

SCHOOL OF LAW

CRIMINOLOGY

“ The School of Law at the University of Reading is a transformative and international learning environment with a worldwide reputation for research. We welcome students from across the globe into our diverse, inclusive, supportive and highly ambitious community. We pride ourselves on achieving excellence in our teaching, learning and research. Our students develop as independent thinkers and learn about crime, justice, law and punishment. The optional modules provide students with a wide range of special interest topics so that students can pursue their passions.

All our students are taught by passionate academics, who work on research that pushes boundaries and has a direct effect on policy and practice. We look forward to welcoming you on an exciting journey that will provide opportunities for you to thrive, in a School that is committed to the development of justice and impact on its administration justice at a global level.”

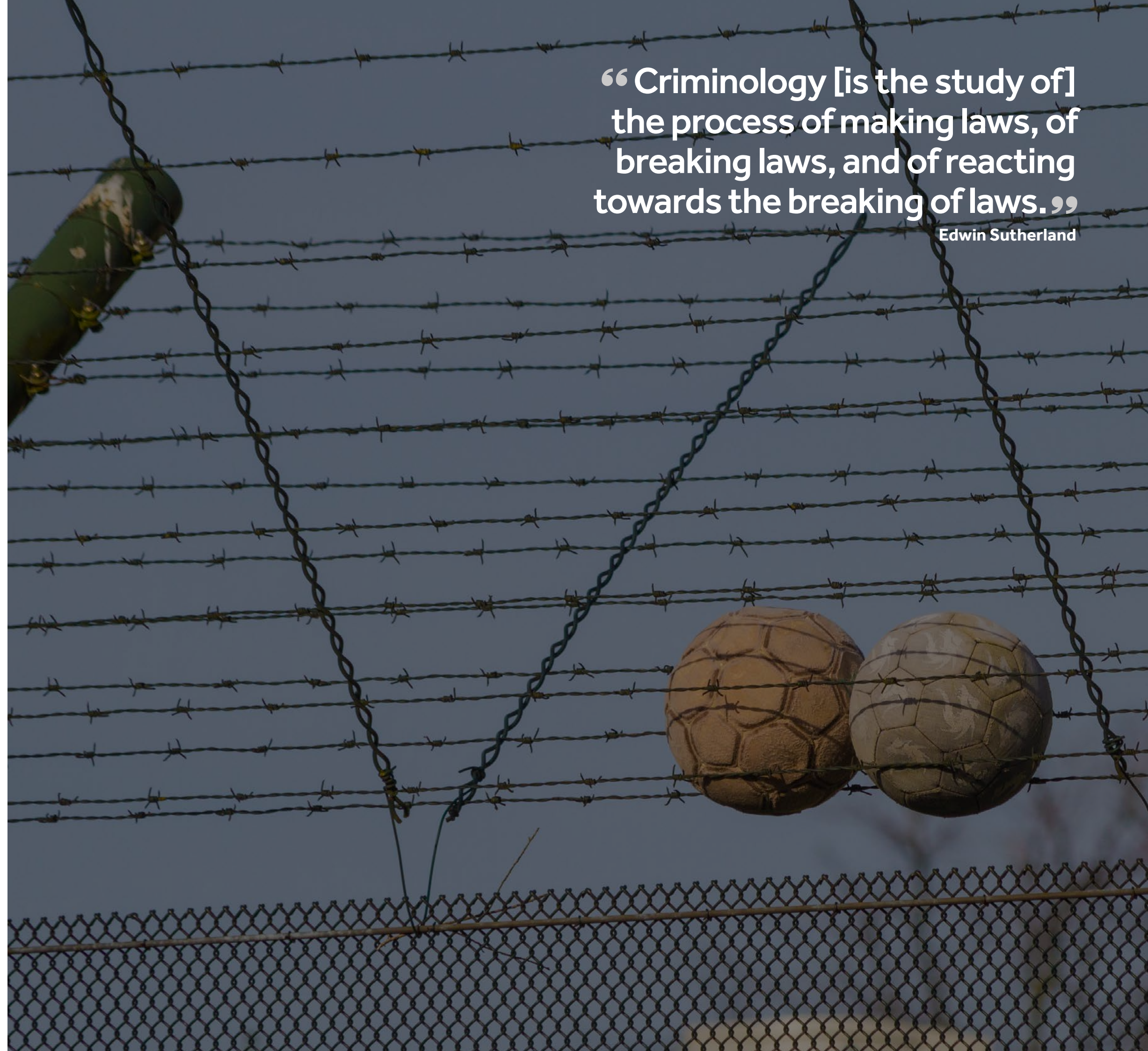


Professor Jo Phoenix
Professor of Criminology

reading.ac.uk/law

“ Criminology [is the study of] the process of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting towards the breaking of laws.”

