

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

---

## Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Criminal Justice

<b>Awarding institution</b>	Liverpool John Moores University
<b>Teaching institution</b>	LJMU
<b>UCAS Code</b>	M291
<b>JACS Code</b>	L311
<b>Programme Duration</b>	Full-Time: 3 Years
<b>Language of Programme</b>	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
<b>Subject benchmark statement</b>	Criminology
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	
<b>Description of accreditation</b>	
<b>Validated target and alternative exit awards</b>	Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Criminal Justice Diploma of Higher Education in Criminal Justice Certificate of Higher Education in Criminal Justice
<b>Programme Leader</b>	Noel Cross

## Educational aims of the programme

- To provide a rigorous interdisciplinary study of criminal justice drawing on disciplines including, criminology, law, socio-legal studies, sociology, social policy, history and related professional practice;
- To link theoretical analysis with empirical enquiry and the operation and impact of policies on practice;
- To identify and understand different value positions in the criminal justice system and processes;
- To investigate the legal context and principal legal features of the criminal justice system;
- To provide students with an understanding of policy and experience of practice in the criminal justice system and so improve their employability in criminal justice and allied areas;
- To encourage students to engage with the development of employability skills by completing a self-awareness statement.

### Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Certificate of Higher Education

*A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:*

Understand the principles of substantive criminal law, and the links between criminal law and criminal justice practice.

Identify and reflect upon the following aspects of self-awareness in respect of personal development and career planning in relation to studying criminal justice: strengths and weaknesses, motivations and values, ability to work with others.

Demonstrate an awareness of the social, legal and economic factors which have influenced the nature and extent of crime, and the nature of policing and punishment, through history.

Demonstrate an understanding of the social construction of crime, the nature of the criminal justice process, and the societal influences on criminal justice practice.

Understand the theoretical and practical issues relating to media influence over criminal justice policy and practice, and the roles played by the public in influencing criminal justice policy and practice.

Demonstrate a developed understanding of the nature of criminological theories which explain crime and punishment, and of the links between these theories and criminal justice policy and practice.

### Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Diploma of Higher Education

*A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:*

Demonstrate an appreciation of the major social divisions in society, and of the impact of these social divisions upon the nature and extent of crime, and on the occurrence of miscarriages of criminal justice

Demonstrate the ability to recognise and understand decision-makers and decision-making processes in criminal justice.

Demonstrate the ability to evaluate personal and academic performance, and to recognise personal strengths and weaknesses.

Demonstrate an advanced ability to plan personal career development, to understand the career opportunities available in terms of working with offenders and/or victims in the criminal justice field, and to develop transferrable skills in preparation for working life.

Demonstrate the ability to produce a review of research literature and a research proposal, to evaluate quantitative and qualitative criminal justice research methodologies, to assess the contribution of research to criminal justice policy and practice, and to understand and manage ethical considerations in relation to criminal justice research.

Demonstrate the ability to understand theories underpinning penology, to understand the organisation and structure of custodial and community penal interventions, to understand the role of occupational culture in delivering interventions, and to assess the effectiveness of punishment in reintegrating offenders into society.

Evaluate the role of risk in criminal justice decision-making.

Analyse the effectiveness of decision-making in criminal justice generally.

## **Target award Learning Outcomes - Bachelor of Arts with Honours**

*A student successfully completing the programme of study will have acquired the following subject knowledge and understanding as well as skills and other attributes.*

*A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:*

1. Show understanding of the key concepts and theoretical approaches that have developed and are developing in relation to crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.
2. Critically appreciate the social construction of crime and victimisation.
3. Critically analyse the relationship of class, gender, age, race, ethnicity and other social demographic factors to crime, victimisation, and responses to these phenomena.
4. Demonstrate theoretically-informed understanding of the social and historical development of criminal justice institutions; the changing values governing practice in these institutions, including human rights; the structure and culture of these institutions; and new and emergent issues facing criminal justice institutions in the 21st century.
5. Demonstrate an ability to understand the distinctive character of criminal justice as an academic discipline, and its relationship to other social science disciplines.
6. Critically appreciate the relationship between criminological theory and empirical evidence in relation to the investigation of issues relating to crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.
7. Investigate and understand complex problems relating to crime and criminal justice, using a range of primary and secondary methods of research to do so.
8. Demonstrate an appreciation of the complexity of crime and victimisation, and an ability to assess the relative merits of different explanations for crime and punishment.
9. Critically evaluate the range of responses to crime and deviance and interpret the values and practices of the agencies which administer them.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of how to design research appropriately in relation to a specific problem.
11. Demonstrate an understanding of how to assess the ethical issues arising in particular research situations.
12. Evidence a well-developed ability to critically review and evaluate criminological data.
13. Demonstrate the ability to develop critical and reasoned arguments in written and oral form.
14. Demonstrate understanding of the nature of criminological questions and their investigation.
15. Analyse, assess methodologically, and communicate, information and empirical research findings about crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.
16. Identify a range of different strategies and methods and use appropriate research tools in relation to evaluating criminological problems, including quantitative and qualitative techniques.
17. Investigate criminological questions in relation to victimisation, crime, responses to crime and deviance, and representations of these.
18. Present scholarly work in a professional way.

