

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2017-18

MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice

About the course

A stimulating and demanding programme, involving intensive learning in small groups, the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice will equip you with an advanced understanding of crime and criminal justice, comprising courses in criminological theory, the study of criminal justice, and training in research design and methodology.

The MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice is offered on both a full time (1 year) and part time (2 year) basis. The degree and expectations for both modes of study are equally rigorous. Part time students take their classes with the full time students, but spread over two years to accommodate work and personal circumstances.

The MSc is comprised of three components (the timings refer to the full time course, please see the Law Faculty website for details of the part time course):

1. Core course and compulsory research methods course

The compulsory core course runs weekly for the first eight weeks of the first two terms.

Explanation and understanding in criminology

In the first term, this theme develops understanding of the organising categories and central claims of a range of modern criminological perspectives of crime and social control. It will equip you to recognise the main problems, questions, dichotomies and ideas that have shaped modern criminological thought, and to understand the nature of 'theory' and 'explanation' within criminology. Part-time students take this course in the first term of their first year of study.

Understanding criminal justice

The second half of the course offers you a thorough grounding in the criminological understanding of criminal justice/penal institutions and processes. The core themes of classic research on these processes are introduced, before you are introduced to contemporary issues and controversies in criminal justice and punishment. The course introduces you to competing theoretical perspectives on the criminal justice process and encourages you to think about the role of the state/criminal law in the regulation of human behaviour and the place and limitations of criminal justice interventions in producing safe societies. Part-time students can choose to take this compulsory course in the second term of either their first or second year of study.

Research design and data collection

This course is focused on the challenges and the opportunities that different methods of data collection have for validity and reliability of data. Methods include experiments and quasi-experiments; questionnaires and survey research; field research, and the collection of written documents. The scientific method, theory testing and research design will also be discussed. Ethical concerns are given special emphasis. Part-time students take this course in the first term of their first year of study.

2. Optional subjects



Full-time students will take five optional modules over the first and second terms of the year. Part-time students take a total of five options across the two years of study. Option courses run for eight weeks in each term. Recent option modules have included:

- Race and gender
- Sentencing
- Public and private policing
- Research Methods
- Prisons
- Comparative, Criminal Justice, Security and Human Rights
- Politics of Crime Control
- Comparative and Transnational Justice
- Criminal Justice, Migration and Citizenship
- Crime and the Family
- Violence and Civilisation
- Criminal Justice in Transitional Settings
- Risk, Security and Criminal Justice
- The Death Penalty
- Youth Justice

As a full-time student, you will be expected to spend at least 50 hours studying each week during term, and to undertake some further study during vacations. During Michaelmas and Hilary term students you will be advised to divide your time between the core course and your other courses as follows:

- At least 18 hours per week preparation for the core course
- At least 10 hours per week preparation for each option/compulsory course
- 4.5 to 6 hours per week in seminars (90 minutes for each course)

Part-time students will be expected to commit to a proportional workload.

3. Dissertation

In addition to the options you take, you will write a dissertation during Trinity term. Part-time students will write their dissertations in Trinity Term of their second year, but will be encouraged to start planning their dissertation in Trinity term of year one. This will be researched and written independently, with only minimum guidance from your dissertation supervisor. This is also supported by a compulsory but non-assessed Academic Skills Workshop for Criminologists, attended by both full-time and part-time students.

Assessment

In addition to the dissertation submitted at the end of Trinity Term there are two unseen examinations of the core course.

The research methods courses are examined by means of an assessment to be submitted at the end of the term. These courses also have some term-time assignments which are assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Each option is examined by means of an assessed essay, also to be submitted at the end of the term in which the option runs.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Expected length of course

9 months (full time) or 21 months (part-time)

Annual fees for entry in 2017-2018

Full-time study

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£8,715	£3,021	£11,736
Overseas	£15,755	£3,021	£18,776

Part-time study

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£4,360	£1,511	£5,871
Overseas	£7,880	£1,511	£9,391

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; for courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Tuition and college fees are payable each year for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay tuition and college fees).

Additional cost information

Full-time study

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Part-time study

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Further, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2017-18 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£250	£350	£2,250	£3,150	£3,000	£4,000
Accommodation	£538	£619	£4,844	£5,569	£6,459	£7,425
Personal items	£115	£255	£1,035	£2,295	£1,380	£3,060
Social activities	£40	£119	£358	£1,073	£477	£1,431
Study costs	£38	£83	£338	£743	£451	£991
Other	£22	£45	£196	£407	£261	£543
Total	£1,002	£1,471	£9,021	£13,237	£12,028	£17,649

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2017-18, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs.

28 October 2016