

MA Serious and Violent Crime

POSTGRADUATE

ONLINE



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Arden University has three decades of experience providing higher education, and we’ve helped more than 50,000 students globally gain the qualifications they need to succeed. According to our 2021 graduate survey, we have a 95% student satisfaction rating, and 9 out of 10 Arden students believe studying with us has helped them transform their careers.



MA Serious and Violent Crime

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You can visit the Arden University website page for this course [here](#).

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

PG 3

Become a leader in serious and violent crime by developing essential practical skills, such as how to cope with traumatic material in high-pressure environments and lead teams through challenging incidents and investigations. Our applied MA Serious and Violent Crime will impart the latest criminological theoretical frameworks including how to work with those accused or found guilty of the most serious and violent crimes. The course is led by applied academics with practitioner backgrounds, ensuring you gain the skillset to effectively tackle serious and violent crime in your career.

Course at a glance

- Refine and develop the resilience needed to succeed in the sector.
- Build valuable research skills in a specific area of interest within your profession.
- Supplement your learning with unique real-world experiences from our applied academics.
- Progress your career through practical assessments aligned with advanced sector-specific expertise.

Key facts

Location: Online

Start dates: Every 3 months

Part time: 1 year+

Full time: 1 year

Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch to find out more about studying this course, please use the following:

UK enquiries:

Call 0800 268 7737

Email study@arden.ac.uk

International online learning:

Call +44 20 300 56070

Email online@arden.ac.uk

Berlin blended learning:

Call +49 30 23590100

Email studyberlin@arden.ac.uk

Entry requirements

- A UK Honours Degree at a minimum of second class (2:2) or equivalent related to the field of criminology, criminal justice, or forensic psychology etc.
- If you don't meet these requirements, your application may be considered based on a minimum of 36 months of appropriate work experience with a CV and reference.
- IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element); or TOEFL iBT 90; or equivalent; Alternatively, we can accept evidence that you have previously studied in English.

Career Progression

- Police Officer
- NGO Manager
- Probation Officer
- Law Enforcement
- Civil Service
- Prison Services

If you'd like to get your application started, please click [here](#).

Online learning

Studying this course online gives you a lot of flexibility and convenience. You can enrol with us from anywhere in the world and study your degree from the comfort of home, without the requirement to attend classes in a physical location.

You'll study the course through ilearn, our university campus in the cloud. ilearn provides you with an integrated online learning experience, including your virtual classroom, lecture hall, and online library of more than half a million books and journals – yours for free while you study with us.

Studying online doesn't mean studying alone. As well as receiving regular feedback and guidance from your course tutor, you'll be studying with likeminded students and you'll have access to community message boards to discuss your course and the topics being raised within it.

We've even set up community boards embedded into each of the course modules so you can have discussions with your tutor and classmates on the topics you're currently learning.

You can find out more about online learning with Arden University [here](#).

Online learning key benefits

- Study anywhere worldwide
- Plan your own schedule
- Benefit from reduced costs
- Study around work and family life

Discover why so many students choose online learning with Arden [here](#).



The bespoke modules on this course cover serious and violent crime and its many guises. Taking an applied focus, you'll gain the real-world professional knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to lead in the sector. Covering areas such as reflective practice and leadership, the psychology of serious offending, and more, our niche modules will provide you with the unique opportunity to meticulously analyse serious and violent crime.

We deliver a wide variety of teaching methods to contextualise and support your learning journey. This includes inviting sector guest speakers who are leading practitioners in their fields to expand your knowledge on a range of criminological topics. Please see the following pages for a detailed overview of each course module.

Level 7 core modules

Reflective Practice and Leadership (20 credits)

Working within the criminal justice system can be challenging, and the effects it can have on practitioners have been well documented. This module will explore emotional readiness as a foundation before introducing you to the challenges faced within this field. You will be coached towards the development of skills needed for resilience and sustained well-being, leading and managing teams in complex and challenging situations, and collaborative work relationships. You will also learn how research can be used to inform policy. The module will help you to:

- **Analyse the impact working within the criminal justice system can have on physical, psychological, and social health.**
- **Evaluate the skills required to build emotional awareness, resilience and coping strategies, including the benefit of effective supervision.**
- **Evaluate the skills required to successfully lead teams in complex and challenging situations within the criminal justice system.**
- **Critically discuss the complexities of conducting work across different agencies within the field of sexual and violent crime.**

The Criminal Justice System and Globalisation (20 credits)

This module will equip you with a critical understanding of the progress made and challenges faced within the criminal justice system in England and Wales. It will explore the evolution of the criminal justice system, analysing adaptations made in relation to responding to emerging types of serious, organised, and violent crime. There will be an emphasis on existing frameworks and issues in policing, probation, and prisons. The module also embeds the area of 'digital justice' within the courts and legal system and the implementation of 'virtual courts'. You will learn to:

- **Critically evaluate the progress made, and challenges faced, by the criminal justice system in responding to modern and transnational crime.**
- **Critically assess governing legislation, together with the processes and the work of the UK and international agencies engaged in the prevention of transnational crime**
- **Evaluate recent efforts to embed 'digital justice' within the courts and legal system.**
- **Demonstrate a critical understanding of contemporaneous issues in policing, probation, and prisons.**

