

“The Course is interesting and thought provoking”
Current BSc student

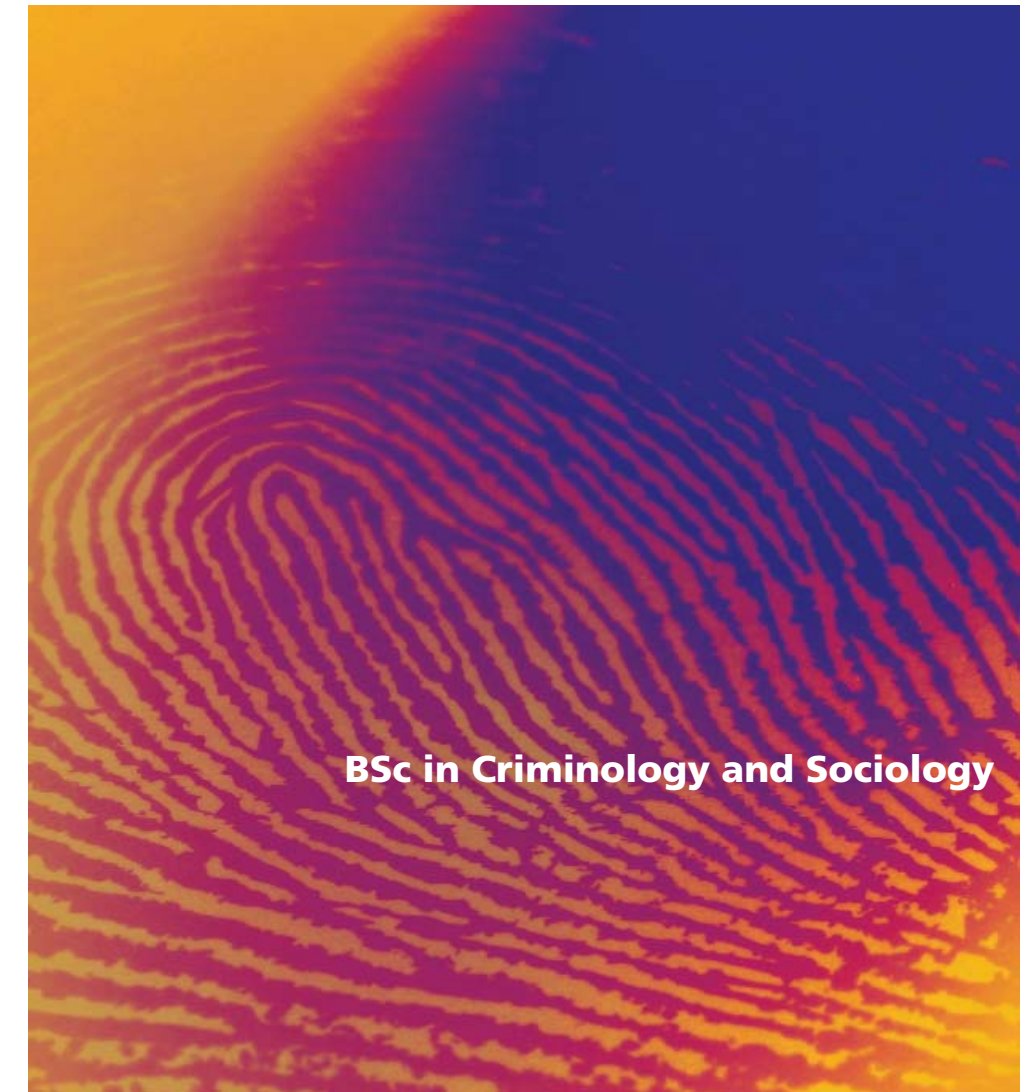


Royal Holloway, University of London is an innovative and forward-looking university acknowledged worldwide for high-quality teaching and research. A combination of modern facilities and a beautiful campus makes the College a great place to study, and we are renowned for our friendly and supportive community.

Over 8,000 students work with internationally renowned scholars in 18 academic departments. Our graduates go on to achieve success in all walks of life, all over the world.



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BSc in Criminology and Sociology

Royal Holloway
University of London



Criminology and Sociology

“Very interesting and well taught”
Current BSc student

The BSc in Criminology and Sociology runs over three years, full time.
Entries are submitted through UCAS.
Programme Director and Head of Centre: Professor David Denney



Criminology

Criminology is the study of crime as an individual and social phenomenon. It focuses on the incidence and causes of crime and considers social and governmental responses. It is best understood as a field of study that draws on a range of disciplines including sociology, psychology and law.

Students will grapple with a range of criminological questions, such as:

- What is meant by the ‘dark figure’ in criminology?
- Why do we punish?
- Does prison work?

Sociology

Sociology encourages us to regard issues that affect us as individuals as part of a wider social world that is constantly changing. It is thus

concerned with the ways in which the life experiences of individuals are shaped by broader social forces, institutions and groups and the social rules and processes that organize people. It is not a subject with easy answers – however it gives us tools to examine, and question, the world around us. Students will engage with competing perspectives on key issues and social problems, and will learn to weigh up the evidence and form their own point of view.

Students will consider a range of sociological questions, such as:

- How have patterns of family life changed in recent years? What are the consequences of such changes?
- Who is most likely to live in poverty and why?
- To what extent do factors such as gender, ethnicity and class influence people’s life chances?

Course structure

First Year

In the first year students are introduced to both criminology and sociology. Teaching focuses on the causes of crime and the workings of the criminal justice system, and providing a grounding in sociological thinking about the world and approaches to understanding a range of social problems and policy issues. All students undertake the following courses:

- Introduction to Criminology
- The Criminal Justice System
- Introduction to Sociology
- Social Problems and Social Policy
- Psychology of Morality and Behaviour

Second Year

In the second year students are given a thorough understanding of criminological and sociological research methods and take compulsory course on theoretical debates in criminology and sociology. All students undertake courses on:

- Research Methods for Social Scientists
- Data Analysis for Social Scientists
- Key Perspectives and Debates in Criminology
- Sociology of Contemporary Society

All students then select two options from a range, examples of which may include:

- Sociology of the Family
- Lost in Music: The Sociology of Popular Music

- Violent Crime
- Crime and the Law

Third Year

In their third year, students undertake a dissertation on a topic of their choice under guidance from their supervisor. All students also choose between a range of options, such as:

- Health, Medicine and Society
- Youth and Society
- Risk Insecurity and Terrorism
- Crime, Literature, and Media
- Critical Readings in Criminology and Sociology

Although a variety of criminological and sociological options will always be provided, the exact course titles offered in any particular year may vary depending on the availability of faculty and their particular areas of expertise.



Teaching & assessment

Criminology and Sociology courses are taught mainly through lectures and seminars. Seminar groups are usually small enough to allow an active exchange of ideas with your tutor and other students. Students take the equivalent of four course units a year, which means a commitment to eight hours formal engagement with academic staff and other students. Students are expected to spend at least a further thirty hours each week on private study in preparation for seminars and coursework. Courses are assessed by a combination of essays, end of year exams and, in the third year, a dissertation.

Careers

The BSc in Criminology & Sociology provides students with a range of transferable skills that form the basis for a career in criminal justice agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service, police, probation service, youth custody and the prison service. It also equips students for careers in the voluntary sector, local government, the civil service and the private sector, including working in the media. Graduates who do particularly well can go on to further study at postgraduate level and pursue careers in research and evaluation in academic and policy contexts.

Further information

To find out more please visit our website at:
www.rhul.ac.uk/crim-soc/