develop a theoretical and practical understanding of contemporary penal policy, specifically in relation to imprisonment. You will examine the aims and objectives of the prison system, and the experiences of different groups within the prison. You will consider how there has been both change and continuity in relation to imprisonment over time, and the enduring nature of tensions relating to the aims and purpose of imprisonment. You'll consider arguments that the prison itself can be seen as a social problem and the complex relationship between imprisonment and harm, as well as looking at alternative ways that prison regimes could be constructed.

### Transnational and Organised Crime

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module, you'll learn about the global nature of organised crime and law enforcement responses. You will develop your understanding of the complexity of cross border transnational crime and the characteristics that create problems for law enforcement agencies in the disruption and prosecution of criminality.



## **Learning and teaching quote**

By studying Applied Criminology at Christ Church you will visit criminal justice institutions to witness how these agencies work first-hand, and enjoy a range of external lecturers from professionals working in the criminal justice field. Through this you will gain insights and knowledge on a range of professions and opportunities to gain work experience.

## **Learning and teaching quote source**

Donley Jack

## **Learning and teaching quote job title**

Programme Director of Applied Criminology

## **Learning and Teaching tab 1 label**

Teaching

## **Learning and teaching tab 1 text**

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops and tutorials and you will typically have contact time of around 9 hours per week, supported by additional online materials. Your actual contact hours depend on the optional modules you select.

Key knowledge is provided through lectures, guided reading and online materials, and this is supported by class activities and discussion, which help you to apply theory to real life scenarios and problems. Some teaching is also delivered through workshops which blend knowledge delivery with discussions or activities, as well as helping with key skills development. Teaching sessions are interactive, allowing you to engage with material on a deeper level. Tutorials are available to provide one to one support. The team is dedicated to developing the whole person and therefore provide many sessions to help you develop your personal skills, as well as your academic skills.

You will have the opportunity to attend visits and trips and we support you in getting work experience.

All courses are informed by the University's [\[Learning and Teaching Strategy 20152022\]\(/asset-library/Courses/Learning-and-Teaching-Strategy-2015-2022.pdf\)](#).

## **Learning and teaching tab 2 label**

Independent study

## **Learning and teaching tab 2 text**

When not attending lectures, seminars, workshops or other timetabled sessions you'll have access to a range of resources to help you continue learning through self study. This typically involves reading journal articles and books, undertaking research in the library, working on projects, and preparing for coursework assignments/examinations, workshops and seminars.

Your lecturers will direct you towards specific readings and/or activities where appropriate to complete before / after class and provide tutorials where necessary to support your learning.

We also recommend that you set up student study groups and support each other with your studies as research shows that we learn much better in communities.

A range of additional study skills and employability workshops are available within the University to help you reach your full academic and career potential.

## **Learning and teaching tab 3 label**

Overall workload

## **Learning and teaching tab 3 text**

Each 20 credit module requires approximately 200 hours of learning, of which approximately 50 hours of this is taught class contact time with the remaining being independent study.

You will study six modules per year and this is typically 1200 hours of study per year (37.5 hours per week), or approximately 12.5 hours of study per module per week.

## **Learning and teaching tab 4 label**

Academic input

## **Learning and teaching tab 4 text**

The teaching team have academic expertise across a range of criminological issues, including mental health, philosophy and crime, the history of crime and punishment, migration and crime, drug related crime and drug treatment, youth justice and victimology. They are also involved in research activities in these and other areas, and they bring this research expertise into their teaching. Many staff have published in these areas and have practical experience in them too.

The core team is supported by other teams in the University, such as the law, policing and forensic investigation teams, and a range of professionals currently working in the field who provide guest lectures.

Staff use their research expertise to inform teaching, and they provide you with opportunities to be involved with research to help develop you academically and personally. Our criminology staff and students were central to a pilot of the Bystander Initiative, which aims to support students and staff to identify and prevent sexual harassment, assault and coercive behaviour. The pilot was successful, and a modified version of the initiative is now available University-wide.