Edwin Sutherland



TRAPPED



Dr Alexandra Cox

Dr Alexandra Cox is a global criminologist and sociologist who is bringing important issues of the criminal justice system to the forefront of thinking. Specialising her research in the confinement of children and young people, Alexandra hopes to expose the negligence and voice the need for change within the justice system.

Alexandra has always been passionate about the youth justice system: prior to her PhD in Criminology, she represented young people charged with adult sentences as a sentencing mitigation specialist at the Neighbourhood Defender Service of Harlem. She has also worked on the board of the New York State Defenders Association and Drama and Literacy Clubs, which conducts theatre workshops and literacy classes inside juvenile facilities. Alexandra's field work motivated her to embark on a strand of research exploring the impact of confinement on children and young people and asking critical questions such as – is the current youth justice system causing more harm than good?

The rise in mass incarceration in the United States over the course of the 1990s intensified Alexandra's focus on the justice system with specific focus on ethnic minority groups and young people. She was inspired to write 'Trapped in a Vice' which investigates the justice system's effectiveness in bringing about changes in behaviour of convicted young people and those from minority groups. Her book seeks

to see how far the current system of encouraging change through intensive interventions and services pulls these people away from meaningful opportunities for growth and development. The American Society of Criminology Division of Critical Criminology awarded the Outstanding Book Award to Alexandra for her excellent contribution to research in Criminology.

Alexandra enjoys directly feeding her research and wealth of experience into her teaching. She encourages students to use real-world examples when learning about criminological and sociological theories. She fosters an interactive teaching style and hopes to train the next generation to question vital issues such as the effectiveness of the youth justice system.

Alexandra will be leading a death penalty sentencing mitigation clinic in partnership with the charity Reprieve, which will provide students with an opportunity to gain 'real-world' experience in criminal legal matters, alongside teaching on the Introduction to Criminology and Introduction to Criminal Justice first year modules.

“I am passionate about working with students to understand the ways that criminal justice systems across the globe reflect and reproduce social inequalities.”





INSIDE INSIGHT



**Professor
Jo Phoenix**

Studying for a master's in Gender and Social Policy, Professor Jo Phoenix read a book which shaped her research for the next 25 years. The book was the first sustained study of what happens to women in prison in the UK and ignited her interest in women who experience poverty and have also often been the victims of male violence, and how they get caught up in the criminal justice system.

Passionate about the subject, Jo began writing about policies and laws that relate to how we deal with people who are both offenders and victims.

Jo remains particularly interested in understanding the changing conditions in which (some) women and (some) young people are criminalised and punished, as well as the challenges facing those professionals who work with them. Her research focuses on issues of justice for poor, marginalized, contradictory categories of people, who are troubled and troublesome.

Devoted to make a difference in the lives of poor or marginalized people, Jo became a member of the advisory board of several national campaigning groups including 'Women's Rights Network' and 'Sex Matters' that are all, in their own ways, addressing issues of sex-based rights in criminal justice. She is also a Trustee for the Centre of Crime and Justice Studies charity whose mission it is to better inform the public about crime and justice matters.

Jo designed the new BSc Criminology undergraduate programme at Reading, bringing with her a wealth of experience and knowledge of over 25 years working in academia. Heavily involved in publishing and advising policymakers, Jo has helped shape undergraduate programmes and modules in Criminology for many Universities across the UK. She is excited to teach the next generation of criminologists throughout their three years of study.

On this programme students will gain a critical understanding of crime, criminal justice, and their relationship with the law. Students will develop an understanding of the links between democratic ideals of equality and justice for all and the stark realities of inequality and injustice that play out in our criminal justice systems.

