

Newcastle Civic Centre



Student; Durham Jail



Newcastle Quayside



Criminology Student

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UNDERGRADUATE Social Sciences



Department of Social Sciences

Criminology, Politics, and Sociology are the subject disciplines that make up the Social Sciences Department and we offer degree programmes in each of these areas. Our subjects are hugely exciting and rewarding topics to study. Social science disciplines offer new ways of thinking about the issues we normally take for granted. By drawing on historically significant and contemporary academic thought, you will learn to critically appraise the major social institutions and organisations of the twenty-first century and explore the complex social, political and economic activities that shape modern life in the UK and beyond.

Depending upon your chosen programme, you will study the direct relevance of criminology, politics and sociology to a range of issues, including, for example, the complexity of the criminal justice system, governments and governance, the changing role of the family and the workplace and the significance of social, political, cultural and economic trends. Your exploration of social and anti-social worlds will allow you to pay particular attention to the development of responses to social and political issues by states and communities – both nationally and internationally – including those that address crime and community safety, international conflict, constitutional reform, global justice, poverty and social exclusion.

Over three years of study you will acquire a range of skills through evaluating different forms of evidence, observational fieldwork, analysing texts and different forms of communication and designing and interpreting surveys. You will learn how to think as a social scientist and develop a social science imagination. You will acquire transferable skills that are crucial to future employment, including IT, research and problem-solving, communication, and working as part of a team. We are also developing a range of placement opportunities as part of our programmes.

There are 45 academic staff in the Department, experts in their field and committed to delivering a first-class learning experience. Staff are engaged in research and consultancy work at a regional, national and international level, including recent and ongoing research in Asia, Latin America, Africa, India, the USA, the UK, Europe and the Middle East. There are over 750 students studying our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and the Department is home to a thriving postgraduate research community. We also run part-time professional programmes for public sector employees and volunteers both here and abroad, including through distance learning.

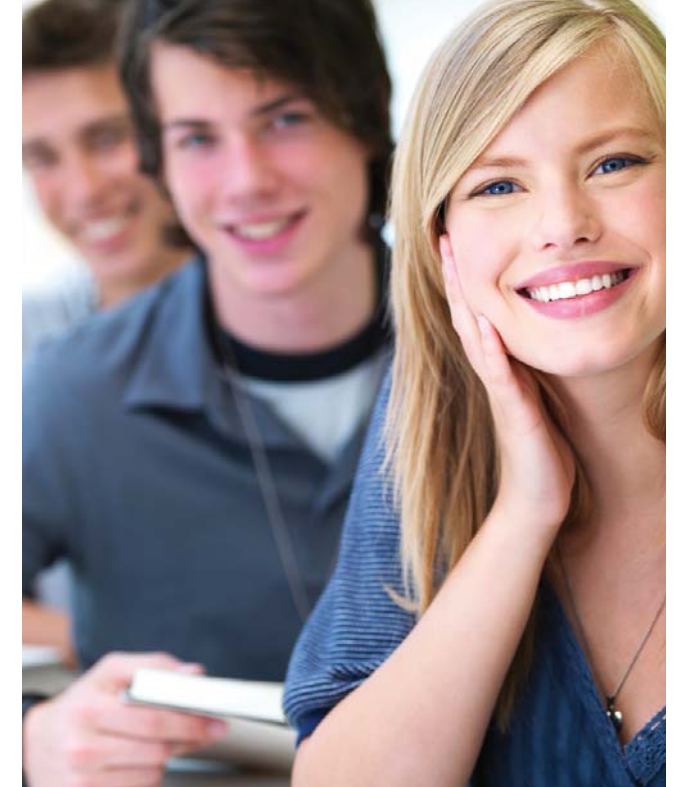
Why study the Social Sciences?

A social science degree provides a sound knowledge base and critical ability to engage with the difficult social and political debates that are currently confronting modern societies. Students are encouraged to question and challenge key assumptions and gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. Our social science degrees will provide you with excellent training and personal and professional development for a wide range of careers. Courses are designed and developed in consultation with employers, thereby ensuring that students acquire timely, up-to-date and industry-relevant knowledge and are graduate ready for employment.

To stimulate student curiosity and engagement all our teaching draws on the latest research. We use a variety of innovative learning, teaching and assessment methods and the high quality of the learning experience is routinely applauded by our own students through the National Student Survey (NSS). Through their study students have opportunities to undertake research placements, volunteering and accredited work-related learning as well as exchanges with overseas universities.

