



Study with us

# Bespoke Online Learning for the Secure Estate

Foundation Degrees and Progression Pathways

# Welcome

## A note from our CEO

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*I am extremely proud to be the Chief Executive Officer of Unitas and I wholly support the mission of the charity: To professionalise the workforce within youth and criminal justice through the provision of quality higher education.*

*Since 2008 Unitas has built a brand that has become synonymous with justice training and is utilised by 80% of local authorities across England and Wales. Our courses have been carefully crafted by both experts in the field and leading academics to ensure they offer contemporary resources to our learners. We take great pride in our values and uphold them through everything we do. Learners are at the centre of our charity and each and every one receives a personal journey from registration to completion.*

*Our pass rates are testament to the care and consideration that goes into the planning, delivery and support of our courses and their learners. Nothing beats following the successes of our learners as they progress in their careers and hearing how Unitas has given them the opportunity to flourish.*

*I very much look forward to giving you a warm welcome to Unitas.*



Emma Hannant  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# Developing a skilled workforce across the Youth and Criminal Justice Sectors

Unitas has over a decade of experience supporting practitioners and organisations across youth justice services, local authorities, and the wider criminal justice system. Our foundation degrees combine practical, vocational learning with academic rigour, helping staff to:

- Apply evidence-based practice in both community and custodial settings
- Build professional confidence and capability
- Gain a valuable qualification alongside their role





# The Unitas approach

## Why it works

At Unitas, we understand the **unique challenges** of working in the secure estate. Staff often work demanding shift patterns and need professional development that fits around their role, rather than taking them away from it.

That's why all of our courses are delivered through **flexible, online learning**. This means staff can study at a time and pace that works for them.

Our programmes:

- Allow staff to **learn without leaving their posts**, keeping the workforce strong and consistent
- Provide **on-demand access to resources and activities**, enabling study that fits around individual schedules
- Offer **ongoing learning coach support**, ensuring staff feel guided and confident throughout their studies
- Enable staff to progress academically without **disrupting operational priorities**
- Build **capability and professional confidence**, helping staff embrace their responsibilities with enthusiasm and pride.





**Alison Alford**

Learning Coach

BA (Hons) Crime, Criminology & Criminal Justice

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*“As a Learning Coach, I am available to support student learning and development on both a formal and informal basis. A key part of my role is providing constructive, personalised feedback on assignments and helping students navigate their own learning journey. Many of our students haven’t studied since leaving school and may feel less confident at the start. It’s incredibly rewarding to see their confidence grow and their skills develop as they progress through the course.”*

