

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Becoming a Criminologist
Course Title(s)	BSc (Hons) Criminology BSc (Hons) Criminology (with Foundation Year) BSc (Hons) Criminology and Law BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
College	College of Society and Professions
School	School of Law and Education
Parent Course (if applicable)	BSc (Hons) Criminology
Level	4
Semester	1
Module Code	CRM_4_BCR
Credit Value	20
Student Study Hours	Total hours: 200 Contact hours: 36 Student managed learning hours: 164 Placement hours (if applicable):
Pre-requisite Module(s) or/and learning	n/a
Co-requisite Module(s)	
Module Leader	TBC
Short Description	This module introduces students to key criminological concepts, questions, and debates while supporting their development as independent learners. It explores what crime is and how criminologists study it. Alongside subject content, students will build essential academic skills such as referencing, academic integrity, and locating academic sources. The module encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and engagement with contemporary social issues, laying a strong foundation for further criminological study.
Aims	1. To introduce students to key criminological concepts, debates, and perspectives that form the foundation of the discipline. 2. To develop students' academic and study skills necessary for success in undergraduate criminology, including research, writing, and critical thinking. 3. To foster an understanding of the role and practice of criminologists in analysing crime, justice, and society.
Learning Outcomes (Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	A. Knowledge and Understanding

	A1. Ability to describe key criminological concepts, perspectives, and debates related to crime, deviance, and social control. A2. Demonstrate an understanding of how crime is defined, measured, and studied within criminology. [CLO: A1, A2 & A3] B. Intellectual Skills B1. Apply introductory criminological concepts to simple case studies or contemporary examples. B2. Begin to analyse and question taken-for-granted assumptions about crime and justice. [CLO: B1, B2 & B3] C. Practical Skills C1. Locate, read, and use a variety of sources relevant to criminology. [CLO: C2 & C4] D. Transferable Skills D1. Communicate ideas clearly in written and oral formats appropriate to undergraduate study D2. Ability to self-assess, awareness about areas of strength and areas for self development. [CLO: D3 & D4]
Employability	At the end of the module, students will have developed a number of transferrable skills that will enhance their employability: • Ability to participate co-operatively and effectively in team activities • Ability to identify and interpret different sources of information • Ability to plan workload, manage time and meet deadlines • Understanding of the Criminal Justice System and allied third sector organisations
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	Criminological imagination Sources of criminological data

	Dark figure of crime Analysing sources of data Using AI critically and thoughtfully Conceptual debates around Justice and Law Referencing in Criminology Policing Court Structure Prisons Probation
Assessment Method	Formative assessment: Students will be assessed and receive feedback on their ability to interpret and analyse data. Workshop activities will introduce students to sources of data and the reading of statistical representations of crime trends. Feedback will be provided through in-class quizzes and peer feedback on the representation of data. Summative assessment: This module will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. The first component is the PDP completion and meeting with Personal Tutor. PDP completion is a key strategic aim of the university and we have had great success in completion rates by embedding it into a first semester module. By asking personal tutors to be part of this assessment, students are incentivised to meet their tutors allowing these important relationships to develop at an early point in their learning career as they transition to this new context. As a module which aims to support this transition, while also introducing criminological concepts, approaches and skills, providing two assessments is desirable here so that both goals can be achieved and assessed. CW1 (30%): (Pass/Fail) PDP completion and discussion with Personal Tutor [D2] CW2 (70%): (Pass/Fail) Data Analysis [LO: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, D1] Students are provided four types of data including visual, interview, and statistical examples. They are asked to choose two of these examples, of which one must be statistical. Drawing on their descriptive and analytical skills, students must interpret two data points in relation to each other and provide a 1000-word discussion which summarises the data and offers some consideration of its meaning. This is pass/fail module

Mode of Resit	Formative Assessment: As above Summative assessment: Same as above
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Core materials: Harding, J. Davies, P. Mair, G. (2017) <i>An introduction to Criminal Justice</i> . London: Sage Newburn, T. (2017). <i>Criminology</i> (3rd ed.). Routledge. Optional reading: Carrabine, E., Cox, P., Crowhurst, I., Di Ronco, A., Fussey, P., Sergi, A., South, N., Thiel, D. and Turton, J., (2020) <i>Criminology: A sociological introduction</i> . Routledge. Lammy, D. (2017) <i>The Lammy Review</i> . Ministry of Justice: Stationery Office
Other Learning Resources	VLE, MOJ Data