LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Course information for applicants

This information applies to the course as it will be delivered to students starting the course in 2027/28.
Information provided here was confirmed on 14/10/2026

General information

Programme code
CRIMI

Target award
If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:
MSc Criminology

Delivery mode
✓ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study
The majority of teaching will be at City Campus but on occasion may be at Headingley Campus.

Awarding body
Leeds Beckett University

Regulator
Office for Students

Level of qualification
Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Course duration
If you are made an offer of a place on the course, your offer letter will include the start date.

This course can be studied:
12 months full-time
24 months part-time

Part-time study
This course can be studied part-time.

If you study the course part-time, it will usually take twice as long to complete compared with the equivalent full-time course. The modules may be delivered in a different sequence than on the full-time course, but you will study the same modules at each academic level. With the agreement of the course team, you may be able to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration.

Entry requirements

Admissions criteria are available on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have previous relevant qualifications or experience, you could be exempt from certain parts of your course. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows you to start your course at a point appropriate to the learning and skills that you may have developed in a professional, vocational or community setting.

Find out more here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning
If you have questions about entry requirements and admissions, contact AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course fees

Course fees and a breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have questions about fees for this course, contact Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable

You will receive your full timetable for the year during induction week.

What you will study

Course 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.

Teaching and learning activities

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.

Course structure

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. If you have to repeat study or take time out during your course, you may be taught alternative modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes.

The option modules listed may vary. Those listed here are likely to be offered in a typical year.

Level 7 Full-Time

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
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

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
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

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
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

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
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

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

Year 2 option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
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 feedback

The balance of assessment may change depending on which option modules you choose.

Level 7

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

Workload

You can expect to spend a total of 100 hours learning per 10 credits.

Typically, a student on this course can expect to divide their time like this:

Overall workload	**Level 7**
Teaching, learning and assessment	174 hours
Independent study	1626 hours
Placement study	0 hours