Criminology and Sociology
abdn.ac.uk/sociology
This programme is delivered by experts in criminology, sociology, law, and psychology to provide you with a critically informed understanding of the causes of crime, the wide-ranging impacts of crime and the effectiveness of crime prevention measures such as law, policing and prisons.

You will investigate how crime and criminality are defined and understood, how crime and punishment relate to a broad range of social and psychological factors, and how key aspects of the legal system are developed and applied.

You will examine how technological advances are affecting crime and crime detection, how social arrangements contribute to social order and disorder and how key aspects of social relations and organisations have developed over time.

Our interdisciplinary approach equips you with a wide range of skills to inform your understanding of individuals, social relations and organisations, as well as the psychosocial conditions that contribute to disorder, instability and crime.

You will explore public, media and legal perspectives on crime and society, and address the way these perspectives relate to different groups based on social class, age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, mental health and citizenship status.

Why Study Criminology and Sociology at Aberdeen?

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Degree Structure & Content

Course information is provided for guidance only and is subject to change. Core or compulsory courses are shown which are correct at the time of going to print.

YEAR 1
- Introduction to Sociology I: Self, Identity and Society
- Introduction to Sociology II: Systems of Power
- Criminal Law
- English Criminal Law and Legal System
- Introductory Psychology 1: Concepts and Theory
- Introductory Psychology 2: Concepts and Theory

YEAR 2
- Sociology of Everyday Life I: The Embodied Self
- Sociology of Everyday Life II: Global Issues in the 21st Century
- Introduction to Criminology
- Crime: Theories and Concepts
- Advanced Psychology A: Concepts and Theory
- Advanced Psychology B: Concepts and Theory

YEAR 3
- Thinking Sociologically
- Social Research Methods
- Biological Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Crime and Social Justice
- Policing and Society

YEAR 4
- Research Project 1
- Research Project 2
- Optional Course in Law
- Face Recognition
- Forensic Psychology

Career Development

As governments face increasing constraints on public spending, understanding crime and other social problems is a key concern for policymakers and stakeholders.

This degree will develop the key critical thinking, analytical and research skills for a career in social and public policy fields in all sectors (public, voluntary, and private), as well as more specifically within criminal justice organisations.

Aberdeen is ranked 10th in the UK for Sociology - The Guardian University Guide 2021.