## Dedicated support and guidance

Every step of the way

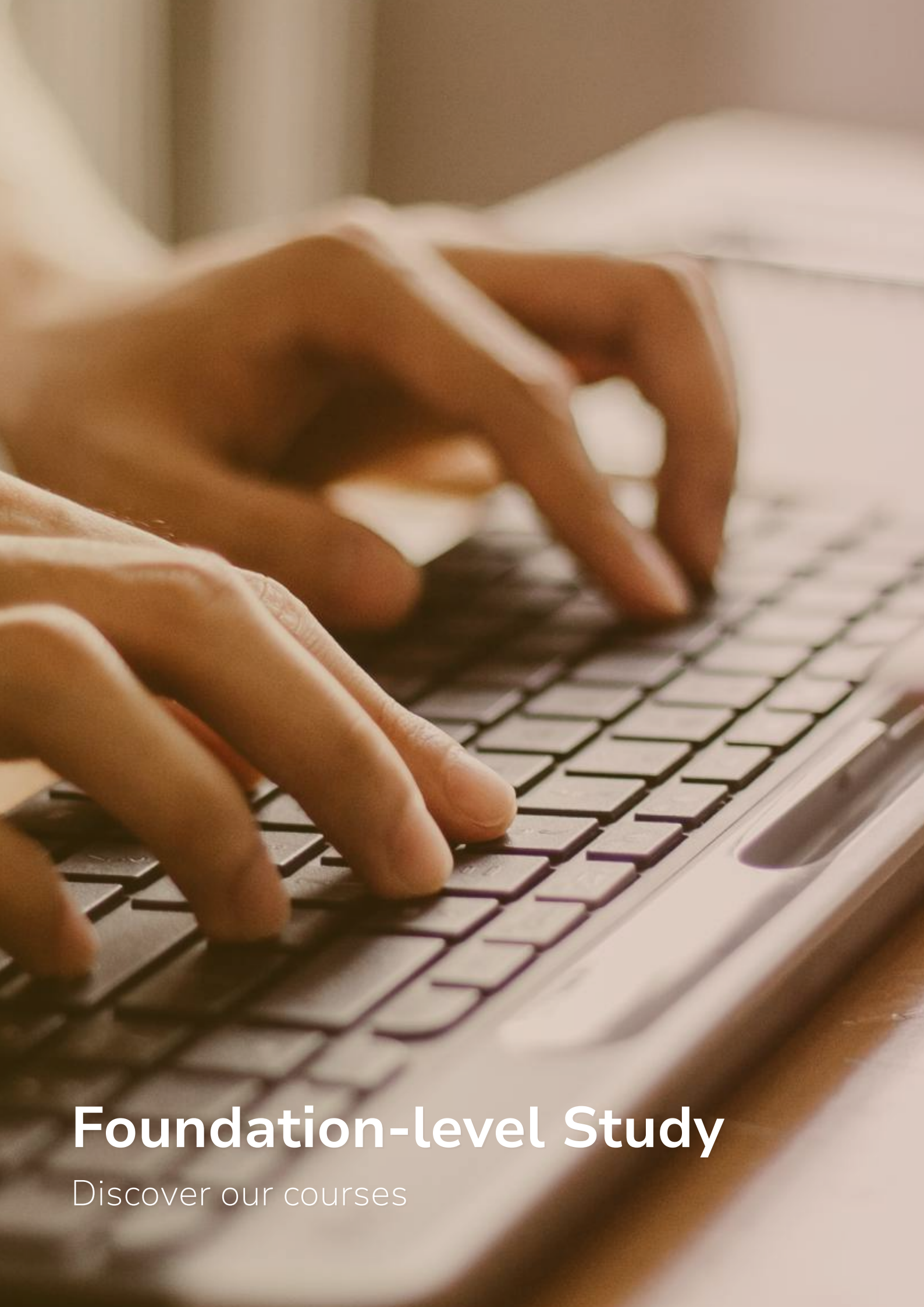


Each student is supported by a dedicated Learning Coach, providing **personalised guidance, constructive feedback, and expert advice** during their studies. Coaches ensure staff develop the skills, confidence, and knowledge needed to excel in their roles.

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Our Student Support Coordinators are on hand to manage enrolment, course queries, and any administrative needs. They ensure a **smooth and seamless learning experience**, allowing staff to focus on professional development without disruption.



# Foundation-level Study

Discover our courses

# Foundation Degree in Youth Justice

## Course details

### Total credits:

240 credits

### Level of study:

FHEQ L4 & 5 (equivalent to study

in the first and second years of an undergraduate degree)

### Length of course:

108 weeks part-time

### Entry requirements:

No specific academic requirements but must be employed/volunteering within the Youth Custody Service, youth justice system or allied area for at least one day per week

### Accredited by:



### Assessment:

A mix of:

- Computer Marked Assignments (CMAs)
- Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs)

The Foundation Degree in Youth Justice (FDYJ) is a vocational qualification designed to support staff working in the secure estate and across the wider youth justice system. It equips staff with the specialist knowledge and practical skills needed to work effectively with children in secure settings, where safeguarding, rehabilitation, and positive relational practice are central to everyday work.

Staff will develop confidence in assessing and planning for children's needs, understanding their behaviour, and building constructive relationships that support positive outcomes. The course also strengthens resilience and professional judgement, preparing staff to handle complex and sensitive situations with assurance, while offering a clear route to further career progression through to a full BA (Hons) in Youth Justice.