Students can engage in criminological research through ethics workshops where students will be presented with real research ethical dilemmas and investigate how they would solve them. Case studies will include dilemmas faced by academics in the School throughout the course of their careers. Students will also work on a dissertation research project; a first-hand analysis of empirical datasets about crime and justice under the guidance of a supervisor.

“Criminology cuts to the heart of how we live in a modern democracy. Poverty is on the rise with all the social welfare issues it brings. Given this, why do we punish people who steal because they're hungry? We are very bad at dealing with the connections between poverty, social welfare and crime, and sadly the only time that many people get the social welfare input and support that they really need is when they have broken the law.”

SEARCHING FOR JUSTICE

“Justicia, the figure of justice, is always portrayed in the same way. Blindfolded, holding in one hand a set of scales and in the other a sword. In her iconic image, she encapsulates all of our ideals of criminal justice in modern democracies. Her blindfold tells us that she is impartial. Her scales tell us that she treats everyone who comes before her equally. Her sword is a symbol of certainty of punishment. ‘Justice’ is a concept that has been debated for hundreds of years. It is easy to picture, but very difficult to grasp. What does impartiality mean? Is it fair to treat everyone equally, even when not everyone starts their lives with the same privileges? How should social inequalities be taken into account when delivering justice? Is a ‘just’ criminal justice system possible? ”

Professor Jo Phoenix



CROSSING THE LINE





**Associate Professor
Charlotte Bishop**

Criminology helps us explain the causes of victimisation and offending so that they can be addressed effectively. This subject encourages us to ask questions about the wider social and cultural failures that drive offending and re-offending, rather than focusing upon the individual alone. Dr Charlotte Bishop examines the treatment of certain individuals within the criminal justice system and the ways in which bias, discrimination and problematic stereotypes around race, class and gender shape the administration of criminal justice.

Charlotte's research focuses on feminist legal theory and violence against women and girls to bring impactful change to the legal and criminal justice system through legal and criminal justice reforms.

Her PhD research addressed the limitations of the legal response to domestic violence and since then she has continued to focus broadly on intimate partner violence, with a predominant focus on the criminal law and criminal justice responses. Her work emphasises the ways that the criminal justice system reflects and reinforces male privilege and consequently fails to protect women and girls. Her current research focuses on the criminalisation of women who use fatal violence against their abusive partners in order to escape. Understanding why women in this situation usually end up serving life sentences for murder requires engagement with research from criminology, criminal justice, criminal law and other disciplines.

Charlotte is committed to making a difference in the lives of women and girls who are experiencing violence, abuse and harassment. Her work emphasises the importance of a feminist approach to gender-based violence to ensure that the root causes - gender inequality and the prevalence of problematic sex-role stereotypes at a legal and societal level - are visible and can be addressed through preventative measures in conjunction with criminal justice responses. She also makes regular media appearances to talk about critical issues surrounding gender-based violence, using her voice to highlight the need for societal change as well as legal and criminal justice reform.

Incorporating gender and intersectional perspectives into her teaching is critical to Charlotte and was awarded a DVC Education Commendation in recognition for her feminist-inspired teaching approach and for using innovative technology to encourage student engagement. She enjoys an interactive teaching style and fosters a positive and supportive relationship with her students, hoping to train the next generation to examine important issues relating to criminology and criminal justice in her 'Critical Victimology' and 'Women, Crime and Justice' modules.



LEARN FROM EXPERTS

Based at the stunning Grade II listed Foxhill House, you will be taught by leading academics in the field of law.

Their expertise and commitment to their subject and students cultivates a stimulating learning environment that will encourage you to excel.

Our team of experienced academics are passionate about their subject and are recognised as experts in specialist areas such as medical, environmental, international and commercial law.

You will benefit from teaching supported by applied research led by our academics who contribute regularly to global and UK policy development and law reforms through their work with governments and regulatory agencies. They are regularly invited to speak at conferences and to provide their expert opinion in the media. Some of our tutors are advisers to government and policy-making bodies like the Law Commission and the United Nations, whilst others have been involved with, or cited in, cases before courts, including the European Court of Justice and UK Supreme Court.

All of our programmes are supported by networking, conference and work experience opportunities for our students, which result directly from the strong industry links that our staff have developed

in their disciplines in both academia and practice. Our academics are not only research experts in their specialist fields, many have applied and developed their knowledge and research interests through a career in legal practice.

