

Module code	IC	NQF level	4
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Online

# Introduction to Criminology

## This module aims to:

- Give you the opportunity to develop your understanding of a range of criminological issues
- Introduce you to various definitions and understanding of crime and criminal behaviour
- Explore the role of criminogenic factors which may trigger criminal behaviour
- Introduce you to a range of historical and contemporary criminological perspectives on crime
- Identify the 'dark side' of crime statistics and their meaning
- Explore the role of media, TV and movies in affecting popular perception on crime and criminality

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- understand and evaluate key historical and contemporary criminological theories of crime
- recognise and critically assess a number of perspectives related to the explanation of crime perpetration

## Syllabus

- Introduction to criminology
- First theoretical developments: classicism and positivism

- Further developments 1: Biological positivism
- Further developments 2: Psychological positivism
- Sociological criminology
- Social research and criminology
- Social interaction and criminology
- Feminist criminology
- Crime data and crime trends
- Crime and the media
- Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The lecturecasts will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	Unit 2 and Unit 3	10%
Mid-module assignment	2,000 words	Unit 6	40%
Journal entries	500 words (each)	Unit 4 and Unit 8	10%
End of module project	2,000 words	Unit 9	40%