Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BSc (Hons) Criminology, Policing and Investigation
2	**Course Code**	US1588
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	N/A

6	**Course Description**
	Want to achieve a career in criminal investigation? Our BSc (Hons) Criminology, Policing and Investigation course has close ties with local, national and international law enforcement agencies. Crime is complex, evolving, and deeply connected to the social and technological world around us. Our degree in Criminology, Policing and Investigation allows you to explore that complexity by combining cutting-edge criminological theory with hands-on insights into policing and investigative practice. Together with our close ties with local, national and international law enforcement agencies, you could pursue a career in criminal investigation if that is your aim while keeping open a range of careers, which could include the probation service, charities sector, academia and policymaking. Core modules, such as Criminal Justice and Policing in the Machine Age, which addresses the impact of artificial intelligence (AI), Criminological Theory, and Essential Criminal Justice Interviewing Techniques, aim to build knowledge of key concepts but also acknowledge the need for students to be equipped with the skills and understanding to address the impact of technological advances on criminal justice, investigation and policing. **What's covered in this course?** We combine academic study with practical insight into policing and investigation, allowing you to learn about the structure and function of police organisations, investigative techniques, forensic approaches, and the legal frameworks that underpin criminal justice processes. Alongside this, we encourage you to reflect critically on issues such as policing practice, accountability, ethics, legitimacy, and the impact of crime control policies on diverse communities. Our teaching incorporates practice-based learning as well as academic study that is informed by the latest research, which gives you the opportunity to develop a range of both academic and practical transferable skills that are attractive to employers. You will also have the opportunity to go on external visits and take unique assessments to enhance your understanding of the discipline. The real-world applications of this course are supported by our close links to West Midlands Police and other criminal justice partners. You will have opportunities to gain work experience with other relevant organisations, and there is an option for you to undertake international study. You will be taught by expert staff, including former practitioners in the fields of criminology and policing, as well as enjoying regular guest lectures from influential subject matter experts.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Criminology, Policing and Investigation Bachelor of Science with Honours Criminology, Policing and Investigation with Professional Placement Year	6 6	360 480
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Certificate of Higher Education Criminology, Policing and Investigation Diploma of Higher Education Criminology, Policing and Investigation Bachelor of Science Criminology, Policing and Investigation Bachelor of Science Criminology, Policing and Investigation with Professional Placement Year Nb. Where core learning outcomes for the award have not been achieved, students will be awarded the relevant exit qualification with the title 'Social Studies' rather than 'Criminology, Policing and Investigation'	Level 4 Level 5 Level 6 Level 6	120 240 300 420

8	Variations from the University Regulations
	None.

9	Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study		**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time		City Centre	3 years	US1588
Full Time with Professional Placement Year		City Centre (and placement provider)	4 years	US1590

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Aims
	• Explore real-world problems focusing on topical and often controversial issues relating to crime, policing and investigation • Deliver an inclusive and innovative curriculum informed by cutting edge scholarship, sector knowledge, and international perspectives • Provide an excellent learning experience, designed to develop a range of transferable skills directly relevant to careers within the Police and other organisations concerned with crime and criminal justice • Offer a variety of assessments throughout the course, including coursework, exams, and in-person assessments, to enable you to demonstrate your full range of abilities and skills • Enable you to strengthen your analytic, interpretative, and communication skills and - by graduation - to demonstrate the problem-solving, evaluative, and reflective skills intrinsic to the subject and the attributes needed for self-managed, lifelong learning

