

# Get ready for BA(Hons) Criminology and Sociology

Sociology at UWE focuses on how we can make a difference to self and society using sociological theories and approaches. Through a broad range of modules, and with the support of our staff who are leaders in their field, you'll engage with real-world issues, such as the refugee/ economic migrant crisis, global inequalities, representations of gender or ethnicity in the media, consumerism and climate change, the stresses and strains of contemporary family life, and the impact of new technology on cultural production and cultural tastes. You will be tackling this and more on the Sociology side of **your BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology** course.

What is crime? How do we define 'crime'? Who are the 'typical' criminals? Who is most likely to be a victim of crime? How much crime is there? What types of crime occur most frequently? How can we try to prevent crime? These are some of the key questions that are crucial to understanding crime, and that we will also be exploring as part of your **BA(Hons) Criminology and Sociology**.

As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you, and hope you are looking forward to joining us at UWE Bristol.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us and I very much look forward to meeting you soon!

**Julia Carter and Sean Creaven**  
Admissions Tutor and Programme Leader

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## Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block website](#) with more details.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

## Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of

teaching, on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more.

## **Registration**

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

## **ID card - upload your photo now**

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to [MYUWE](#). To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

## **Engage with your programme**

### **Start your learning**

Don't wait until the Autumn, start thinking about some of the central themes that underpin criminology and your degree programme now! These activities are based around the 'Sociology of Food' which we hope that you will find to be an interesting way into studying Sociology at university. The activities are entirely optional, and you need not do them before starting your course.

### **Activity One**

Listen to the lecture on '[Food and Gender](#)' by our lecturer, Beth Benker.

- Explain in your own words how Beth collected the information (data) for her research project.
- How do working class women think about food compared to working-class men?
- Try to work out what a typical evening meal might include if prepared by a middle-class woman.
- To what extent do you agree with how Beth explains what middle-class men mean by 'laziness' in relation to food?
- Drawing on your own experience use examples to assess if and how women are generally the 'channel for foods into households'.

### **Activity Two**

Keep a food diary for a day and think about these issues:

- How much did it cost to produce the food that you ate (considering any hidden costs such as energy used for cooking, transport to food outlets)?
- Where did the food come from (types of food outlets eg. Shops, food banks; countries of origin)?
- Who decided on what to eat, how was the food prepared and by whom?
- What might this food say about who you are and the connections that you have

with others (personal beliefs, nationality or ethnicity, family, food producers, etc.)?

- Was consuming this food a moment or experience of conflict or togetherness?

### **Read around your subject**

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the [Library](#) web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Following on with the theme of food, you could read these articles (or any others that you can find for yourself). **This reading is entirely optional and you need not do it before starting your course.**

**Article One:** Calder, T. (2019) [Social Identity and Veganism](#). The Vegan Society.  
Questions to think about:

- What do you know about veganism?
- Do you agree that veganism is more an individual lifestyle choice than a protest movement?
- What sort of 'social identities' are associated with veganism?
- In your view, does having a vegan sausage roll in major food stores amount to the success or failure of veganism?
- Have you ever taken part in 'Veganuary' or would you consider it? Why/why not?

**Article Two:** Bahr Bugge, A. (2011) [Lovin' It?, Food, Culture & Society](#), 14 (1), 71-89.  
Questions to think about:

- What is this article about?
- How did the researchers collect their information (data) about the food habits of young people?
- Do you agree from your experience that fast food is becoming a 'taboo food' and even a 'rebellious food'?
- What are your attitudes towards fast food and (how) has this article helped you to make sense of them?
- If you did some research on food, what would you focus it on?

**Please note. You cannot access this article (Bugge) until after you are registered. You may read it after you are registered which will give you access to the UWE library.**

For a taster of the Criminology side of things, you may if you wish engage in the following:

This very succinct summary by Stephen Case in 2017, regarding the problem of pinning down what we mean by 'crime' and how it is defined:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2IicZPW6oU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2IicZPW6oU).

The way in which we define crime is important, as it impacts upon how we measure crime. This is a key starting point of your criminology degree, and is

discussed in this article in the *Guardian* by Ally Fogg (2014):  
[www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/16/what-is-crime-measure-definitions](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/16/what-is-crime-measure-definitions)

## **Be prepared**

### **Academic skills**

There are a huge number of books on university life as well as good study techniques, including:

- Chatfield, T. (2022). *Critical Thinking: Your Guide to Effective Argument, Successful Analysis and Independent Study* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed). London: Sage.
- Race, P. (2007), *How to get a good degree: Making the Most of Your Time at University* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed). London: Oxford University Press.

### **Access support**

Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

### **Get equipped**

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact [the Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

### **International students**

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

## Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact any of us:

Admissions Tutor: **Dr Julia Carter** via email at [julia.carter@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:julia.carter@uwe.ac.uk)

Programme Leader: **Dr Sean Creaven** via email at [Sean.Creaven@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Sean.Creaven@uwe.ac.uk)

Associate Director of Studies: **Dr Mandy Kidd** via email at [Mandy.Kidd@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Mandy.Kidd@uwe.ac.uk)

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025