Entry requirements

Detailed information on entry requirements can be found by visiting our website www.northumbria.ac.uk/coursesearch



Career opportunities

Criminology, Politics and Sociology graduates go on to apply their knowledge and skills to a wide range of jobs including managerial and professional posts in the public and not for profit sectors, including local and central government, the police, the probation service, the prisons system, community safety, health agencies, the civil service and various research posts. Others move into careers in business including management training in the retail sector, media, marketing, information technology and advertising. Some of our graduates choose a dedicated career path by taking an additional qualification and entering the teaching, social work and legal professions. For others, academic study at postgraduate level is a popular choice and a number of these students continue on to successful study at doctoral level.

BSc (Hons) Criminology

UCAS code: M900 Duration: Three years

Criminology is a multidisciplinary subject that has developed from its sociological roots. This unique degree equips you with the knowledge and understanding required to evaluate the study of crime, criminology and the criminal justice systems nationally and internationally. You will study the theoretical and methodological approaches to criminology and develop an understanding of the social contexts in which crime and deviance exist.

Throughout the programme you will apply knowledge gained to legislation and policy and practice in relation to areas such as crime reduction, restorative justice, youth justice, social inclusion, surveillance, control and punishment. You will also examine ways in which criminological research is undertaken and address the debates concerning 'the problem of crime' as well as issues relating to transnational and organised crime, victimisation, fear, crime reduction, law enforcement, policing, justice and punishment. The final year of study is based around a dissertation/research project and a series of options, to help you develop your own thinking.

Throughout the degree you will have the opportunity to engage with practitioners and organisations involved in the criminal justice sector, third sector and penal systems in order to develop skills that support future employment or further study. Opportunities for accredited and non-accredited volunteering are also available as this is an experience that employers often look for. Practical experience in the real world will also enhance your understanding of issues raised in the classroom.

Coursework and assessment

In addition to traditional lectures and seminars – students will be able to take part in one-to-one and group tutorials to help them develop academic knowledge alongside the transferable skills relevant and attractive to potential employers. Students will engage in learning methods that develop skills and knowledge in the areas of research, investigation, presentation and employability.



Modules you may study include:

Year 1

- Researching Society
- Foundations of Social Theory
- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- Explaining Crime: An Introduction to Criminology
- Victims and Offenders
- Politics in the Twenty-first Century

Year 2

- Social Research: Theory and Practice
- Criminological Theory
- Police and Policing
- Prisons and Punishment

Options may include:

- Race Crime and Justice
- Charity Volunteering and Society

Year 3

- Dissertation

Options may include:

- Doing Time: The Prison Experience
- Crime, Drugs and Global Markets
- Crimes of the Powerful
- Mentally Disordered Offenders
- Criminology Work Experience
- Contemporary Policing and Security
- Surveillance and Society
- Concepts and Patterns of Organised Crime
- Thinking Differently about Punishment
- Global Exploitation, Conflict and Development
- Sex-work, Theory Practice and Policy
- Green Crime
- Geographies of Exclusion Fear and Crime

BSc (Hons) Sociology

UCAS code: L300 Duration: Three years

A degree in Sociology will provide you with a sound knowledge of sociological approaches to the study of contemporary society and the methods used by sociologists to gain information about the world. Students will consider key aspects of society and social change whilst exploring the theoretical models and methodological frameworks used to analyse these processes. Topics you will study include ideas and concepts relating to citizenship, culture and identity, globalisation, social policy development, the changing world of work and key issues facing modern societies.

The degree also has a strong 'global transformation' theme running throughout each year of study. You will engage with practitioners and organisations in the public sector, not for profit sector and non-governmental organisations in order to develop the knowledge and skills that support future employment or further study.

The final year of the degree is based around a dissertation/ research project and a series of options, to help you develop your own thinking, and enable you to pursue your own individual interests.

Opportunities for accredited and non-accredited volunteering are also available as this is an experience that employers often look for. Practical experience in the real world will also enhance your understanding of issues raised in the classroom.

Coursework and assessment

In addition to traditional lectures, workshops and seminars – students will participate in work-based activities, one-to-one and group tutorials to help them develop academic knowledge alongside the transferable skills relevant and attractive to potential employers.

Assessment goes beyond just the usual university essay. Students will engage in learning methods that develop skills and knowledge in the areas of research, investigation, presentation and employability.



Modules you may study include:

Year 1

- Researching Society
- Foundations of Social Theory
- Politics in the Twenty-first Century
- Global Transformations
- Culture, Power and Identity
- Life Stories

Year 2

- Social Research: Theory and Practice
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Global Poverty and Development
- Key Readings in Sociology

Options may include:

- Social Policy and The State
- Inequality, Diversity and Conflict
- Environmental Crisis?
- Youth, Crime, Justice and Transitions
- Ideology of Justice
- Post Communist Societies

Year 3

- Dissertation

Options may include:

- Activism, Power and Resistance
- Understanding Human Emotions
- Family Violence
- Global Social Justice
- Who Needs the Family?
- Civil Society
- Global Exploitation, Conflict and Development
- Sex-work, Theory Practice and Policy
- Green Crime

BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology

UCAS code: LM39 Duration: Three years

This degree encourages students to consider and critically analyse crime and criminal justice in its social context and to explore key aspects of society as well as processes of social change. Students will consider the changing nature of society, inequality, and global issues in the contemporary world as well as crime and criminal justice in these contexts. You will examine the causes of crime, wider issues of social order and social control and critically evaluate specific social and criminological processes and institutions and the policies and strategies that have been developed to confront crime and social disorder.

