

# Job Description – Job Title: Lecturer in Criminology (fixed term contract for 2 years)

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## **About the role**

The person appointed will be a Central Academic member of staff based in the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies (SSGS) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at The Open University, Milton Keynes.

## **Key responsibilities**

The person appointed will contribute to the teaching, research and academic life of the Department, School, Faculty and University. You will be able to work collaboratively and effectively in team contexts in a range of ways, by:

### ***Teaching***

- Playing a role, as part of a team, in planning, producing and delivering successful Criminology modules and qualifications at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Contributing to the development and teaching of Criminology curricula and to other related qualifications in the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies

Examples of the nature and type of teaching and learning offered by the Open University can be found on OpenLearn: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

### ***Research***

- Enhancing the University's national and international research profile in Criminology and Social Policy through a developing record of high quality publications suitable for submission in the Research Excellence Framework.
- Working effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research culture.
- Enthusiasm for applying for external grant income and leading grant-funded and other research projects.
- Contributing effectively to the research activities of the Harm and Evidence Research Collaborative, and/or other School or Faculty research centres as opportunities arise.
- Demonstrating commitment and enthusiasm for working in teams applying for external grant income.
- Potential to supervise research students.

### ***Academic Service***

- Consistently contributing in positive ways to the development of a collegial, engaged and supportive academic community in the School, Faculty and University, including by undertaking a range of possible leadership and administrative roles from time to time, when such opportunities arise.

## Skills and experience

### Essential

- A PhD or equivalent in Criminology or close to PhD completion.

### *Essential*

- Experience of teaching (in any relevant setting)
- An interest in and commitment to distance learning with a view to developing effective multi-media teaching and enhancing teaching and learning through a Virtual Learning Environment in ways suitable for students from a wide range of backgrounds.
- A demonstrable track record of working in, and an ongoing commitment to, criminology.
- An ability to work collaboratively, effectively and collegially with others in interdisciplinary teaching, research and wider institutional contexts.
- A developing research profile that complements or extends existing expertise within the Department.
- Evidence of a developing research profile that is of a high standard
- Evidence of the potential to contribute to the generation of external research funding.
- Excellent writing and communication skills.
- Evidence of an ability to produce work to a high standard and to agreed deadlines.

### *Desirable*

- Experience of working in open or distance-teaching and developing multi-media teaching particularly through a virtual learning environment.
- An ability to extend and consolidate the public engagement and impact activities of Social Policy and Criminology, the School and the Faculty.

### *Personal abilities and qualities*

- Strong commitment to practices of equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Commitment to values of The Open University.
- Ability to communicate effectively with co-workers and colleagues 'at a distance'.
- Flexibility and adaptability of working practices.

## About the unit/department

### The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

The Faculty is the largest and most diverse at The Open University, with some 50,000 students studying our modules with excellent completion rates and consistently outstanding student satisfaction ratings. Noted for the strength of our interdisciplinary approaches, our scholars of international standing teach and research a very wide range of topics and themes in specific subject areas, recognized as world class or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, and having a direct and profound influence on our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The Faculty is currently organised into three Schools:

- School of Social Sciences and Global Studies
- School of Arts and Humanities
- School of Psychology & Counselling

Students are supported by three Student Support Teams. These teams offer specialist study support to students undertaking our qualifications across the University. Members of academic staff, including regional academics, form part of these teams in sustaining and improving student progression and retention.

The Faculty works closely with important organisations and institutions in the UK and other parts of the world in a range of validated partnerships and collaborations. Engaged in world-class, agenda setting research tackling the most difficult challenges facing us in the 21st Century, with work in numerous subject-based and interdisciplinary research groups and projects.

With c.1800 members of staff comprising academics, associate lecturers, support staff and full-time research students working across the locations of the University, combining originality and innovation in research and curriculum, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is a vibrant and exciting place to study and work.

To find out more about the Faculty's teaching, learning and research, please visit: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/>

### Social Policy and Criminology

Social Policy and Criminology has responsibility for its own modules and also contributes to interdisciplinary modules in the School and Faculty.

The current (60 point) undergraduate modules to which Social Policy and Criminology contribute are:

- DD102, Introducing the Social Sciences*
- DD103, Investigating the Social World*
- DD105, Introduction to Criminology*
- DD212, Understanding Criminology*
- DD311, Crime, Harm and The State* (launches October 2020)

These modules contribute to the following awards:

BA Hons Combined Social Sciences  
BA Hons Combined Social Sciences (with Criminology)  
BA Hons Criminology and Law  
BSc Hons Criminology and Psychological Studies  
BA Hons Combined Social Sciences (with Social Policy)  
BA Hons Social Policy and Criminology  
BA/BSc Hons Open

At postgraduate level, Social Policy & Criminology currently contributes to one 60 point module and one 120 point module in the MA Crime and Justice:

DD801, *Principles of Social and Psychological Inquiry* (60 points)  
DD804, *Crime and Global Justice* (120 points)

Examples of the nature and type of **criminology** teaching and learning offered by The Open University can be followed by these two links:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/introduction-critical-criminology/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/criminology-beyond-crime/content-section-3>

Social Policy and Criminology has a vigorous research culture with strengths in the areas of social inequalities and social divisions, governance, global social policy, justice and injustice, personal relationships and families, gender, sex and sexualities, youth justice, and social harm and zemiology. There is a strong commitment in the department to critical approaches to the study of criminology.

More information about Social Policy and Criminology staff and the department is available via the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences website: <http://fass.open.ac.uk>. We are the largest discipline in the research group the Harm and Evidence Research Collaborative, about which you can read more at <http://www.open.ac.uk/researchcentres/herc/>.