The Psychology of Serious Offending (20 credits)

The discipline of psychology can help us understand why people might commit crimes, how to investigate them, and how we can work with offenders to support positive rehabilitation. This module will serve as an introduction to the psychology of offending with a focus on forensic and investigative psychology. It will introduce you to advances in forensic psychology and how psychology as a whole has helped shape the investigative process in the UK. You will also gain insight into the complexity of sentencing serious offenders. The module will teach you to:

- **Critically analyse different theoretical approaches to explaining serious and violent offending.**
- **Critically discuss the relationships between psychological disorders and serious crimes.**
- **Reflect on the current and historic approaches to offender profiling and investigative psychology.**
- **Appraise the challenges faced by practitioners when dealing with mentally disordered offenders accused of serious crimes.**

Managing Intelligence and Investigations (20 credits)

Following a chronological sequence, this module will explore intelligence gathering and analysis, incidents and operation management, and effective investigations. You will learn what intelligence is, how it can guide decision-making towards the management of an effective operation, and the challenges faced by practitioners when utilising intelligence. The module will also examine the use of surveillance, how investigations have been shaped by technological advances, and the multifaceted nature of evidence collection. You will develop the skills to:

- **Evaluate how effective surveillance and intelligence can be utilised during the detection and disruption of crime, whilst also recognising agency business drivers such as political and economic pressures.**
- **Identify and analyse relevant issues related to privacy and data protection.**
- **Evaluate how intelligence can inform effective incident and investigation management.**
- **Reflect critically on case studies where effective (or non-effective) incident management has impacted an ongoing case.**

Terrorism, Extremism and Hate (20 credits)

This module will develop your knowledge of the various manifestations of online hate crimes and extremism. You will be introduced to the online extremist 'ecosystem' to gain a deeper appreciation of the nexus between hate crime, hate speech, and the promotion of terrorism. The role of 'fake news' and disinformation in fueling online hate speech will be investigated through case studies on active right-wing extremists. Finally, the module will explore a range of civil society initiatives for countering online hate and extremism. It will equip you with the skills to:

- **Critically analyse radicalisation processes and their broader connection to online extremism and hate.**
- **Analyse the reciprocal relationship between online and offline hate crime and extremism as well as their role in the promotion of terrorism.**
- **Reflect critically on a range of online/offline hate crimes through an evaluation and application of real-world case studies.**
- **Evaluate measures to detect and counter online hate crime and extremism as well as the risk factors for victimisation.**

Cybercrime and the Dark Web (20 credits)

Technology is now pivotal in our everyday lives, which has brought with it the opportunity for crime to be committed in new and diverse ways. This module will equip you with a critical understanding of the complexities of cybercrime, and the challenges faced by criminal justice agencies, businesses, and organisations in the face of cybercrime. It will also explore the darknet in the context of emerging crime trends and how authorities are attempting to monitor, investigate, and prevent these crimes. The module will teach you the skills to:

- **Critically examine and discuss the theoretical perspectives that relate to the study of cybercrime.**
- **Critically assess the right to freedom of speech and expression in respect of public protection and safety.**
- **Demonstrate a critical understanding of key concepts such as grooming, incitement, coercion, radicalisation, and the darknet.**
- **Analyse the threats of the darknet and the harms associated with the use of the darknet.**

Independent Research Project (60 credits)

Your modules culminate in the undertaking of an independent research project in an area of your choice within the field of criminology. Through this, you will have the opportunity to develop your skills in the planning, design, analysis, and dissemination of subject-specific research, gaining a first-hand appreciation of how research can inform policy. Your work should aim to offer new insights into your area of choice and therefore positively contribute to future research and practice. Your learning outcomes at the end of the module include the skills to:

- **Conduct a comprehensive literature review in an area of specialism, arriving at sound research questions and/or aims through the application of critical evaluation.**
- **Make robust research design decisions based on a theoretical understanding of methodologies.**
- **Critically analyse data using various techniques and appreciate the advantages/disadvantages of qualitative/quantitative research.**
- **Reflect critically on your own practice, identifying limitations of the current research project and directions for future research.**



Dr. Emma Winlow

Head of School – School of Criminology,
Criminal Justice and Law

Dr. Emma Winlow obtained her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Criminology and Crime & Justice from the University of Chester and completed her PhD at the University of Gloucestershire. A public criminologist, Emma has extensive leadership and management experience in higher education and is passionate about accessibility, inclusion, and employability in teaching and learning. She established the School of Criminal Justice with these practices in mind. Emma is also a member of the British Society of Criminology and the British Society of Criminology's Teaching and Learning Network.

Why study with Arden University?

At Arden University we believe everyone, everywhere has the right to gain the life and career benefits that higher education can bring. We are dedicated to making the university experience convenient and accessible to ambitious and motivated individuals worldwide.

Our mission is to connect adult learners like you with higher education study opportunities that give you the tools you need to fulfil your career and life goals. We challenge conventional perceptions of degree study by providing flexible, vocational courses with timetables and learning options that fit around your life commitments.

As an education provider that is not constrained by bricks and mortar or traditions, we are able to offer courses that are innovative, affordable, and which help students and employers reap the benefits of contemporary training and skills development.

Arden is the university that comes to you, on your terms, helping you achieve the life and professional success you want.



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