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:
1	Describe a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within criminology, policing and investigation, with an appreciation of their social and historical development.
2	Summarise and explain empirical data about crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.
3	Draw on relevant evidence to evaluate the viability of competing explanations within criminology, policing and investigation and form logical conclusions.
4	Critically reflect on the values and practices of the Police and other agencies within the Criminal Justice System.
5	Apply key theories, debates, and concepts in the field of criminology, policing and investigation to real-world issues.
6	Evaluate a range of research methods and assess the appropriateness of their use.
7	Communicate information, ideas, and arguments in a variety of academic formats.
8	Design and use an appropriate strategy to investigate a specific research problem.
9	Critically discuss ethical issues such as social justice, equality, and human rights, that require an awareness of global trends.
10	Present well-articulated critical thinking skills in an appropriate academic style.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, you will be able to:
1	Describe a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within criminology, policing and investigation, with an appreciation of their social and historical development.
2	Summarise and explain empirical data about crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.
3	Draw on relevant evidence to evaluate the viability of competing explanations within criminology, policing and investigation and form logical conclusions.
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, you will be able to:

4	Critically reflect on the values and practices of the Police and other agencies within the Criminal Justice System.
5	Apply key theories, debates, and concepts in the field of criminology, policing and investigation to real-world issues.
6	Evaluate a range of research methods and assess the appropriateness of their use.
7	Communicate information, ideas, and arguments in a variety of academic formats.
	Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, you will be able to:
8	Design and use an appropriate strategy to investigate a specific research problem.
9	Critically discuss ethical issues such as social justice, equality, and human rights, that require an awareness of global trends.
10	Present well-articulated critical thinking skills in an appropriate academic style.

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	Our Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Strategy delivers excellence by providing the framework for: • High quality teaching • An engaging and inclusive approach to learning, assessment, and achievement • A clear structure through which you progress in your academic studies, your personal development and towards graduate-level employment or further study We recognise that our students come from diverse backgrounds and bring a wealth of different experiences to their time with us at university. Our strategy aims to inspire, support, and empower you in your chosen field of study: • Teaching and learning will take place in several different contexts, including lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, independent study, external trips, placements, and our virtual learning environment • You will be supported with excellent in-person and online learning and teaching methods and materials • A variety of authentic assessments will be offered to build your communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, such as assessment centre activities and mock interviews • The flexible nature of some of our assessment topics will allow you to tailor your learning towards your interests and areas relevant to future employment • Formative learning activities will play a central role in building confidence and preparing you for your final assessments • You will receive individual feedback on your work to support your development on the course • Work experience opportunities will be promoted that allow you to engage with the applied nature of criminology and policing, as well as enhancing your employability and transferable skills • We will work in partnership with you and other students to bring about enhancements to learning practices

15	**Course Requirements**

15a **Level 4:**

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRIXXX	Introduction to Criminological Theory	20
CRIXXX	Blue-Line: Contemporary Challenges in Policing	20
CRI4046	Crime, Punishment and Society	20
CRI4047	The Criminal Justice System	20
CRIXXX	Applied Research Methods in Criminology	20
CRIXXX	Security, Society and Justice	20

Level 5:

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRI5XXX	Criminal Justice and Policing in the Machine-Age (AI)	20
CRI5091	Issues in Criminal Investigation	20
CRI5XXX	Criminology Careers	20
CRI5095	Research Proposal	20

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRI5090	Crime in the City	20
CRI5102	Youth Crime and Justice	20
CRIXXX	Dark Alliances: Inside the Global Crime-Terror Nexus	20
CRI5092	Race and Crime	20
CRI5093	Making Sense of Homicide	20
CRI5094	Substance Use, Crime and Deviance	20
CRIXXX	Criminology Placement	20
CRI5101	Prisons and Punishment	20
CRIXXX	Crime, Community and the Built Environment	20

In order to qualify for the award of BSc (Hons) Criminology, Policing and Investigation with Professional Placement Year a student must successfully complete the following module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5007	Professional Placement Year (Criminology and Sociology)	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRI6120	The Ethics of Investigation	20
CRI6121	Lie to Me: Essential Criminal Justice Interviewing Techniques	20
CRIXXX	Criminology/Policing Dissertation	40