The degree will equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the historical, comparative and contemporary nature of crime, criminal justice and society in a global and transnational context and provide the opportunity for you to pursue your own interests through a wide choice of option modules. You will have the opportunity to engage with relevant practitioners and organisations in order to develop the core knowledge and skills that support future employment or further study.

Opportunities for studying modules in a work-based setting and optional volunteering modules are available, as this type of experience is what an employer will often look for. Practical experience in the real world will also enhance your understanding of issues raised in the classroom.

Coursework and assessment

In addition to traditional lectures and seminars students will be able to take part in one-to-one and group tutorials to help them develop academic knowledge alongside the transferable skills relevant and attractive to potential employers.

Assessment goes beyond just the usual university essay. Students will engage in learning methods that develop skills and knowledge in the areas of research, investigation, presentation and employability.



Modules you may study include:

Year 1

- Researching Society
- Victims and Offenders
- Culture, Power and Identity
- Foundations of Social Theory
- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- Global Transformations

Year 2

- Social Research: Theory and Practice
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Global Poverty and Development
- Police and Policing
- Key Readings in Sociology
- Prisons and Punishment

Year 3

- Dissertation

Options may include:

- Activism, Power and Resistance
- Global Social Justice
- Doing Time: The Prison Experience
- Crime, Drugs and Global Markets
- Family Violence
- Mentally Disordered Offenders
- Crimes of the Powerful
- Global Exploitation, Conflict and Development
- Green Crime
- Geographies of Exclusion, Fear and Crime

BA(Hons) Politics

UCAS code: L200
Duration: Three years

This degree is concerned with the study of politics in the broadest sense. It seeks to develop graduates who have a distinct understanding of government and society, and the way in which people, ideas and institutions interact. It encompasses all of the main branches of politics including political institutions, international relations, political behaviour, political thought and public policy.

The Politics degree has a strong European and international focus and it provides students with relevant methodological and analytical skills in the political sciences. In years 2 and 3 students will have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of options which allows you to pursue areas of specific interest. You can also broaden your learning as option choices are available from Sociology and Criminology degree programmes.

Coursework and assessment

In addition to traditional lectures, workshops and seminars students will participate in skills-based workshops and group tutorials to help them develop academic knowledge alongside the transferable skills relevant and attractive to potential employers. Assessment goes beyond just the usual university essay. Students are also assessed by seminar or debate logs, presentations, group work, reports and projects all designed to appeal to a diverse and ambitious student population. Students engage in learning methods that develop skills and knowledge in the areas of research, investigation, presentation and employability. Year 3 students are normally required to submit a dissertation of 10,000 words, supervised by a member of staff.



Modules you may study include:

Year 1

- Introduction to Political Thought
- Introduction to Politics and Government
- International Politics
- Researching Society
- Europe Since 1945
- Politics in the Twenty-first Century

Year 2

- Governance
- Social Research: Theory and Practice
- Political Ideologies
- Democratic Politics

Options may include:

- American Politics
- Diplomacy
- War
- Race, Crime and Justice
- Crime and the City
- Environmental Crisis?
- Inequality, Diversity and Conflict
- Post Communist Societies
- Charity, Volunteering and Society
- Gender, Crime and Justice

Year 3

- Dissertation

Options may include:

- The Challenge of European Integration
- Terrorism
- Media Power and Propaganda
- Genocide
- Civil Society
- Politics of Oil and Global Warming
- Global Social Justice
- Sex-work, Theory Practice and Policy

Paul Dresser

Criminology

What do you like most about the course?

The criminology course is flexible, diverse and challenging! Post-first year you get to choose your own modules so you're studying the things you're interested in. This allows you to get to know other like-minded people who share opinions on things you may be passionate about! Another positive is the staff that shape your experience. I truly believe the teaching and support offered by the lecturers is first class. Moreover, often the module you are studying is led by an expert in that field.

What has been your most memorable moment on the course?

There are quite a few to be honest. Winning the Creating Futures Prize and Alcan-Rio Tinto Prize for best dissertation and highest overall final average is probably up there, as is simply having my family there to see me graduate. Academia aside, there are also a load of priceless memories from various nights out which have simply been immense.

What's your favourite thing about Northumbria University?

