



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MSc Criminology

Course Code: CRIMI

2026/27

## ***MSc Criminology (CRIMI)***

### **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Postgraduate Entrants**

**Confirmed October 2025**

#### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	MSc Criminology
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Criminology Postgraduate Certificate Criminology
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 months (full-time, campus based)</li><li>• 24 months (part-time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.  Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City Campus but on occasion may be at Headingley Campus.
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</a>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:  
[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Course Fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

N/A

### Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

N/A

## Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett).
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app.

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

## Key Contacts

### Your Course Director

Dr Katerina Gachevska [k.gachevska@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:k.gachevska@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### Your Course Administrator

You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the Academic Services team is: [crimeadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:crimeadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The MSc Criminology course provides a basis for developing advanced skills and knowledge in criminology and criminal justice at level 7 of University study. This is based on a selection of core and optional modules which deliver both fundamental and specific deep learning in key areas of crime and justice theory and practice. Its philosophy is underpinned by critical stance towards the mainstream criminological knowledge and its application around crime, deviance and responses to those; and its pedagogical strategy is inspired by the ambition to develop pioneering skills for transforming knowledge and practice in crime and criminal justice.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Develop a critical and advanced understanding of the major contemporary theories and concepts which are deployed throughout the social sciences to help us understand the social and personal contexts of crime, victimisation and punishment, and responses to crime and deviance.
- Develop an advanced understanding of the dimensions of social divisions and social diversity in contemporary social science and in relation to contemporary criminological topics.
- Establish a critical understanding of the local, national, and international contexts of crime, victimisation and punishment, and responses to crime and deviance.
- Facilitate the development of intellectual qualities and transferable skills which will enable students to act effectively in a complex and rapidly changing environment.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the contemporary context of criminology, its interdisciplinary nature, alternative theoretical approaches within criminology, contemporary debates about the content and scope of 'critical' and 'mainstream' criminology.
2. Synthesise, evaluate and apply theoretical concepts and knowledge from the social sciences and specifically 'critical' criminology to challenge practice and societal issues on local, national and international scale.
3. Critically evaluate current criminological research related to professional practice and societal issues and a skill of developing such research as an independent scholar of criminology.
4. Develop an advanced understanding of the relationships between crime, deviance and offending, victimisation, desistance and social divisions such as gender, social class, race and ethnicity, forms of power and disempowerment, based on alternative critical perspectives and methodologies.

5. Critically reflect on the development, role, organisation and governance of efforts to reduce and prevent crime and harm; the role of non-governmental agencies; and the effectiveness of such measures and human rights issues in relation to preventive and pre-emptive measures.
6. A critical understanding of the construction and influence of representations of crime and victims and of responses to crime and deviance as found in official reports, the mass media, and public opinion.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Lectures and seminars will be delivered in person. Additional learning resources will also be provided online via our Virtual Learning Environment.

Staff teaching on the MSc Criminology prioritise the student learning experience, recognising that students come to the course already possessing skills in autonomous learning and critical thinking. Learning and teaching approaches focus on enabling students to use their existing skills and knowledge to develop a coherent, subject specific knowledge base; to develop a critical and advanced understanding of theories, concepts and a range of criminological topics; and to develop a range of intellectual qualities and transferable skills which will enable them to act effectively in a complex and rapidly changing environment.

The design of the curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning take account of the Leeds Beckett Education Strategy, and in particular, the learning pathway. Within this model, Level 7 is viewed as a transition, and learning and teaching on the course aims to support the transition so that students become confident to apply their knowledge and skills in complex and novel situations. A key part of the curriculum is the independent research project which aims to give students a thorough understanding of research as a practice and product and how it is applied to criminology/criminal justice.

Students encounter a range of teaching and learning activities on the course including:

- **Lectures** are used for the transmission of core knowledge bases. They are often interactive and make use of directed discovery teaching.
- **Seminars** and **workshops** are included to permit students to access opportunities for self-directed learning, critical reflection, self-assessment, and peer review. These may include elements of small group learning.
- Aspects which require **guided and independent study** are built into all modules of the programme. These are important as they offer the opportunity for consolidation and reconstruction of acquired knowledge bases. They encourage students to develop their own patterns and strategies of learning.

### Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules

which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.

### **Level 7 full-time**

#### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Dissertation	60	Year-long
Criminological Theory, Method, Critique	20	1
Decolonising Criminology	20	1
Contemporary Criminal (In)Justice	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

#### ***Option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Rethinking Policing	20	1
Transforming Punishment and Rehabilitation	20	1
Engendering Criminology	20	2
Out of Control? Critical Perspectives on Global Crime, Risk and Insecurity	20	2
War, Crime and Violence	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

### **Level 7 part-time**

#### ***Year 1 compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Criminological Theory, Method, Critique	20	1
Decolonising Criminology	20	1
Contemporary Criminal (In)Justice	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

#### ***Year 1 option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Engendering Criminology	20	2
Out of Control? Critical Perspectives on Global Crime, Risk and Insecurity	20	2
War, Crime and Violence	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

### ***Year 2 compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Dissertation	60	Year-long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

### ***Year 2 option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Rethinking Policing	20	1
Transforming Punishment and Rehabilitation	20	1
Engendering Criminology	20	2
Out of Control? Critical Perspectives on Global Crime, Risk and Insecurity	20	2
War, Crime and Violence	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

## **Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities**

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### **Assessment**

On this course students will be assessed by coursework predominately, with some practical assessments.

### **Workload**

<b>Overall Workload</b>	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	174 hours
Independent Study	1626 hours
Placement	0 hours