## Why take this course?



**Build the practical skills** to work safely and effectively with children



**Gain specialist knowledge** of child development, youth justice policy, and approaches to engaging and supporting children in custody.



**Progress academically** with 240 credits towards a BA/BA (Hons) in Youth Justice

This course is fully accredited and awarded by the **University of Suffolk**, ensuring the qualification is recognised nationally and meets rigorous academic and professional standards.



The Foundation Degree in Youth Justice is approved by the **Youth Justice Board** and widely recognised by Youth Justice Services and secure establishments across England and Wales.

The course is structured into **four comprehensive modules**, the first two of which make up the Certificate of Higher Education in Youth Justice:

## What will students study?

### **MODULE 1:** Exploring Youth Justice

- Introduction to youth justice
- Child and adolescent development
- Relationship-based practice
- Rights, responsibilities and the legal framework
- Education, training and employment
- Reflective practice

### **MODULE 2:** Developing Practice Skills 1

- Children's development in the youth justice system
- Assessment
- Safety and wellbeing
- Risk of offending and risk of harm

### **MODULE 3:** Effective Practice in Youth Justice

- Why children offend
- Working effectively
- Assessment and planning interventions
- Engagement and participation
- Custody and resettlement
- Desistance

### **MODULE 4:** Developing Practice Skills 2

- Engagement and communication
- Effective practice
- Multi-agency working and sharing information
- Transitions



## Learning resources

- Video case studies and input from practitioners, managers, and academics
- Reflective activities and regular quizzes
- Access to the University of Suffolk library, study skills advisors, and guides on assignments, referencing, and study skills

## What our students say

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Olatunji

Youth Justice Specialist Worker  
Foundation Degree in Youth Justice (FDYJ)



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*“The Foundation Degree has broadened my understanding of how the justice system has evolved in this country and given me real insight into the development of the youth justice system. Unitas makes it possible to balance work, family life, and studies, and the staff are always there to provide support whenever it’s needed.”*



“

Vicki

Deputy Director, Centre for Justice Innovation  
Foundation Degree & BA (Hons) Youth Justice

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*“The Foundation Degree gave me the opportunity to gain a broad understanding of youth justice. Professionally, it has been incredibly valuable — I even moved roles partway through the course, and the knowledge and skills I developed were integral to securing my current position.”*

# Foundation Degree in Criminal Justice

## Course details

### Total credits:

240 credits

### Level of study:

FHEQ L4 & 5 (equivalent to study in the first and second years of an undergraduate degree)

### Length of course:

108 weeks part-time

### Entry requirements:

No specific academic requirements but must be employed/volunteering within the prison service, criminal justice system or allied area for at least one day a week

### Accredited by:



### Assessment:

A mix of:

- Computer Marked Assignments (CMAs)
- Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs)

The Foundation Degree in Criminal Justice (FDCJ) is designed to help staff in the prison service, secure estate, and wider criminal justice system build practical skills and knowledge that they can apply confidently and directly in their roles.

Staff completing the FDCJ will gain practical skills to assess, plan, and work effectively with individuals in custody, alongside an enhanced professional understanding of criminal behaviours, rehabilitation, and multi-agency working. The course also builds confidence and resilience, equipping staff to handle complex situations with assurance, while providing a clear pathway for career development through progression to a full BA (Hons).

## Why take this course?

- **Deepen understanding** of the theory and evidence underpinning effective criminal justice practice
- **Develop skills** and critically evaluate research and evidence in the context of staff roles
- **Progress academically** with 240 credits towards a BA/BA (Hons) in Criminal Justice

## Accreditation and recognition

This course is fully accredited and awarded by the **University of Suffolk**, ensuring the qualification is recognised nationally and meets rigorous academic and professional standards.

