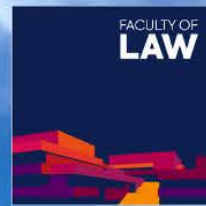


MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice Handbook 2025-26



All Souls College 2025

COLLEGE

Centre for Criminology
MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Student Handbook 2025-26

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Introduction to the Handbook

Welcome to the University of Oxford, the Faculty of Law, and the Centre for Criminology. The Centre and the Law Faculty aim to provide a friendly and supportive environment in which to study. We hope that you will enjoy your time studying in Oxford and that you will find it a rewarding experience.

This handbook supplements the University of Oxford [Examination Regulations](#) 2024-25 (the definitive guide regarding examinations) (amendments to the Regulations are published from time to time in the University of Oxford *Gazette*).

[MSc Examination Regulations](#) relating to this course are available online. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the Graduate Studies Administrator (GSA) Abbie O'Regan gsa@crim.ox.ac.uk, Chair of Examiners Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson Katrin.mueller-johnson@crim.ox.ac.uk, or the Director of Graduate Studies for Taught Students (DGS-T) Professor Mary Bosworth mary.bosworth@crim.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at September 2025 however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained in the university [changes to courses](#) website. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

However, most of the information needed to chart your way through the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice are contained here. If you spot any errors or inconsistencies in this document, please inform the Graduate Studies Administrator.

It is likely that the Student Handbook will provide the answers to most of your questions throughout the year. Please read it thoroughly and consult it during the year *before* contacting your Course Tutor, Academic Advisor, the DGS-T, or GSA with queries.

[Student Privacy Policy](#)

1. Organisation of the University

1.1 The University

Oxford University came into existence over 800 years ago, with the first colleges dating from the 13th century. By the middle of the 17th century most of the undergraduate colleges (initially for men only) had been established, with the colleges for graduate students not being established until the 20th century.

The University of Oxford is an integral part of Oxford city. There is no central campus, only individual colleges and departments, and the administrative centre (University Offices) at Wellington Square.

Like all graduate students in Oxford, those admitted to the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice are admitted both by the Department and Faculty (in your case The Centre for Criminology and the Law Faculty), and by one of the Colleges or Halls. Hence, students benefit from University facilities (such as the Bodleian Library, careers service and welfare), from the department (which takes prime responsibility for students' academic progress by appointing an Academic Supervisor and arranging teaching), and from their College.

Students working for higher degrees are an important and valued part of the University of Oxford, currently making up a quarter of the total student body. Oxford attracts scholars from all over the world, with approximately one third of graduate students coming from overseas. The University is committed to ensuring that graduate students find Oxford to be a stimulating environment academically and socially.

Like all universities, Oxford has an active [Student Union](#)

1.2 Colleges

Colleges are concerned with the academic success of their students. They aim to ensure that their students (particularly those new to Oxford and to the United Kingdom) are sufficiently well provided for in order to make the best academic use of their time; are properly housed; have adequate financial resources for their course of study; have opportunities to join in the social life of Oxford; and have access to cultural, sporting and leisure facilities. To these ends, Colleges generally appoint an advisor for each of their graduate students. You will normally be given the opportunity to meet your College Advisor at least once a term, but you should not hesitate to seek support at other times if needed. It is important to seek out your college advisor and utilize the resources and support your college makes available. You should generally look for advice from your College Advisor on all matters except those specifically connected with your course, further degrees, or your career plans, when you should turn first to your Academic Supervisor. However, non-academic matters will sometimes impact on academic progress and vice versa. In such cases you should communicate with both College and Academic Supervisors, who may – with your agreement – wish to discuss the matter together. If you do not feel able to approach either College or Academic Advisor, you can talk to the DGS-T - Professor Mary Bosworth, the Director of the Centre - Prof Rachel Condry, or the GSA – Abbie O'Regan who will offer advice and support and, if necessary, refer you to another source of help.

The University has various support services for matters which cannot adequately be dealt with by either College or the Centre.

1.3 Education Committee

The University's Education Committee shares with the divisions, faculties, and departments, and with colleges, a range of responsibilities for the quality of teaching provided within the University and the standards of the degrees awarded by the University. These shared responsibilities should ensure that

the institution has sound internal quality assurance systems and procedures for the assurance of quality and standards; that procedures are applied effectively at subject level to ensure the quality of individual programmes, and that both at institutional and subject level there are effective and regular means of reviewing the quality of programmes and the standards of awards and implementing any required changes and developments; and accurate, complete and reliable information about the quality of the University's programmes and the standards of its awards.