## **Learning and teaching tab 5 label**

Work experience

## **Learning and teaching tab 5 text**

We promote volunteering to our students and provide support and advice in identifying and applying for volunteering posts and work experience. We have previously developed projects where students work and volunteer with staff on research related activities, giving valuable experience and enhancing employability skills. Staff are always keen to identify and develop such opportunities where possible. All volunteering activities, whether within the University or with outside organisations, can be formally recorded and can lead to an extracurricular award.

We work closely with a number of criminal justice professionals and organisations, as well as our colleagues in policing, forensics and law, to create opportunities for our students to experience criminal justice settings. When an opportunity for a visit arises, we make it available. For example, previously students studying media and crime have visited the British Board of Film Classification in London. Occasionally there are opportunities to participate in police training events and, for several years, students have been able to spend an afternoon at a local prison as part of an optional module. During the visit students speak to both staff and inmates, as well as seeing a range of facilities within the institution. Students are encouraged to reflect on the experience afterwards, and many consider that it challenges their perceptions, as well as encouraging them to pursue a career in offender management.

A member of the teaching team is a trained coach and mentor and has injected this influence into the degree course structure to enable students to develop as people and professionals, in addition to learning the subject. It is often personal qualities such as confidence that prevents us from reaching our potential, and this approach is actively helping students to overcome issues that might impact their success.

## **Learning and teaching tab 6 label**

Other information

## **Learning and teaching tab 6 text**

As access to criminal justice facilities can be restricted due to security issues, we hire a range of guest lecturers to come to the University and provide sessions on their area of expertise. These lecturers are professionals who are currently working in the field and often go beyond their lecturing remit to support students in accessing information, gaining work experience or giving careers advice.

## **Assessment text**

Assessments are a core part of the course and each module has 1-3 assessments that contribute to the 4000-word assessment quota. The course is designed to ensure that each assessment is well supported by written guides, study skills sessions, a study toolkit and staff guidance, and the course provides you with a range of assessment types to allow you to develop skills that are required in criminal justice professions. We also provide opportunities for you to gain formative feedback informally before you complete the formal assessments that count towards your final mark by providing opportunities to gain feedback on assessment plans.

There are formal or 'summative' assessments during each of the modules and assessment methods include a range of coursework assessments such as essays, reports, portfolios and oral presentations, as well as written and online examinations. In your final year you have the opportunity to undertake a dissertation in an area of your choice with close supervision from a member of academic staff. This can include conducting your own research project and offers a valuable opportunity to demonstrate that you can manage your work independently, thus helping your employability skills. The grades from formal assessments count towards your module mark and feedback is provided to ensure that you can improve future assessments.

## **Feedback**

The team is dedicated to providing high quality feedback on all assessments to enable you to understand what action you need to take to improve your work / marks. We try to ensure that feedback is student focused and constructive. Tutorials also enable you to discuss your work. We aim to provide you with feedback within 15 working days of hand-in for all assessments and use a range of feedback methods to meet the needs of our students.

## **Careers text**

Through this course, you'll have the opportunity to gain the core knowledge and skills required for many criminal justice careers, and transferable to other related careers. Graduates of the course typically secure posts within the police, the prison service, the probation service, youth work, private companies working in security, and third sector organisations working in crime control and victim support.

Further postgraduate study is also an option and you'll be encouraged to make the most of the volunteering and networking opportunities available throughout your course in order to enhance your employability.

### **Careers quote**

Just thought I'd say thanks! I can distinctly remember being an undergrad criminology student at Christ Church and thinking 'I want to publish something in the British Journal of Criminology someday' and now my first journal article is about to be published. I'll always be grateful for the wonderful teaching and enthusiasm, it really set me on my way.

### **Careers quote source**

Thomas

### **Careers quote job title**

Graduate in Applied Criminology with Legal Studies