Joining our School of Law will give you the opportunity to flourish in a dynamic and collaborative teaching environment and immerse yourself in legal debate and developments alongside academics, who are at the forefront of changes to global legal systems.

“I have always been interested in Criminology since I studied it at A-Level, however doing it at a University level allowed a greater depth of knowledge. The lectures and seminars are given by a variety of professors who specialise in the topics we study and are very passionate when they teach. We discuss many different topics including biological theories of why people commit crime; women in the criminal justice system and race in the criminal justice system. I worked very closely with Jo Phoenix on my dissertation, her positivity, experience and passion has really inspired and supported me throughout my dissertation.”

Katie Cox
Law student



RESEARCH THAT CHANGES LAW

The School of Law at Reading is a hub for high-quality research and teaching with impact.

In the Research Excellence Framework 2021, 99% of our research was judged world leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised. Our academics are established scholars who feed their acknowledged expertise into teaching, thus enriching the learning experience for our students.

Our academics undertake a wide variety of individual and collaborative research, much of which has made a discernible impact beyond the school. Aside from challenging the preconceptions of law, much of our academic research subjects the process of crime and justice processes to strict analysis, often igniting debate and challenging governments and policy-makers understand the unintended consequences of crime and justice policies.

From court decisions and public policy made by central and local government and international organisations, to the activities of NGOs and charities, we aim to create positive change. Our subject experts

undertake a breadth of research, around themes such as Global Law; Crime, Justice and Punishment; Rights and Legal Theory; Family, Gender and Sexuality; Public Policy; Legal History; Property, Transactions and Markets; Commercial Law and Financial Regulation.

Our recent research projects include: a community study examining procedural justice and criminal justice system legitimacy; advising the Law Commission on its review on intimate image abuse; rape and sexual attacks in hospitals, 2019–2022; assisted dying in Europe; and the concepts of sex and gender in relations to law.

As a University of Reading criminology student, you will benefit directly from this and further research projects, as our academics encourage lively debate around their findings and invite their students to join them in thinking beyond existing laws and policies, to create positive change at a national and global level.

WHEREVER NEXT?

We offer students an extensive range of opportunities to develop their career prospects and valuable transferable skills such as public speaking, thinking creatively, forming arguments.

Volunteering gives you the opportunity to work with local charities and other institutions where you will support real people with real problems.

As a member of the School of Law, you will also be able to participate in our popular mock trials, known as moots. A moot usually involves arguments about a point of law or similar. You will be required to argue either for or against a hypothetical decision, you will learn how to refer to relevant case law in the most convincing way, you may be able to take on the role of an expert witness, using your developing criminological knowledge.

Our criminology students can watch and participate in the types of legal processes that shape the outcomes of those who are less than law abiding. We offer negotiation, mediation and client interviewing competitions.

We have a close relationship with our local criminal justice agencies and services. Previous students from the School of Law have worked with the youth offending teams in mentor roles as well as in the local Youth Offenders' Institute.

As a School of Law, we have a long established tradition of supporting students to make their next steps. This support starts from day one where you will be helped to identify and develop your employability skills.

We have a dedicated careers adviser and a calendar full of career-oriented events built into your degree.

Our careers talks cover a range of employment options such as: policing, courts, probation, youth justice, prisons as well as a host of other alternatives such as social work, postgraduate work, working in the local authorities and in criminal justice reform lobbying and campaigning groups like The Centre of Crime and Justice Studies.

Successful completion of your Criminology degree provides you with the first qualification into the criminal justice profession and equips you with a wider range of transferable skills that are widely sought by employers.

OUR DEGREE

BSC CRIMINOLOGY M900

3 years full-time

Study criminology to an advanced level whilst you acquire an understanding of legal skills, public law, criminal law and criminal justice with our new BSc Criminology programme.

You will encounter a variety of sociological and criminological issues, concepts and methodologies. Throughout your degree, you will have the opportunity to study some of the most pressing matters in crime and criminal justice today – youth justice, gender, crime and justice, research ethics, prisons and punishment and green criminology. You will explore these in ways that develop your critical understanding of 'crime' and 'criminal justice'. Learning alongside law students in your first year, you will also acquire an understanding of legal skills, law and society and criminal law. At the end of your degree, you will leave with a strong grounding in the legal framework and challenges in which matters of crime and justice play out.