The Foundation Degree in Criminal Justice (FDCJ) combines practical skills with applied knowledge, equipping staff to perform effectively in the secure estate and wider criminal justice system. The course is structured into **four comprehensive modules**, each designed to build staff capability, confidence, and professional understanding:

## What will students study?

### **MODULE 1:** Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

History of crime and punishment  
Overview of the criminal justice system  
The English legal system  
Cybercrime and crime measurement  
Psychology of crime

### **MODULE 2:** Developing Practice Skills in Criminal Justice

Multi-agency working  
Working effectively in secure environments  
Relationship-based and reflective practice

### **MODULE 3:** Criminal Behaviours

Criminologies of the right and left  
Gender, crime and justice  
Serial killers and crimes of the powerful  
Social construction of guilt and innocence  
Researching crime

### **MODULE 4:** Professional Practice Skills in Criminal Justice

Needs of people who offend  
Assessment, planning, and rehabilitation  
Transitions and professional practice

## Learning resources

- Video case studies and input from practitioners, managers, and academics
- Reflective activities and regular quizzes
- Access to the University of Suffolk library, study skills advisors, and guides on assignments, referencing, and study skills

# Progression Pathways

## From foundation to honours

Both the Foundation Degree in Youth Justice (FDYJ) and the Foundation Degree in Criminal Justice (FDCJ) provide a **clear route to a full BA (Hons)**, enabling staff to continue their professional and academic development.

### BA (Hons) Youth Justice

Staff who complete the FDYJ can progress to Level 6 study, choosing either:

- **Managing and Coaching in Youth Justice**, covering public sector management, workforce reform, and implementation, or
- **Social Policy and Youth Justice**, exploring political ideology, children in care, social policy, diverse needs, children's rights, and international youth justice systems

BA (Hons) students also undertake an **Independent Research Module**, allowing them to apply research skills to a topic of professional relevance.

### BA (Hons) Crime, Criminology & Criminal Justice

Staff completing the FDCJ can progress to Level 6 study, selecting from a range of **Contemporary Issues and Debates in Criminal Justice** optional blocks:

- Transnational crime, Drugs and society, Covert research in theory and practice, Victims of crime, Hate crime, Terrorism, Policing protest, Tackling recidivism and promoting desistance.

CCCI students also complete an **Independent Research Project** (BA Hons only), enabling them to explore an area of interest in depth. This pathway builds advanced knowledge, critical thinking, and professional credibility across the prison service, secure estate, and wider criminal justice system.



[unitas.uk.net/higher-education](https://unitas.uk.net/higher-education)







01603 570365  
[contact@unitas.uk.net](mailto:contact@unitas.uk.net)