19. Examine the relevance of criminological work on crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance including representations of these in relation to issues of social, public and civic policy at a national, international and global level.
20. Self-manage learning, utilising time management and effective planning strategies.
21. Collaborate and work in co-operation with others to investigate a social question or issue.
22. Prioritise time to work to strict deadlines.
23. Communicate effectively and professionally in both verbal and written communication.
24. Use IT to access topical sources and information.
25. Evaluate personal and academic performance, and to recognise strengths and weaknesses in relation to these.

## Teaching, Learning and Assessment

*The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:*

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas, gained through a combination of teaching methods including lectures, tutorials, workshops, work-based learning and private study. IT resources are provided by the Aldham Roberts Library.

Assessment methods are specified in each module handbook. There is a range of assessment methods adopted throughout the programme including seen and unseen paper-based examinations, coursework in the form of essays, online examinations, portfolios, reports and presentations.

Intellectual skills 1-2 are developed through lectures; 3-6 are encouraged through tutorial support and seminar preparation. Students are provided the opportunity for reflection and achievement in developing their own understanding in acquiring skills.

Intellectual skills 1-6 are assessed by means of a variety of assessment methods, as specified in each module's handbook, including examination, essay, projects, portfolios and presentations.

Practical skills are prioritised within all level 4 modules, but particularly in the Personal and Academic Development module (4022LAWCJ). At levels 5 and 6 students are encouraged to develop these skills in written submissions and through seminar based tutorials, especially in the Professional Development in Criminal Justice module (5020LAWCJ) which promotes the development of transferrable skills for future employment in the workplace.

Practical skills 1-6 are the central focus of core module assessments across the programme, where information gathering, written and spoken communication, and group work are prioritised.

The main focus of these skills is introduced in level 4 through the Personal and Academic Development in Criminal Justice module (4022LAWCJ). Transferable skills are an essential part of the activities throughout the programme, being further developed at level 5 in the Professional Development in Criminal Justice module (5020LAWCJ), and in independent study at level 6, particularly in the Dissertation (6016LAWCJ) module.

Transferable skills 1-5 are assessed in the various assessment processes, exams, coursework, projects and portfolios across the three levels of the programme. Transferable skill 6 is particularly assessed at Level 4 through Personal and Academic Development in Criminal Justice (4022LAWCJ), and skill 7 is assessed at level 5 in Professional Development in Criminal Justice (5020LAWCJ).

Programme outcomes were formulated with reference to the Criminology benchmarking statement.

## Programme structure - programme rules and modules

The programme can be studied over three years (360 credits) or four years (480 credits) full time. On the three year model, study is undertaken at three levels, one for each year of study. 120 credits are required for the completion of each level and 360 credits for the completion of the full honours programme. In addition, the programme will offer the opportunity of an additional study year abroad following Level 5. Students will be enrolled on a 480 credit honours with study abroad programme. Of those 480 credits, 120 will be taken via a Level 5 study abroad module [5024LAWCJ]. The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 240 credits at Level 5. The programme is taught within the Academic Framework. Modules are two types: core and options. The programme is based on a two semester academic year with modules being delivered and assessed in either semester 1 or semester 2, apart from the year-long research-based module at Level 6, Dissertation (6016LAWCJ). All modules at Levels 4 and 5 are core and must be taken. All modules at Level 6 are optional.

For students who started on the programme prior to September 2020, the following rules apply: All modules at Level 4 are core and must be taken. All modules at Level 5 are core and must be taken. These modules are as follows; 5017LAWCJ; 5018LAWCJ; 5019LAWCJ; 5020LAWCJ; 5021LAWCJ; 5022LAWCJ. All modules at Level

6 are optional. Level 6 optional modules are as follows; 6008LAWCJ; 6009LAWCJ; 6011LAWCJ; 6012LAWCJ; 6013LAWCJ; 6014LAWCJ; 6016LAWCJ; 6102LAWLT; 6102LAWPL

Level 6	Potential Awards on completion	Bachelor of Arts with Honours
Core	Option	Award Requirements
	6008LAWCJ Contemporary Issues in Penology (20 credits) 6011LAWCJ Crimes of the Powerful (20 credits) 6012LAWCJ YOUTH JUSTICE (20 credits) 6014LAWCJ Substance Use, Society and Criminal Justice (20 credits) 6016LAWCJ Dissertation (40 credits) 6018LAWCJ REGULATION, HARM AND VICTIMISATION (20 credits) 6020LAWCJ Comparative Criminal Justice (20 credits) 6021LAWCJ Crime, Risk and Dangerousness (20 credits) 6103PS Contemporary Issues (20 credits)	0 core credits at level 6 120 option credits at level 6