Central to the quality assurance process is the communication of information between departments/faculties and divisions, between divisions and the Education Committee, and, of course, between all three and colleges and college representative bodies.

1.4 Student Information: Support during your studies

Practical help, advice and support for graduates are provided by the Social Sciences Divisional Office and the [Student Information Gateway](#). The Student Information Gateway should be the first port of call for any enquiries regarding examinations, fees, funding, welfare, graduation, administrative arrangements relating to a graduate student's academic career (e.g. transfers of status, extensions of time and supervision arrangements) and a host of other useful resources.

2. The Social Sciences Division

There are four academic divisions at the University of Oxford, with their main constituent units and (where applicable) sub-units: Humanities Division; Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division; Medical Sciences Division; and the Social Sciences Division. The Faculty of Law is one of the units of the Social Sciences Division and has five sub-units: the Institute of European and Comparative Law, the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre, the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, the Bonavero Institute for Human Rights and the Centre for Criminology. The Centre for Criminology is housed in the St Cross Building.

2.1 The Social Sciences Board

The Social Sciences Board has oversight of the organisation, development, and delivery of curricula in collaboration with the colleges, and oversight and development of the general context of research in the Social Sciences and in Law. It prepares five-year strategic plans and approves annual departmental budgets and operating statements. It is also responsible for the appointment and reappointment of academic staff, and the maintenance of educational quality and standards.

The Board has a membership drawn from across the division. Its work is supported by four committees: a Teaching Policy Committee and a Teaching Audit Committee, which approve new course proposals and changes to courses and ensure that educational standards are maintained; a Research Committee which co-ordinates funding and oversees research performance and facilities; and a Planning and Resources Committee which helps to support departments in sustaining their research effort.

2.2 The Centre for Criminology and the Faculty of Law

As an independent Centre within the Faculty of Law, responsibility for the organisation and delivery of the Criminology programmes is shared between the Centre's Board of Studies (hereinafter: "Board of Studies") and the two Directors of Graduate Studies, one for taught courses (DGS-T), who is Chair of the Board, and one for the research programmes (DGS-R). The Board meets in the ninth week of each term. The Law Faculty also carries out its responsibilities for graduate students through two Directors of Graduate Studies: the Director of Graduate Studies (research students), and the Director of Graduate Studies (taught courses). They report to the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee, which meets in first and sixth week each term and in the third week of the summer vacation. Student representatives attend meetings of the Graduate Studies Committee. In some cases, the Graduate Studies Committee has power to act; in others it makes recommendations to the Law Board, which is the governing body of the Law Faculty. The Law Board includes the Directors of Graduate Studies; most other members are elected from the Faculty, and student representatives attend its meetings. Its

Chair, who usually holds office for three years, is the Dean of the Faculty. The Law Board is responsible for administering and overseeing all teaching and examining in the Faculty, and for facilitating legal research. It meets twice a term in second and seventh week, and once during the summer vacation.

3. The Centre for Criminology

3.1 History and Current Orientation

It is now nearly sixty years since criminological teaching and research was established in Oxford by the first Reader in Criminology, Dr Max Grünhut. His successor, Dr Nigel Walker, established a Penal Research Unit in 1966, and in 1971 it became a department of the University. Three years after Dr Roger Hood was appointed to the Readership in 1973, the Penal Research Unit moved to Bevington Road and changed its name to the Centre for Criminological Research (CCR) to reflect the broader range of interests and research activities of its members. In 1991 the CCR became an integral department of the Law Faculty. Professor Hood retired in September 2003 and passed away in 2020. The Centre moved to Manor Road in August 2004 and to our present premises in the St Cross building in December 2016 and is now called the Centre for Criminology. In July 2005 Professor Ian Loader joined the Centre as its Director and as Professor of Criminology. In August 2012 Professor Carolyn Hoyle took over as its Director and in August 2017 Professor Mary Bosworth took the role as Centre Director. In September 2022, when Professor Bosworth's five-year tenure ended, the role of Director returned to Professor Ian Loader. In 2025 the Director role has been taken by Professor Rachel Condry.

The Centre for Criminology is a leading site of social enquiry and graduate education in criminology and criminal justice, with staff and students committed to understanding and addressing contemporary public policy dilemmas across many domains of order, justice and control.