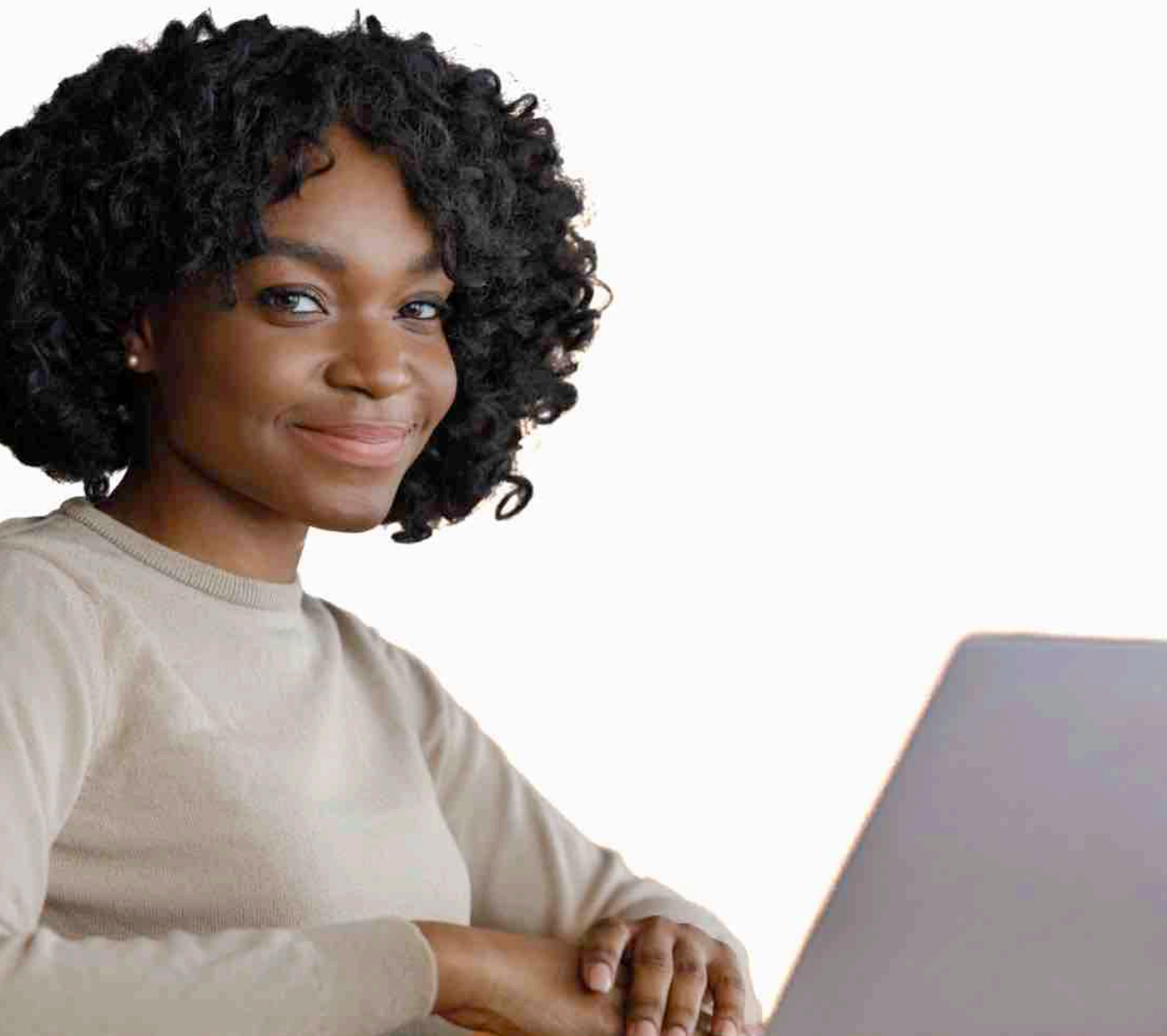
Study with us

# Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice

BA (Hons) degree pathway

# Your career. Their future.

Unlock your potential in shaping the future of justice with Unitas, a leading distance learning provider in Youth and Criminal Justice, trusted by over 4,000 students.



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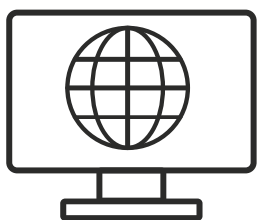
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# Studying criminology & criminal justice with Unitas

Our criminology and criminal justice courses are designed by leading experts in the field, ensuring you gain knowledge that is current, relevant, and grounded in real-world practice. Through carefully selected case studies and high-quality resources, you will explore key issues, challenges, and developments within the sector, equipping you with the critical thinking and practical skills needed for your career.

## Take control of your learning journey



### Learning that suits you

Wherever you are, and whatever your schedule, you can study criminology on your terms. Our flexible online model gives you the freedom to fit learning around your life. Study at your own pace, in a style that suits you — from your mobile, tablet or computer.



### Expert resources and support

From day one, you'll have access to everything you need to succeed — including the University of Suffolk's extensive digital library. Our resources and academic support are designed to help you feel confident, capable and supported throughout your studies.

## Support that drives your success

From enrolment to graduation, our dedicated team of learning coaches provide personalised support, helping you stay on track, build confidence, and achieve your goals.