WHERE CRIMINOLOGY MEETS LAW AND POLICY

Explore the main theoretical and empirical questions that criminology addresses. What is crime? What is justice? To what extent is rule breaking a result of human nature or wider social context? To what extent is it possible to have a just criminal justice system in societies shaped by profound social inequalities?

Topics covered will include processes of criminalisation and victimisation, causes and organisation of crime, victimology, youth justice, prisons, crime management and prevention, interrelationship between crime, social inequalities and rights, official and unofficial responses to crime and punishment and media representations. You will be inducted into the criminological community of practice by being trained in how to research matters of crime and justice as well as what counts as ethical practice in social science research.

You will end with a dissertation research project where you will undertake first-hand analysis of empirical datasets about crime and justice under the guidance of your supervisor. This may also include the opportunity to analyse data and questions connected with live research projects being undertaken by academic staff.

YOUR DEGREE YOUR WAY

This degree is flexible enough to allow you to pursue other interests by taking criminology relevant modules outside School of Law or continue to pursue your interests in studying law by taking modules from within the School of Law. Whether you have a particular passion or want to learn about a broad range of criminological, socio-legal or law topics, you can create your own pathway throughout your degree. Our extensive range of optional modules reflect the breadth of our academic expertise. Possible pathways may include: Sex, Gender and the Law, International Law and Security, Human Rights, Children and Families, Financial Crime and, Youth Justice.



YEAR 1

Compulsory modules:

Introduction to Criminology

Introduction to Criminal Justice

Legal Skills for Criminologists

Criminal Law

Law and Society

YEAR 2

Compulsory modules:

Criminological Research Methods

Contemporary Dilemmas
in Criminological Work

Advanced Criminological Theory

Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Optional modules:

Critical Victimology

Women, Crime and Justice

YEAR 3

Compulsory module:

Dissertation

Optional modules:

Youth Justice

Contemporary Issues in Punishment

Crimes of the Powerful

Race, Ethnicity and Justice

Prisons in Crisis

Green Criminology: Environmental Crime
and Climate Justice

Important Information

This brochure was issued in 2023 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2024. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date

at the time of going to press (Sept 2023). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check reading.ac.uk/study

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

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Modules

Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on each course. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules and have been approved in principle for delivery in 2024/25. Please note that as part of our current curriculum improvement process, all modules require final University approval and the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this list will definitely run. Teaching staff on specific courses or modules mentioned in this brochure may be subject to change. For the most up to date module information, please check the webpage reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study from Sept 2023. For optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to all students who may wish to take them, although the University will try to ensure that students are able to take optional modules in which they have expressed interest at the appropriate time during their course. Optional modules vary from year to year and entry to them will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Joint courses

Our joint courses may have extra requirements, including English language requirements. Please check the individual course pages on our website for further details.

Year abroad and placement fees

Some courses include an optional or compulsory year abroad or placement year. During this year you will only pay a partial fee which is currently set at 15% of the normal tuition fee. Check the website for the latest information: reading.ac.uk/fees-and-funding

Placements

Programmes with a Professional Placement Year (also known as 'Year in Industry' or 'Placement Year') are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunity, normally through a competitive recruitment process. The University provides dedicated career and application support for placement year students. Students who do not secure a placement or who are unable to complete the placement year due to extenuating circumstances, have the option to transfer to a three year variant of their programme with agreement from their School/Department.

Study abroad

The partnerships listed are correct at the time of publication (Sept 2023). For up-to-date information on the University's partnerships contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk

Where Study Abroad is not a compulsory part of the degree programme, the University of Reading cannot guarantee that every applicant who applies for the scheme will be successful. Whilst efforts are made to secure sufficient places at partner institutions, the number of places available and the University's partners can vary year-on-year. In all cases, the University cannot guarantee that it will be possible for applicants to choose to study abroad at a particular institution.

Further, certain courses and/or institutions may require you to satisfy specific eligibility criteria. It can be a competitive process. For further information on the University's Study Abroad Scheme please contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk



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Ask us a question
reading.ac.uk/question