We understand criminology as a 'meeting place' – staff in the Centre are originally trained in history, law, politics and international relations, psychology and sociology. We treat criminology as a field of enquiry where questions of order, justice and control around the globe are brought into conversation with the larger concerns of the social sciences, and social and political theory, with such matters as de-colonialism, gender, political economy, race, and the futures or a climate-changed planet.

What issues do we work on?

Staff in the Centre are involved in scholarly research and policy engagement around the following topics and themes, as well as supervising doctoral research in these areas:

Criminalization

Criminal law, justice and border control; counter-terrorism; counter-extremism; preventive justice; state regulation of family life.

Justice

International/global criminal justice; transitional justice; youth justice; crime, justice and the family; well-being of criminal justice workers; ideologies in crime control.

Punishment

Death penalty in global perspective; prisons and incarceration; immigration detention; deportation; citizenship deprivation; prisoners' families; maternal imprisonment, children's rights; penal cultures and policy.

Security

Urban security and everyday life; policing and private security; the (dis)orders of automobility.

Victimization

Domestic violence and homicide; online harms; refugees; victims in international criminal justice.

More details about research in the Centre can be found on the research page of the [Centre of Criminology website](#).

The Centre holds a regular seminar programme at All Souls College which all graduate students are expected to attend, and which attracts distinguished speakers from the international academic community, government and criminal justice agencies. Details are emailed at the start of each term, and can be found on the [Centre's website](#).

3.2 The Centre for Criminology teaching staff

[Dr Hindpal Singh Bhui](#) BA, MSc, PhD (Lancaster)

Visiting Professor, Centre for Criminology

Hindpal is an Inspection Team Leader at HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). He leads inspections of prisons and other forms of custody in England and Wales, and heads inspection of the immigration detention estate in the UK. Hindpal has advised and trained prison staff and monitors in various countries in Europe, the Middle East, Far East and Africa. In 2024-25 Hindpal will be teaching the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice option course Prisons.

[Professor Mary Bosworth](#) BA (Hons) (UWA), MPhil, PhD (Cantab)

Professor in Criminology and Fellow of St Cross College

Assistant Director, Director of Graduate Studies (Taught Courses), Centre for Criminology

Mary is Director of [Border Criminologies](#), an interdisciplinary research group focusing on the intersections between criminal justice and border control. Her research interests include gender, punishment, citizenship, race, immigration detention and deportation.

[Professor Rachel Condry](#) BSc (Hons), PhD (LSE)

Professor of Criminology and Fellow of St. Hilda's College

Director of the Centre for Criminology

Rachel is Professor of Criminology and a Fellow of St Hilda's College. Her work focuses broadly on the intersections between crime and the family. She has carried out research projects on the families of serious offenders, prisoners' families, youth justice, filial violence, and school exclusion.

[Dr Alethia Fernández de la Reguera](#) BA, PhD (Tecnológico de Monterrey), MA (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Departmental Lecturer

Alethia is a Departmental Lecturer in Criminology (2025-2028). Over the past decade, she has served as an Associate Professor at the Institute of Legal Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. In 2023, as a Visiting Fellow at Warwick Law School, she initiated the project *The Effects of Border Militarisation in Mexico and Poland on the International Protection and Human Rights of Migrants*. In 2021, she was awarded the National University Distinction Award for Young Scholars in the area of Social Science Research. She is also Affiliate Faculty at the University of Arizona, where she teaches in the M.A. Program in Human Rights Practice. Additionally, she is a member of the Border Criminologies Network at the University of Oxford and serves on the Editorial Committee of *Feminist Legal Studies* at the University of Newcastle. Her research focuses on gender and migration, immigration detention, bureaucracies, state violence, militarism and policing, gender-based violence, and women's autonomy.

Dr Emily Rose Hay MA (Hons, Edinburgh), MSc (Oxon), PhD

Departmental Lecturer

Emily is a Departmental Lecturer in Criminology (2025-2027). She is a historian of crime and criminal justice. She received her doctorate from the University of Edinburgh, where she examined the public representation of child homicide cases in the late twentieth century. She has previously held criminology research and lecturing roles at the University of Sheffield, the Open University and Queen Mary University of London, and she is an Associate of the People's Justice Network. Emily Rose is particularly interested in media and crime, historical and cultural representations of violence, and ethics and emotions in criminology.