### Meet one of our Learning Coaches

"I was thrilled to be asked to work with students on the Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice programme. As a Learning Coach, I am available to support student learning and development on both a formal and informal basis. A key part of my role is to provide constructive, written feedback on assignments and to help individuals navigate their own learning journey. I often work with students who haven't studied since leaving school and might be less confident in their abilities; as a Learning Coach, I am there to help with this transition and it is great to see a student's confidence grow as they progress through the course"

**Alison Alford | Unitas Learning Coach**



# A qualification you can trust

Our Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice courses proudly validated by the University of Suffolk, giving you confidence that your qualification meets rigorous academic standards. This recognition means you will gain a respected qualification from a trusted institution while benefiting from Unitas' expert-led, real-world approach to learning.



## Empowering your future career

Step into a rewarding career in criminal justice with a qualification that equips you with real-world skills and sector-specific knowledge. Our criminology and criminal justice courses are designed to enhance your employability and prepare you for a range of careers within the justice sector and beyond. Potential career paths include:

- Police or Probation Service
- Government departments or agencies (i.e., Home Office)
- Social work
- Youth Justice Services
- Charity and Voluntary sector
- Victim Support
- Specialist in substance misuse, mental health, domestic abuse, or housing
- Community Safety

### Transferrable skills

You will also develop practical and transferable skills that are highly valued by employers across a wide range of careers. Including:

- Critical thinking
- Time management
- Research and analysis
- Making reasoned arguments

### Want to know more?

Curious about studying with Unitas? Discover more by scanning this code or visiting [unitas.uk.net/studying-with-us](https://unitas.uk.net/studying-with-us)



# Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCCJ)

Our Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCCJ) pathway aims to answer the key questions surrounding the motivations behind people who commit crimes and how the criminal justice system responds to them. You will explore critical concepts such as the psychology of crime, the nature and impacts of crime on society and how crime can be prevented.

As you progress, you will engage with topics such as crime prevention, policing, sentencing, and rehabilitation, alongside a critical examination of issues like social justice, diversity, and the complexities of the legal system. The course equips you with the knowledge and skills to understand criminal behaviour, research crime, and develop effective responses within the criminal justice system, all while addressing contemporary debates in crime and justice.

## A buildable pathway to learning

Our flexible degree pathway allows you to work towards a full BA (Hons) degree at your own pace by earning credits one module at a time. Each module is worth 60 credits, with a total of 360 credits required to achieve a full BA (Hons).

As you progress, you will gain standalone, recognised qualifications, starting with a Certificate of Higher Education (120 credits), advancing to a Diploma of Higher Education (240 credits), and ultimately completing the BA (Hons).



# Certificate of Higher Education in Crime, Criminology & Criminal Justice

## Why take this course?

- Open the door to a rewarding career within the criminal justice system and beyond.
- Develop your analytical, reasoning and reflective skills while exploring a variety of principles such as Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Law, Social Policy and Youth Justice.
- Complete 120 credits toward the Diploma of Higher Education or BA/BA (Hons) in Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice.

## What will you study?

You will study two modules, each lasting 30 weeks. The first module looks at the key issues that relate to crime - why people commit crime and how society responds to those who do. The second module focuses on the criminal justice system itself and introduces aspects of psychology in the context of crime and criminality.

**Module 1: Introduction to Criminology**

**Module 2: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System**

## What will you gain?

The Certificate of Higher Education in Crime, Criminology, and Criminal Justice is the perfect introduction to the study of crime and the justice system. It provides a solid foundation in key concepts, theories, and real-world issues, helping you build a strong understanding of the criminal justice sector. Whether you are new to the subject or looking to enhance your existing knowledge, this course offers an accessible starting point for your learning journey.

Completing the Cert HE not only boosts your confidence and academic skills but also sets you on the path to further qualifications, such as a **Diploma or BA (Hons)**. If you take this course, it is recognised as prior learning (RPL).

