MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

Full-Time and Part-Time Online Study from September 2024

Course Demands

Introduction

This document is produced by The University of Law (the University) to provide information about the demands of the course for prospective students.

The information included is an indicative guide for the Full-Time and Part-Time Online Study starting in September 2024.

Students who enrol on the course will be subject to the course regulations in force at that time.

Details of the course, including subject coverage and the learning environment, can be found on the University's website.

Preliminary Knowledge

Students should possess a UK bachelor's degree in any subject at 2:2 or above, or equivalent qualifications.

An English language level equivalent to IELTS 6.5 or above with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.

Pre-Course Demands

There are no specific pre-course demands. However, it is recommended that all students who are returning to learning complete the *Getting Ready for Academic Study* module which is available in the Skills4Study package available through ELITE / The Skills Academy.

Modes of Study and Attendance Requirements

Our courses are delivered using the Prepare – Engage – Consolidate (PEC) Model Learn Your Way: Everything you need to know about the PEC Model of Learning (law.ac.uk).

The programme's use of PEC module will be:
- The Prepare section consists of independent learning and preparation for the engage activities. Some examples this prepare work include reading journal articles, reports, book chapters, case studies, policy briefings, blogs/vlogs, conducting searches for specific information, taking photos, finding music relevant to the module's content.
- The Engage section includes the large group teaching sessions, workshops and any other relevant

small group sessions. The large group teaching sessions are similar to lectures but there is more interaction within them than a more traditional lecture and this is why we view them as 'Engage' on this programme rather than as 'Prepare'. The workshops have activities which enable the students to interact with each other and the lecturer and to debate, critique, reflect, and construct knowledge together.

- The Consolidate section is for students to complete further tasks to bring together their learning and for them and the lecturer to check their understanding. Examples include students producing more formative work such as taking photos, filming footage, writing journals, creating vlogs/blogs, producing art work, mind maps, relating music to criminological concepts and issues, creating self-reflective pieces, being tasked to find some more specific information, answering quizzes. The types of activity depend on the specific module and what is appropriate for that module.

Online Attendance

Learning format	Hours Full Time (Indicative)	Hours Part Time (Indicative)
Prepare - consisting of independent learning and preparation for Engage activities	12	4-8*
Engage activities - lectures, workshops and small group sessions	12 (but 6 will be students engaging with large group recordings in their own time)	4-8*
Consolidate – completing further tasks to bring together your learning and check your understanding	16	6-10**
Total	40	20

*Some terms, this will be 4 hours, other terms 8 hours (it depends on the number of modules in the term- please see the Year Planners)
** Some terms, this will be 6 hours, other terms 10 hours (it depends on the number of modules in the term- please see the Year Planners)

Students studying full-time online will need to attend 6 hours of live online sessions per week.

Students studying part-time online will usually need to attend 2-4 hours of live online sessions per week (please see the Year Planners).

Attendance Requirements

We expect students to maintain at least 90% attendance on the course. Our data shows that students who attend at least 80% of their sessions have significantly better prospects of success.

It is important to highlight that the Online full-time mode is a full-time programme and time expectations are not lower owing to it being delivered online.

Summary of Key Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate systematic understanding of criminological knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of Criminology theoretically and conceptually, and professional practice related to the criminal justice sector.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the history of ideas, the cultural context, and the social and political theories that inform and influence the practice of Criminology.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship in Criminology.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the intersectionality of power in relation to criminal justice agencies and responses to crime, harm, deviance and victimization.

Cognitive Skills

- Engage with complex criminological issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate an ability to develop critical discussion and analysis of complex concepts, and work independently and with some originality.
- Demonstrate an ability to identify appropriate methodologies for dealing with complex problems.

Practical Skills

- Demonstrate an ability to identify appropriate methodologies for dealing with complex problems.
- Demonstrate the ability to complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

Transferable Skills

- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
- Exhibit decision making skills regarding complex and unpredictable situations.
- Demonstrate the independent learning and problem-solving abilities required for continuing professional development.
- Demonstrate an ability to continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.
- Demonstrate digital skills.

Professional competences

- *See above sections for programme outcomes that are also professional competencies*

Learning Environment

Students study over 3 terms (FT) or 6 terms (PT).

Full Time: Terms 1 and 2 are for taught modules. Term 3 is for the research and writing up of the dissertation or Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project. If students undertake the Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project, they also have teaching related to the project in Term 3.