Professor Carolyn Hoyle BA (Hons), MA, MSc, DPhil (Oxon)

*Professor in Criminology and Fellow of Green Templeton College
Chair of Admissions, Chair of Examiners, Centre for Criminology*

Carolyn has been at the University of Oxford Centre for Criminology since 1991 and is Director of the [Death Penalty Research Unit](#). She has published empirical and theoretical research on a number of criminological topics including domestic violence, policing, restorative justice, hate crime, miscarriages of justice and the death penalty, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia and Africa. She is the Chair of the Board of Examiners and Chair of Admissions.

Professor Ian Loader LLB (Sheffield), MSc, PhD (Edinburgh), FBA, FRSA

Professor of Criminology and Fellow of All Souls College

Ian is Professor of Criminology and Professorial Fellow of All Souls College. He is also an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. Ian is a Fellow of the British Academy. His research interests include policing, security and everyday life, criminology and automobility, and crime control and democratic politics. Ian is Editor-in-Chief of the *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson Dipl. Psych, MSt, PhD (Cornell)

*Associate Professor of Criminology and a Research Fellow at Green Templeton College.
Chair of Board of Examiners Centre for Criminology*

Katrin holds a PhD in Human Development from Cornell University, an MSt in Legal Research from the Centre of Social Legal Studies, University of Oxford, and a Dipl. Psych. Degree in Psychology from the Free University of Berlin. Before taking up the position in Oxford, she was a lecturer and senior lecturer at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests are centred around victimisation, investigative interviewing and police as well as legal decision-making.

Professor Julian Roberts MA, PhD

Emeritus Professor of Criminology and Fellow of Worcester College

Julian is currently Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Criminology* and was a member of the *Sentencing Council of England and Wales* from 2008 - 2018. His research interests include sentencing and sentencing guidelines; public opinion about crime and criminal justice; victims and the criminal justice system.

[Dr Leila Ullrich](#) BA (LSE), DPhil (Oxon)

Associate Professor in Criminology and Fellow at Worcester College

Leila works at the crossroads of international criminal justice, transitional justice, victimology, border criminology and counter-terrorism. She is particularly interested in how global criminal justice institutions create gendered and racialized subjects, and how these subjects (victims, refugees and racialized communities) engage with and resist these processes. She approaches these questions using feminist, decolonial, and critical political economy theories. She is also developing new bottom-up research methods such as qualitative WhatsApp surveying. Outside the academy, Leila worked as social stability analyst on the Syrian refugee crisis at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lebanon. She was also the Convenor of the Oxford Transitional Justice Research (OTJR) network and worked for the International Criminal Court (ICC). She is a member of the editorial board of Feminist Legal Studies.

[Professor Lucia Zedner](#) MA, DPhil (Oxon), FBA

Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College and Professor of Criminal Justice, Faculty of Law

Lucia became a member of the Centre for Criminology in 1988 when she was a Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College. Her research interests include Criminal law and criminal justice; security and counter-terrorism; immigration and citizenship, penal theory and philosophy of criminal law.

3.3 Administrative and IT staff

Abbie O'Regan	Graduate Studies Administrator	gsa@crim.ox.ac.uk	274444
Angela Patterson	Criminology Centre Administrator and Events Coordinator	admin@crim.ox.ac.uk	274448
IT Support Team		itsupport@manor-road.ox.ac.uk	284240

3.4 Departmental Administrative Roles

Board of Studies Chair - Professor Mary Bosworth
Board of Examiners Chair - Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson
Board of Admissions Chair – Professor Carolyn Hoyle
External Examiner - Anastasia Chamberlen, University of Warwick

Students are strictly prohibited from contacting external examiners directly. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment, you may make a complaint or appeal. Examiners reports, including the External Examiner's reports will be made available in the relevant cohort Canvas sites.

3.5 Access to the Centre

Access to the Centre for Criminology is by University Card. The Centre is open between the hours of 09:00 and 22:00, Monday to Friday (term time), however, research students who have completed the out of hours access training can access it at other hours as well. For information regarding out of hours training please contact gsa@crim.ox.ac.uk. The [Social Sciences Library](#) is situated in the Manor Road Building, please check the library opening times online.

The St Cross Building and the Centre operate a strict NO SMOKING policy. Students should note that some research staff, research associates, visiting fellows and DPhil students have their desks in the open plan area so please respect their need for a quiet working environment when you are in the Centre.

3.6 Graduate workspace

3.6.2 Workspace within the Centre

In the Centre open plan area, desks are available for DPhil students, visitors and there are six dedicated hot desks available for use by MSc students. These are available on a first-come first-served basis. Please see Abbie for more information.