Level 5	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
5018LAWCJ Injustices in a 'Just' System (20 credits) 5019LAWCJ Decision Making in Criminal Justice (20 credits) 5020LAWCJ Professional Development in Criminal Justice (20 credits) 5022LAWCJ An Introduction to Penology (20 credits) 5027LAWCJ Criminal Justice Policy, Practice and the Evidence Base (10 credits) 5028LAWCJ Victimology (20 credits) 5030LAWCJ CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH (10 credits)		120 core credits at level 5 0 option credits at level 5

Level 4	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
4014LAWCJ Criminal Law and Criminal Justice (20 credits) 4016LAWCJ History of Crime and Criminal Justice (20 credits) 4017LAWCJ Criminal Justice Process (20 credits) 4019LAWCJ Criminological Theory (20 credits) 4022LAWCJ Personal and Academic Development in Criminal Justice (20 credits) 4105CRIM Media, Crime and Victimisation (20 credits)		120 core credits at level 4 0 option credits at level 4

## Information about assessment regulations

All programmes leading to LJMU awards operate within the University's Academic Framework.  
<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework>

## Opportunities for work-related learning ( location and nature of activities)

The Level 6 optional module 6016LAWCJ (Dissertation) involves independent study for students in relation to or within criminal justice agencies, and can involve a work placement which forms the basis of a written 8000-10000 word project.

### Criteria for admission

#### A/AS Level

112 UCAS points from a minimum of 2 A Levels. Maximum of 20 AS points accepted.

#### BTEC National Diploma

112 UCAS points

#### Irish Leaving Certificate

112 UCAS points. Maximum of 20 UCAS Tariff points at Ordinary Level

#### Scottish Higher

112 UCAS points to include 2 Advanced Higher

#### International Baccalaureate

26 IB points

#### Access

At least 15 Distinctions and 30 Merits or any other combination that equates to 112 UCAS Tariff points in a relevant subject

#### Other

Prior to starting the programme applicants must have obtained grade 4 or grade C or above in English

Language and Mathematics GCSE or an approved alternative qualification:

- Key Skills Level 2 in English/ Maths
- NVQ Level 2 Functional skills in Maths and English Writing and or Reading
- Skills for Life Level 2 in Numeracy/English
- Higher Diploma in Maths/ English
- Functional skills Level 2 in Maths/ English
- Northern Ireland Essential Skills Level 2 in communication or Application of Number
- Wales Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number

#### Mature entry

Applications are welcomed from mature and non-standard applicants, who will be considered on an individual basis. These applicants may be required to submit an essay and/or attend an interview, and should demonstrate potential and motivation and/or have relevant experience.

#### Overseas qualifications

International applications will be considered in line with UK qualifications.

Any Applicant whose first language is not English will be required to have IELTS 6.0 (minimum 5.5 in each component) or acceptable equivalent.

### External Quality Benchmarks

All programmes leading to LJMU awards have been designed and approved in accordance with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK (FHEQ) and subject benchmark statements where applicable.

The University is subject to periodic review of its quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Published review reports are available on the QAA website at [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)

Programmes which are professionally accredited are reviewed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and such programmes must meet the competencies/standards of those PSRBs.

### Support for students and their learning

The University aims to provide students with access to appropriate and timely information, support and guidance to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their time at LJMU. All students are assigned a Personal Tutor

to provide academic support and when necessary signpost students to the appropriate University support services.

Students are able to access a range of professional services including:

- Advice on practical aspects of study and how to use these opportunities to support and enhance their personal and academic development. This includes support for placements and careers guidance.
- Student Advice and Wellbeing Services provide students with advice, support and information, particularly in the areas of: student funding and financial matters, disability, advice and support to international students, study support, accommodation, health, wellbeing and counselling.
- Students studying for an LJMU award at a partner organisation will have access to local support services

## **Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

### **Student Feedback and Evaluation**

The University uses the results of student feedback from internal and external student surveys (such as module evaluations, the NSS and PTES), module evaluation questionnaires and meetings with student representatives to improve the quality of programmes.

### **Staff development**

The quality of teaching is assured through staff review and staff development in learning, teaching and assessment.

### **Internal Review**

All programmes are reviewed annually and periodically, informed by a range of data and feedback, to ensure quality and standards of programmes and to make improvements to programmes.

### **External Examining**

External examiners are appointed to programmes to assess whether:

- the University is maintaining the threshold academic standards set for awards in accordance with the FHEQ and applicable subject benchmark statements
- the assessment process measures student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s) and is conducted in line with University policies and regulations
- the academic standards are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which external examiners have experience
- the achievement of students are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which the external examiners have experience

and to provide informative comment and recommendations on:

- good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment observed by external examiners
- opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities provided to students

### **Please note:**

*This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme guides.*