

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 University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and polices can be found [here](#). Further information on the University'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.

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 a 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			
Date of specification update	April 2024	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	2025/26		
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:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

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	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
1	CR1011	Introduction to Criminology	30	4	MC
1	CR1013	Criminal Justice System	30	4	MC
1	CR1014	Introduction to Sociology	30	4	MC
1	CR1015	Social Problems and Social Policy	30	4	MC
2	CR2011	Research Methods for Social Scientists	30	5	MC
2	CR2013	Key Perspectives and Debates	30	5	MC
2	CR2014	Sociology of Contemporary Society	30	5	MC
3	CR3011	Dissertation	30	6	MC
<p>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'.</p> <p>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.</p>					
3.2 Optional modules					

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. 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; please contact the Department for further information.

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](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year undergraduate students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 in order to progress into the second year of study (unless their course includes the alternative mandatory SS1000 module). The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [Academic Taught Regulations](#) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic 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. (<i>Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)</i>)			
Course learning outcome	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
<p>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.</p> <p>2. An understanding of the relationship between society and social institutions and social change, including how this relates to criminal justice processes.</p> <p>3. An understanding and ability to use diverse research strategies and methods in order to develop and evaluate criminological and sociological problems.</p> <p>4. An awareness of the distinctive character of both criminology and sociology in relation to other forms of understanding, such its relation to other disciplines and to everyday explanations.</p> <p>5. The ability to appraise critically political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in the light of criminological theories.</p> <p>6. The development of critical thinking in order to identify, interpret and present complex information both orally and in writing.</p> <p>7. The development of team working skills, such as negotiation and collaboration, as well as independent and reflective learning.</p> <p>8. Experience with different forms of Information Technology and development and presentation of basic research data.</p> <p>9. Independent and reflective learning.</p>	<p>4.1 Develop research skills.</p> <p>4.2 Develop coherent arguments in oral and written form.</p> <p>4.3 Acquire good time management skills.</p> <p>4.4 Use appropriate research strategies.</p> <p>4.5 Understand the relationship between sociological argument and evidence.</p>	<p>5.1 Develop oral and written communication skills.</p> <p>5.2 Understand the social processes underpinning social change and the criminal justice system.</p> <p>5.3 Understand the relationship of criminology and sociology to other disciplines.</p> <p>5.4 The ability to appraise critically political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in the light of criminological theories.</p>	<p>6.1 Assess critically the values, practices and processes of governance.</p> <p>6.2 Convey complex information in a variety of formats.</p> <p>6.3 Use appropriate research strategies and methods in developing criminological and sociological knowledge.</p>

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 University 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](#).

Contact hours come in various 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. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark 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.

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.

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

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	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
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.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
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– 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
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