3.6.3 Libraries

While there are over 100 libraries across the University as a whole, the Bodleian Social Science Library and the Bodleian Law Library will be the most useful libraries for you in Oxford. Together, these two libraries resource all MSc reading lists.

Bodleian Social Science Library

The Bodleian Social Science Library is on the ground floor of the Manor Road Building. It is a lending and reference library, supporting staff and students across the Social Sciences Division.

The Bodleian Social Science Library offers over 300 workspaces, quiet study zones, group study rooms, study carrels, wireless networking and 56 PCs connected to the Bodleian Libraries network. Around 8 million volumes of Bodleian Libraries material are housed offsite, and can be ordered to this library. University members can also access online resources, including ejournals, and an extensive collection of databases and archives and ebooks. The online [Criminology guide](#) is an introduction to key resources available in the Bodleian. Inter-library loans are available and further information on the opening times and services available at the [Bodleian Social Science Library](#) are available online.

The Bodleian Law Library

The Bodleian Law Library covers four floors of the St Cross Building in St Cross Road. Each floor is accessible by both stairs and a lift. It offers over 200 workspaces, discussion and computer rooms, wireless networking, 40 PCs connected to the Bodleian Libraries network and 3 self-service print, copy and scan machines.

The Law Library holds the Bodleian's collection of criminal law and the research collection for criminology. It also provides access to a number of online legal databases. The online guides to [Criminology](#) and [Criminal Law & Justice](#) are introductory overviews to all forms of resources available to students at Oxford.

The Bodleian's Official Papers collection is on the ground floor of the Bodleian Law Library. Among its collection of UK government publications are [criminal statistics](#).

Neither the Bodleian Law Library nor Official Papers are lending collections, no items may be taken out. See [Bodleian Law Library](#) online for further information on the opening times and services available.

Both the Social Science and the Law Library have bookable spaces. Students wishing to use these are welcome to book [online](#).

No food is allowed anywhere in the Bodleian libraries; water in secure drink bottles or hot drinks in keepcups are the only liquids permitted.

4. Communication with students

4.1 Email lists

Email is the most frequently used means of communication and it is expected that you will check your emails daily. You should use your Oxford (Nexus) account.

All graduate students will be automatically subscribed to the Law Faculty's graduate student email list (law-postgrads@maillist.ox.ac.uk) on arrival at Oxford. This is the faculty's principal means of communication with graduate students, and information about lectures, visiting lecturers, discussion groups, IT training, library hours, student elections and so on are distributed on this list. We will also automatically subscribe you to the Centre's taught student email list crim-mscs@maillist.ox.ac.uk which will allow you to receive messages from the tutors and staff.

5. Extracurricular activities

The Centre arranges several events throughout the year to which all Criminology students, along with other members of the Centre, such as research officers and associates, are invited.

Students will have an opportunity to broaden their knowledge via the great number of lectures in other courses and public seminars offered by both the Centre and other departments and colleges within the University. Of particular interest and significance are the All Souls Criminology Seminar Series held on alternate Thursday afternoons from 15:00 – 17:00 in term time at All Soul's college. Information about the seminars, as well as additional seminars which may be of interest, will be circulated via email and posted on the [Centre Website](#).

5.1 Applied experiences

The Centre is currently developing a range of opportunities for students to engage with groups and institutions outside the University working in areas related to criminal justice. These are listed on the website under [Student Internship Opportunities](#).

Over the course of the year other opportunities may arise for hands-on experience with outside organisations (e.g. The Thames Valley Police). Details will be made available in the induction week, or through the year as appropriate. The outside organisation will take sole responsibility for the recruitment process for any positions available and for the students during their time with them. They will also, where necessary, undertake a criminal record bureau check.

Blogging

The Centre for Criminology, Border Criminologies, and the Death Penalty Research Unit run active blogs. Students are encouraged to contribute posts, the main condition being that the Blog Post is grounded in your research. If you have an idea for a Blog based upon your research, you are welcome to discuss it with the Director or your Academic Advisor.

In addition, if you would like to blog about one of our All Souls Seminar talks, please contact Centre Administrator, Angela Patterson admin@crim.ox.ac.uk to register your interest.

We also welcome other contributions to the Centre blog, the main condition being that the Blog Post is grounded in your research. If you have an idea for a Blog based upon your research, you are welcome to discuss it with Rachel Condry Rachel.condry@crim.ox.ac.uk.