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRI6XXX	Emotions in Crime and Justice	20
CRI6115	Everyday Surveillance	20
CRI6110	Local to Global Organised Crime	20
CRI6111	Deviant Leisure	20
CRI6116	Gender and Crime	20
CRI6117	Cybercrime	20
CRI6XX	Crimes of the Powerful: Capitalism, Harm and the Contemporary Condition	20
CRI6118	Hate Crime	20
CRI6XXX	Reimagining Justice	20
CRI6XXX	Investigating VAWG	20

15b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Full Time Course Structure

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Introduction to Criminological Theory Blue-Line: Contemporary Challenges in Policing The Criminal Justice System	**Core** Crime, Punishment and Society Security, Society and Justice Applied Research Methods in Criminology

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Issues in Criminal Investigation Criminology Careers	**Core** Criminal Justice and Policing in the Machine-Age (AI) Research Proposal
Optional (choose 1) • Crime in the City • Youth Crime and Justice • Dark Alliances: Inside the Global Crime-Terror Nexus	**Optional (choose 1)** • Race and Crime • Making Sense of Homicide • Substance Use, Crime and Deviance • Criminology Placement • Prisons and Punishment • Crime, Community and the Built Environment

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Lie to Me: Essential Criminal Justice Interviewing Techniques	**Core** The Ethics of Investigation
Core Criminology/ Policing Dissertation	

Optional (choose 1)	Optional (choose 1)
• Emotions in Crime and Justice • Local to Global Organised Crime • Deviant Leisure • Investigating VAWG	• Gender and Crime • Cybercrime • Hate Crime • Crimes of the Powerful: Capitalism, Harm and the Contemporary Condition • Reimagining Justice

Full Time with Professional Placement Year Course Structure

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Introduction to Criminological Theory Blue-Line: Contemporary Challenges in Policing The Criminal Justice System	**Core** Crime, Punishment and Society Security, Society and Justice Applied Research Methods in Criminology

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Issues in Criminal Investigation Criminology Careers	**Core** Criminal Justice and Policing in the Machine-Age (AI) Research Proposal
Optional (choose 1) • Crime in the City • Youth Crime and Justice • Dark Alliances: Inside the Global Crime-Terror Nexus	**Optional (choose 1)** • Race and Crime • Making Sense of Homicide • Substance Use, Crime and Deviance • Criminology Placement • Prisons and Punishment • Crime, Community and the Built Environment

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Lie to Me: Essential Criminal Justice Interviewing Techniques	**Core** The Ethics of Investigation
Core Criminology/ Policing Dissertation	
Optional (choose 1) • Emotions in Crime and Justice • Local to Global Organised Crime • Deviant Leisure • Investigating VAWG	**Optional (choose 1)** • Gender and Crime • Cybercrime • Hate Crime • Crimes of the Powerful: Capitalism, Harm and the Contemporary Condition • Reimagining Justice

Core
Professional Placement Year (120 credits)

Part Time Course Structure

Standard Duration is 5 years. All core modules must be taken.

Level 4 - Part time students will complete 80 level 4 academic credits in year one and 40 level 4 academic credits in year two. These can be taken in any order as no module carries pre-requisite study, students will be expected to complete 40 credits per semester.

Level 5 - Part time students will complete a further 40 level 5 academic credits in year two and 80 level 5 academic credits in year three. These can be taken in any order as no module carries pre-requisite study

Level 6 - Part time students will complete 80 level 6 academic credits in year four. This does not include the dissertation/ final credit which is weighted at 40 credits, and which must be taken in year 5, which is the final year of study.

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

17% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	204
Directed Learning	276
Private Study	720
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	50%
Exam	17%
In-Person	33%

Level 5

Workload

17% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	204
Directed Learning	276
Private Study	720
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	50%
Exam	17%
In-Person	33%

Level 6

Workload

12% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	145
Directed Learning	335
Private Study	720
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67%
Exam	0%
In-Person	33%