## At a glance:

### Total credits

120 credits

### Level of study

FHEQ L4 (equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree)

### Course length

60 weeks part-time

### Entry requirements

GCSE English grade 4-9 (or equivalent)

### Course validated by



### Assessment

- Computer Marked Assignments (CMAs)
- Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs)

### Pricing

The total cost for this course is: **£2,600**

### Discover more

Learn more about our CCCJ pathway by scanning the code or by visiting [unitas.uk.net/ba-hons-criminology](https://unitas.uk.net/ba-hons-criminology)





# Diploma of Higher Education in Crime, Criminology & Criminal Justice

## Why take this course?

- Gain a detailed overview of how the criminal justice system works and explore different types of crime and criminal behaviour.
- Engage with academic literature and debates whilst evaluating research and evidence, applying this directly to current criminal justice or youth justice practice.
- Complete 240 credits toward the BA/BA (Hons) in Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice.

## What will you study?

You will study four modules, each lasting 30 weeks. The first two of which make up the Cert HE. The third, examines a wide range of criminal behaviours and for the final, you can choose to focus on practice in the context of the wider criminal justice system or more specifically in the context of the youth justice system.

Module 1: Introduction to Criminology

Module 2: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Module 3: Criminal Behaviours

OR

Module 4: Criminal Justice in Practice

Module 4: Effective Practice in Youth Justice

## What will you gain?

The Diploma offers a strong foundation for those aspiring to work in the criminal justice sector. You will explore key theories, real-world case studies, and contemporary issues, developing analytical and critical thinking skills essential for roles in policing, probation, and youth justice. Completion earns you 240 credits - two-thirds of the way towards a **full BA (Hons)**.

## At a glance:

### Total credits

240 credits

### Level of study

FHEQ L4 & 5 (equivalent to the first and second year of an undergraduate degree)

### Course length

120 weeks part-time

### Entry requirements

CertHE in CCCJ

### Course validated by



### Assessment

- Computer Marked Assignments (CMAs)
- Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs)

### Pricing

The total cost for this course is: **£5,200**

### Discover more

Learn more about our CCCJ pathway by scanning the code or by visiting [unitas.uk.net/ba-hons-criminology](https://unitas.uk.net/ba-hons-criminology)



# BA/BA (Hons) Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice

## Why take this course?

- Gain a full BA (Hons) at less than a third of the typical cost at UK universities, offering you excellent value for high-quality education.
- Explore key elements of crime, criminology and criminal justice and gain an insight into criminal behaviour and how society responds to it.
- Learn how to conduct and interpret research and critically engage with national and international dimensions of crime and criminal justice policy.

## What will you study?

You will study up to six 30-week modules. The first four make up the Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE). The fifth module offers choice and flexibility — you'll select six topics that interest you most. Completing five modules leads to a BA, and to achieve a full BA (Hons), you'll complete the Independent Research Module. This final module gives you the chance to carry out an independent research project in a specialist area of your choice.

Module 1: Introduction to Criminology

Module 2: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Module 3: Criminal Behaviours

OR

Module 4: Criminal Justice in Practice

Module 4: Effective Practice in Youth Justice

Module 5: Contemporary Issues and Debates in Criminology

Module 6: Independent Research Module (IRM)

## At a glance:

### Total credits

300 (BA) & 360 credits (BA Hons)

### Level of study

FHEQ L4, 5 & 6 (equivalent to the first, second and third year of an undergraduate degree)

### Course length

150 (BA) & 180 (BA Hons) weeks part-time

### Entry requirements

DipHE in CCCJ

### Course validated by



### Assessment

- Computer Marked Assignments (CMAs)
- Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs)

### Pricing

The total cost for this course is: **£6,500 (BA)**  
**£7,800 (BA Hons)**

### Discover more

Learn more about our CCCJ pathway by scanning the code or by visiting [unitas.uk.net/ba-hons-criminology](https://unitas.uk.net/ba-hons-criminology)



# Course information

## What will be covered?

### Introduction to Criminology

- Studying crime, criminology and criminal justice
- Defining crime & criminality
- Models of criminal behaviour
- Crime, prevention & community safety

### Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

- History of crime and punishment
- The Criminal Justice System: an overview
- English Legal System
- Cybercrime and policing the internet
- Measurement of crime
- Psychology of crime

