



Module code	VCV	NQF level	6
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

# Victimology and Criminal Victimization

## This module aims to:

- Examine the history and theoretical perspectives on Victimology
- Investigate the incidence of criminal victimisation amongst vulnerable persons
- Assess criminal victimisation in the context of anti-social behaviour, corporate crimes, domestic violence, hate crimes and state crimes
- Explore the role of the victim in the criminal justice process and the provision of victim support services
- Analyse comparative approaches to victim services in the European Union and United States

## Learning outcomes

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

- apply an understanding of criminological theories to assess the political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation
- demonstrate the relationship between diversity and social inequality in relation to victimisation
- understand the role of the victim in the criminal justice process and the support services available to them
- evaluate comparative approaches to victim services in the European Union and United States

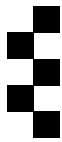
## Learning and teaching methods

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 live lectures 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. At pre-arranged and regularly agreed points, on specified days and times in advance of each lecture (typically two to three days prior to the lecture) there will be a 'drop in' telephone or online preparatory learning liaison session conducted between the student(s) and tutor, typically lasting for 20 to 30 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide students with an introductory preview of the week's work and give them an opportunity to ask specific and general questions related to that week's learning opportunities and to enable them to contextualise their learning experience. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given weekly direction on required and indicative reading.

## Syllabus

- History of and theory of victimology:
  - consider how to define victimology
  - review the history of victimology
  - reflect upon reasons for the increasing focus on the victim
  - examine various victimology theories
  - reflect upon the process of victimisation
- Definitions and data:
  - consider the definition of the term 'victim of crime'
  - consider the term's connotations of weakness, vulnerability and innocence
  - question the use and application of the term to different categories of people and in respect of different types of crime
  - critically evaluate the implications of the subjective use of the term in respect of the responsibility of the Criminal Justice System and wider society
  - consider the use and value of the British Crime Survey in soliciting data from victims of crime and portraying a more accurate picture of crime than police crime data
- Social inequalities, vulnerability and victimisation:
  - examine whether there are links between social inequalities, vulnerability and criminal victimisation
  - reflect upon violent crimes against women, specifically rape and domestic violence
  - consider the nature and extent of the criminal victimisation of children
  - consider whether abject poverty increases the risk of criminal victimisation
  - examine responses to the criminal victimisation of women and children
- Hate crimes:
  - consider the concept and nature of hate crimes
  - reflect upon religiously and ethnically motivated hate crimes
  - consider hate crimes targeted at disabled people
  - examine the responses of the relevant authorities to hate crimes
  - explore what can be done to support victims of hate crimes
- Criminal victimisation:
  - look more closely at the effects of being a victim of crime
  - consider the mental health impacts of being a victim of sustained violent crime
  - reflect upon the possibility of secondary victimisation by the Criminal Justice System and the wider society
  - become familiar with some of the support networks that are available to victims of crime
  - consider ways in which to mitigate the effects of criminal victimisation



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- Crimes of the powerful and hidden victims:
  - consider what is meant by crimes of the powerful
  - reflect upon organised crime, corporate crime and state crime
  - consider the impact on victims of crimes of the powerful
  - reflect upon the responses to crimes of the powerful
  - examine whether responses to victims of crimes of the powerful are adequate
- Victims in the criminal justice system:
  - consider how the police and other public services respond to the needs of victims of crime
  - consider how this has changed over time and place
  - examine the type of support, information, compensation and decision-making roles given to victims
  - analyse how to assess the need of victims
  - reflect upon the development and work of victim services
- Justice for victims:
  - examine how victims are treated in court
  - reflect upon recent developments in the treatment of victims in court
  - think about what can be done to improve the treatment of victims during pre-trial, prosecution and sentencing proceedings
  - examine the roles, purpose and types of restitution and compensation for victims of crime
  - consider the value of restorative justice and the role of the victim therein
- EU perspectives:
  - consider whether the UK can draw lessons from European developments in respect of responses to the victim of crime
  - reflect upon the development of criminal injuries compensation
  - review the implementation of the Framework Decision of the European Union on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings (2001) across Member States
  - look at reporting rates of victims of crime across EU Member States
  - reflect upon victim satisfaction with the police and other services across EU Member States

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%