I think my favourite thing about university life is simply the independence you gain. On top of this you are surrounded by like-minded people who are interested and passionate about life. Your time at university is literally the best of your life, and although it is a cliché, time does fly when you're having a good time.

What do you do when you're not studying?

I am currently on a five-a-side football team and enjoy going to the gym. Northumbria has just unveiled the £30 million Sport Central, incorporating a 25m pool, three-storey climbing wall, indoor running track and a fitness suite. I would definitely recommend it, it's cheap, healthy and sociable! I also work at HMV as I have a massive love of music. There are loads of music venues in Newcastle like the O2 Academy and Metro Radio Arena if you're into more mainstream stuff or places like the Cluny, Head of Steam and the gigs which take place at the universities for something a little less mainstream.

What would you like to do when you graduate?

I won a scholarship to study at postgraduate level, and I'm currently a student on the Masters of Research course at Northumbria. After this one year course I would ultimately like to do a PhD. That's the goal I set out for myself prior to applying for university and I hope to fulfil that ambition.

What three words would you use to summarise your time here?

Challenging, committed and diverse.



How to apply

Applications should be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) www.ucas.ac.uk

Course Enquiries

Tel: 0191 227 4444 Email: ar.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk

While the University endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure, it is intended for guidance only and details (e.g. modules and entry requirements) may be subject to amendment. Please visit the University's website for up-to-date information www.northumbria.ac.uk

International Students

Not only is Northumbria University the largest university in the north-east of England, but we are also a truly international university and welcome students from all over the world on our programmes. Northumbria has a 'Meet and Greet' service as well as offering students support on a range of issues which may include settling into the local area, visas, immigration and working in the UK.

Further information is available at:

International Admissions

Tel: +44 (0)191 227 4274 Fax: +44 (0)191 261 1264
Email: international@northumbria.ac.uk

Return to Learning

We welcome applications from mature students and will consider on an individual basis, those who do not meet traditional entry criteria but have an appropriate level of relevant experience. We are supportive of the University's Access to HE course, the HEFC, which provides an excellent basis for preparing adult students for entry into Higher Education. More details are available from the Return to Learning Service.

Tel: 0191 227 4323 Email: er.rtl@northumbria.ac.uk
Web: www.northumbria.ac.uk/rtl

Living and studying in Newcastle

The Quayside is at the cultural heart of the city, attracting many visitors to the numerous cafés, bars and restaurants. Here, the skyline is dominated by the iconic Tyne Bridge, the award-winning Gateshead Millennium Bridge, the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, and The Sage Gateshead international concert hall. Although modern and vibrant, Newcastle also has its own fascinating history and heritage right in the city centre and is regarded as one of Europe's finest classical cities, with many buildings of major architectural and historical significance.

When it comes to art and culture, you are spoiled for choice, since Newcastle offers you several theatres, including the Theatre Royal (home to the Royal Shakespeare Company for a season every year) as well as Live Theatre, The People's Theatre, The Journal Tyne Theatre, Northern Stage, Newcastle's newest theatre The Round and a range of cinemas from mainstream to arthouse. The Tyneside Cinema has earned its national reputation as a leading venue for both mainstream, international and art house cinema. The Side Cinema and The Star and Shadow also offer a range of screenings and opportunities for film-makers. If you're into your music – you'll be pleased to hear that artists from all over the world come to play in our top venues including: Newcastle City Hall; the O₂ Academy; the Metro Radio Arena as well as the Sage Gateshead, an outstanding international facility for all kinds of live music. As well as having our own art gallery, there are countless museums and art galleries spanning the city, offering something for everyone. Public art such as the Angel of the North, Glow, the Riverside Sculpture Park, and the Blue Carpet also contributes to the city's thriving cultural scene making sure that art is not just confined to the galleries.

www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com

BALTIC, Quayside, Gateshead



Campus life

Located in the heart of Newcastle, Northumbria University benefits from being in the middle of a lively city where one-in-six people are students. The size and compactness of Newcastle means you can be anywhere you want within a few minutes, and with the legendary friendliness and hospitality of the Geordies, you can expect a warm welcome wherever you go.

The University is the largest and most diverse in the region with over 30,000 students from all over the world. An ambitious estates programme has seen over £160m being invested in new teaching, sports and social facilities, including a new £30m sports centre. The University is committed to making sure our students have access to world-class facilities, and an attractive and safe place to study.

Escape the hustle and bustle

If you ever feel like escaping the hustle of the city, Newcastle is perfectly placed. Just 30 minutes travel by car or Metro and you can be lying on one of our blue flag beaches watching some of the best surfing in the UK, or exploring some of our wonderful countryside and world heritage sites.

If you're still not convinced, then bear in mind *Lonely Planet* recently placed North East England amongst the top 30 must see destinations in the world and named it as "the most exciting, beautiful and friendly region in the whole of England." www.visitnortheastengland.com/discover