### Criminal Behaviours

- Crimes of the rich and powerful
- Researching crime
- Gender, crime and justice
- Criminologies of the Right and Left
- Serial Killers
- Social construction of Guilt and Innocence

### Criminal Justice in Practice

- Policing and society
- Youth offending and youth justice
- Prisons and prison policy
- Volunteering in criminal justice
- Non-custodial responses to crime
- Diversity issues in criminal justice

OR

### Effective Practice in Youth Justice

- Why children offend
- Working effectively
- Assessment and planning interventions
- Engagement and participation
- Custody and resettlement
- Desistance

### Contemporary Issues and Debates in Criminal Justice (optional blocks)

- Transnational crime
- Drugs and society
- Covert research in theory and practice
- Victims of crime
- Hate crime
- Terrorism - past & present
- Policing protest
- Tackling recidivism and promoting resistance

### Independent Research Project (BA Hons only)

## Funding your studies

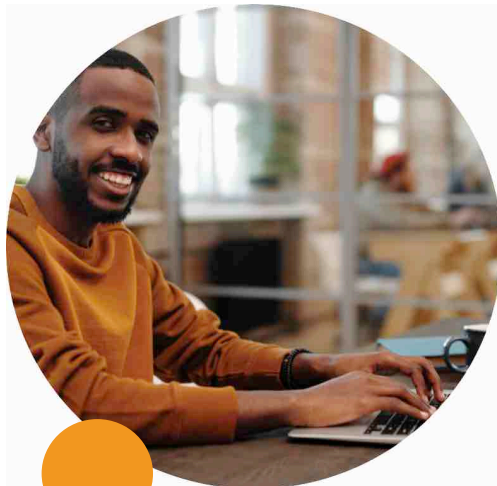
At Unitas, we believe in making quality education accessible and affordable for all. Our BA/BA (Hons) courses are priced at **less than a third** of the typical cost at most UK universities, ensuring that you get exceptional value without the financial burden. We understand that managing tuition fees can be a concern, which is why we offer an **interest-free payment plan** to make your education more affordable. Spread the cost of your course over manageable monthly interest-free payments, giving you the flexibility to pay as you go while you focus on your studies.

# Explore our other courses

If you are passionate about working directly with children in the justice system, you may also be interested in our specialist Youth Justice courses. Our vocational BA (Hons) in Youth Justice is designed for those already working with children in a relevant setting, offering a career-focused route into youth justice practice.

This degree provides the knowledge, skills, and professional development needed for roles within youth justice services, early intervention programmes, and other child-focused justice settings. Like all our courses, it is delivered fully online, allowing you to study alongside your job.

We also offer a range of other Youth Justice qualifications, from short courses to full degree programmes, helping you tailor your learning to your career goals.



## For those seeking a different route to justice

Not everyone's path into justice looks the same. If criminology is not the right fit for you, our industry-recognised youth justice courses offer an alternative way to gain the knowledge and skills needed to make a real difference.

We offer a range of professionally-recognised vocational qualifications, including:

- CPD short courses
- Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate (YJEPC)
- Youth Justice Practitioner Apprenticeship
- BA (Hons) pathway in Youth Justice
- MA Youth Justice

These courses are designed for those already working with children in justice or related settings, such as social work or youth services, as you will need practical experience to apply to case studies and assessments.

### Contact our team

Contact our student support team at [contact@unitas.uk.net](mailto:contact@unitas.uk.net) or fill out our enquiry form at [unitas.uk.net/contact-us](https://unitas.uk.net/contact-us)



### Explore our other courses

View our youth justice courses by scanning the code or visiting [unitas.uk.net/courses](https://unitas.uk.net/courses)







## Start your journey today

- Email our student support team at **[contact@unitas.uk.net](mailto:contact@unitas.uk.net)**
- Call us on **01603 570365**

Lines are open (UK time) Monday to Friday from 09:00-17:00

Visit **[unitas.uk.net/enrol](https://unitas.uk.net/enrol)** to enrol in one of our courses today.

