

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BSc Criminology and Sociology (LM39)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in BSc Criminology and Sociology is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. It is characterised by strong progression and opportunities for specialisation through the course. The course also has a strong compulsory spine running into Stages two and three, with research training in stage two informing the production of an independent dissertation in stage three.

Stage one is mandatory and provides a broadly based introduction to the subject. You take lecture-based modules up to the value of 120 credits, which provide an introduction to the disciplines of sociology and criminology and encourage critical thought about the nature of social problems and the criminal justice system. In stage two, the modules strongly emphasise research methods. You are introduced to a range of social research methods and the different ways in which knowledge about contemporary society and criminal behaviour can be gathered. You are also provided with an opportunity to engage with theoretical debates in both disciplines. A total of 30 credits in this stage is selected from a range of options.

In Stage three, the core ideas acquired previously are developed through specialist modules and a research or literature review-based dissertation. Of the four modules in this stage only the dissertation is mandatory. The remaining modules can be made up of options. You may choose to substitute up to 30 credits for modules outside the Department. The strong research profile of staff is utilised in this stage to develop research literate undergraduates who are able to think critically about evidence.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as ‘course’, this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

| Section 2 – Course details | | | |
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| Date of specification update | August 2019 | Location of study | Egham Campus |
| Course award and title | BSc Criminology and Sociology | Level of study | Undergraduate |
| Course code | 2330 | UCAS code | LM39 |
| Year of entry | 2020/21 | | |
| Awarding body | Royal Holloway, University of London | | |
| Department or school | School of Law and Social Sciences | Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course | N/A |
| Mode(s) of attendance | Full-time | Duration of the course | Three years |
| Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s) | N/A | | |
| Link to Coursefinder for further information: | https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/ | For queries on admissions: | study@royalholloway.ac.uk . |

| Section 3 – Degree course structure | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------|------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1 Mandatory module information | | | | | | | | | | |
| The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | Module code | Module title | Contact hours* | Self-study hours | Written exams** | Practical assessment** | Coursework** | Credits | FHEQ level | Module status (see below) |
| 1 | CR1011 | Introduction to Criminology | 40 | 260 | 50% | 5% | 45% | 30 | 4 | MC |
| 1 | CR1013 | Criminal Justice System | 40 | 260 | 50% | 0 | 50% | 30 | 4 | MC |
| 1 | CR1014 | Introduction to Sociology | 40 | 260 | 50% | 0 | 50% | 30 | 4 | MC |
| 1 | CR1015 | Social Problems and Social Policy | 44 | 256 | 50% | 0 | 50% | 30 | 4 | MC |
| 2 | CR2011 | Research Methods for Social Scientists | 55 | 245 | 45% | 0 | 55% | 30 | 5 | MC |
| 2 | CR2013 | Key Perspectives and Debates | 40 | 260 | 45% | 10% | 45% | 30 | 5 | MC |
| 2 | CR2014 | Sociology of Contemporary Society | 40 | 260 | 75% | 0 | 25% | 30 | 5 | MC |
| 3 | CR3011 | Dissertation | 9 | 291 | 0 | 0 | 100% | 30 | 6 | MC |

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

**The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| None | Sociology of Religion | Sociology of Health and Illness |
| | Crime and the Law | Crime, Media and Culture |
| | Youth and Crime | Race, Ethnicity and Migration |
| | Sociology of the Family | Children, Society and Risk |
| | Youth in Society | Sentencing and Penal Policy |
| | | Prisons |

3.3 Optional module requirements

During stage two, you must choose options equal to the value of 30 credits from a list of Stage two modules offered by the Department.

During stage three, you must choose options equal to the value of 90 credits from a list of Stage three modules offered by the Department. You must select at least one 30 credit module from Criminology and at least one 30 credit module from Sociology. Options must be approved by the Academic Coordinator in the relevant Department for the options available in any particular year.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#). As part of your degree course you may also be required to complete a module to develop your academic writing skills. This module does not carry credit but passing it is a requirement to progress to the next year of study.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to develop a sound and extensive knowledge base in criminology and sociology;
- to develop the research literacy of students including training in research techniques;
- to enable students to acquire the knowledge which will enable them to understand complex social problems;
- to foster the capacity for independent learning which is essential to continuing personal development;
- to equip students with key communications and IT skills;
- to deliver teaching within a flexible and progressive structure which will enable students to acquire knowledge, understanding and appropriate skills relevant to criminology and sociology;
- to provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study or research in criminology and sociology.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge of key concepts and theoretical approaches that have been developed and are developing within criminology and sociology and the ability to critically evaluate their application (K); 2. An understanding of the value of comparative analysis (K); 3. An understanding of the relationship between individuals, groups and social institutions (K); 4. An understanding of the role of culture in social life (K); 5. An understanding of the social processes underpinning social change and the criminal justice system (K); 6. An understanding of the nature and appropriate use of diverse research strategies and methods in developing criminological and sociological knowledge (K); 7. An understanding of the relationship between sociological argument and evidence (K); 8. An awareness of the distinctive character of both criminology and sociology in relation to other forms of understanding, such its the relation to other disciplines and to everyday explanations (K); 9. The ability to identify criminological psychological and sociological problems, formulate questions and investigate them (S); 10. The ability to appraise critically political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in the light of criminological theories (S); | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The ability to provide an analytical account of social diversity and inequality and their effects in relation to crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance (S); 12. The ability to evaluate policing practices and developments in terms of changing values and relationships between individuals, groups, and public and private agencies in different locations (S); 13. The ability to examine critically the values, practices and processes of governance, including human rights, that underpin youth and criminal justice and agencies which administer sentencing and alternatives (S); 14. Clear and concise presentation of complex information, both orally and in writing (S*); 15. Critical and independent thinking, including evaluation of oral and written evidence (S*); 16. Team working, negotiation and collaboration (S*); 17. Investigative skills, including literature and database searches (S*); 18. Reading skills: the ability to identify the most important arguments and evidence in a text and to record and/or to represent these (S*); 19. Research skills needed to plan and execute a project on a defined topic, present a coherent, reasoned argument in an oral presentation or an extended piece of written work (S*); 20. Information technology (including spreadsheets, databases, word processing, e-mail, and the world wide web) (S*); 21. Computing skills in relation to both text and the presentation of basic research data (S*); 22. Independent and reflective learning (S*); 23. Good time management (S*). |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, small group tutorials, group work, coursework essays, oral presentations, guided independent research and guided independent study. Particular training in criminological and sociological skills is given in the skills and research training courses in the degree course (mandatory modules CR2011 and CR3011), while other modules in the course also develop and assess these skills in specialist contexts. The College Computer Centre provides IT training and you are expected to meet basic standards in information technology.

Assessment is typically by formal examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, and the independent dissertation. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Section 8 – Additional costs

None.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards

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| QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level | 4-6 |
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Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.

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|---|---|
| QAA Subject benchmark statement(s) | http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements |
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Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.

Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

| Award | Criteria | Awarding body |
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| Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE) | Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5 | Royal Holloway and Bedford New College |
| Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE) | Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 | Royal Holloway and Bedford New College |

| Section 12 - Associated award(s) | |
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| BSc Hons Criminology and Sociology (LM39) | BSc Hons Criminology and Sociology with a Year in Industry (LL33) |