Part time: Term 1 has 2 taught modules, term 2 has 2 taught modules, term 4 has 1 taught module, term 5 has 1 taught module, term 6 is for the research and writing up of the dissertation or Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project. If students undertake the Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project, they also have teaching related to the project in term 3.

On the online mode, the large group sessions are asynchronous, recorded lectures. These are edited

to enable activities (e.g. knowledge checking activities) to be interspersed within the recordings. The online workshops are synchronous.

Assessments (Coursework and Examinations)

A summary of the assessment schedule for this programme is explained below.

Informal Assessments (formative assessment)

Each module has a range of formative assessment opportunities scheduled throughout the module. The style of formative assessment will vary depending on the summative assessment required for the module and the module's content and learning outcomes. Short formative assessments can take place at different stages of the PEC model with activities being used throughout the module to encourage students to reflect on their understanding and learning and to construct knowledge. There will also be a mock assessment on one module per term that students will be expected to do. This will provide students with formal formative feedback/feedforward at different stages of the programme and give them experience of the submission processes half way through their first term.

Formal Assessments (summative assessments)

Assessment of each module will take place at the end of the module in which it was studied to allow students and lecturers to monitor progress.

Module	Assessment
Criminology Harms and Power	Essay (4000 words)
Crime and Criminal Justice	Case study vlog/podcast presentation (15 minutes) and Evaluation report (1500 words)
Research Methods	Research proposal (4000 words)
Transforming Social Policy	Recommendation document on a policy area (2500 words)
Desistance and the Carceral State	Case study analysis (2500 words)
Criminology at the Margins	Essay (2000 words) and presentation (10 minutes)
Resistance Activism and the State	Case study (2000 words) and response paper (250 words)
Identity, Diversity and Human Rights	Evaluation report (2500 words)
Dissertation	15000 words

or Digital Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project *(To choose this, you must have undertaken the Desistance and the Carceral State optional module)*	• 7000 word dissertation • Accompanying Digital Learning Package and 20 minute presentation and reflection

Potential Resit Assessments

Candidates who are unsuccessful in any module will be required to resit the assessment. The resit assessment will be undertaken in the same manner as the original assessment. Ordinarily, candidates must resit any outstanding assessment at the next resit assessment point. The resit assessments are normally scheduled over a two-week period in the summer term. On the programme there are 3 attempts permitted

The University operates a fit to sit policy, which means that students who attend an assessment are deeming themselves to be fit to sit that assessment. It is therefore not possible to submit a concession or mitigating circumstances application for impaired performance for an assessment that has been sat, unless there was a procedural defect in the conduct of the assessment.

Concessions policy

The programme follows the University's concession policy and processes.

Assessment and learning adjustments

If you have any queries regarding support or adjustments whilst studying at the University of Law please contact the Disability and Inclusion Service on disabilitysupportservice@law.ac.uk or 01483 216657.

Summary of Assessment Demands

This course typically contains the following types of summative assessment:

Coursework

Course Demands

Type of Coursework	Detail (eg Word limit, coursework format)	Timing of the coursework
Essay	4000 words	At the end of the term
Evaluation report	1500 words or 2500 words	At the end of the term
Research proposal	4000 words	At the end of the term
Recommendation on a policy area	2500 words	At the end of the term
Case study analysis	2000 or 2500 words	At the end of the term
Response paper	250 words	At the end of the term
Digital Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project	7,000 words plus other components	At the end of the programme
Dissertation	Please see below	At the end of the programme

Oral Assessments

Type of Oral Assessment	Detail of Assessment – including expected preparation time, assessment duration	Timing of the oral assessment
Presentation	10-20 minutes long (depending on the module) Students will have minimum 1 month in preparation time	At the end of the term
Case study vlog/podcast presentation	15 minutes long. Students will have minimum 1 month in preparation time	At the end of the term

*There are **no** formal examinations.*

Dissertation

Max 15000 words or 7000 words (if you are doing the 60 credits Digital Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project which has other components to it). The final submission date for both is in October. Both are undertaken in Term 3 by full time students or term 6 by part-time students. There are 3 workshops at the end of Term 2 to prepare students and there is teaching in Term 3 on the Digital Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project.

Other methods of assessment

Students on the Digital Coproduction and Rehabilitation Project will also produce an Accompanying Digital Learning Package.

Time limits for Completion

5 years

Additional digital and technological resources and requirements

Please see the general technological requirements listed on our website at https://www.law.ac.uk/study/course-demands/. We recommend you have a Windows based laptop.

Chromebooks and Macs are not recommended.