6. The MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

6.1 Structure and expectations of the MSc

The compulsory and optional elements for the MSc course are as follows:

Full Time MSc Students		
Michaelmas Term	Hilary Term	Trinity Term
Core Course - Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice (Compulsory) Research Design and Data Collection (Compulsory) Option course 1 Option course 2	Core Course - Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice (Compulsory) Option course 1 Option course 2 Option course 3	Dissertation (Compulsory) Academic Communication Skills (Compulsory)
Part Time MSc Students Year 1		
Michaelmas Term	Hilary Term	Trinity Term
Core Course - Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice (Compulsory) Research Design and Data Collection (Compulsory)	Core Course - Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice (Compulsory) Option course 1	Academic Communication Skills (Compulsory)
Part Time MSc Students Year 2		
Michaelmas Term	Hilary Term	Trinity Term
Option course 1 Option course 2	Option course 1 Option course 2	Dissertation (Compulsory) Academic Communication Skills (Recommended)

6.2 Educational aims of the programme

To provide students with the ability to:

- evaluate the major theories and fundamental concepts in criminology and criminal justice;
- develop an advanced understanding of particular fields within criminology and criminal justice, relevant to their further careers or academic studies;
- analyse critically the inferences that can be drawn from empirical and historical observations of crime and the operation of the criminal justice and penal systems;
- develop analytical skills required for critical appraisal of criminological research;
- develop methodological skills to conduct criminological research.

6.3 Programme outcomes

On completing the degree satisfactorily, students should:

- have a systematic understanding of the key theories and debates, and a critical awareness of current problems and new insights, at the forefront of criminology and criminal justice;
- be well equipped for critical analysis of crime, criminal justice and the development of criminal justice policy;
- have learnt how to assess critically the contribution of research to understandings of crime and justice;
- have demonstrated originality in the application of criminological and criminal justice knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how the established techniques of criminological and criminal justice research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge about offenders, offending, and the criminal justice response;
- have acquired basic methodological skills;
- have learnt how to produce substantial pieces of written work after researching particular topics for their options and for their dissertation.

Each student will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of six particular areas of criminological enquiry (i.e. those areas studied through options and the dissertation), whilst all students will have acquired a solid understanding (through the compulsory courses) of:

- the importance of methodical inquiry in criminology;
- historical, sociological and philosophical perspectives on criminal justice, punishment and the role of victims;
- different theoretical perspectives on deviance, crime and criminal justice;
- competing perspectives on the intersection of criminal policy, social policy, politics and academic research (particularly in the context of debates about the relationship between social stratification and crime and criminal justice);
- the role of discretion in the criminal process;
- social scientific research design and data collection.

Those students who have taken further optional courses in research methods will also be able to critically evaluate existing sources of data, choose and develop appropriate research methodologies and analyse research data at a more advanced level.

Students are expected to spend around 40 hours studying each week during term (and they will also need to do some study during vacations). During Michaelmas and Hilary Term students are advised to divide their time between their courses in the following way:

- At least 10 hours preparation a week for the Core course Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice;
- At least 8 hours preparation a week for each other optional course;
- 6-10 hours a week in seminars (ninety minutes for each course), depending on which options are taken.

In Trinity term students work on their dissertation and attend the weekly Academic Skills for Criminologists sessions.

You will note that this leaves very little time during the week for any paid employment. Whilst we appreciate that some students will have to work a few hours a week in the evenings or at the weekends, perhaps in a shop or a bar, students on a taught course (such as the MSc) are not allowed to teach within the university and colleges. Please see the [Paid Work guidelines](#).

6.4 Outline of the course

6.4.1 Compulsory Courses

Compulsory courses run weekly during the first two terms: The Core course - Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice in Michaelmas and Hilary terms (on Tuesdays) - and Research Design and Data Collection in Michaelmas Term (on Thursdays). A further compulsory (but non-examined) course is run weekly in the third term.

Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice

This course takes a global point of departure to explore important theoretical criminological contributions as well as implications for criminal justice practice. The course will lead students to consider the approach to criminology from a variety of perspectives or lenses. This is situated within a context that recognises that certain positionalities have historically been centred and over-represented internationally. This course challenges students to contemplate how to address this imbalance.

The course will equip students to recognise problems, questions, dichotomies, and ideas that have shaped modern criminological thought, to understand the nature of 'theory' and 'explanation' within criminology, and to both appreciate and critique the history and development of criminological thought. Acknowledging the increasing effects of globalisation, students will consider the nature of comparative and transnational criminology and come to question normative assumptions related to human rights and development. Finally, students will investigate approaches to decolonisation and criminology.

Part-time students take this course in their first year of study.

Research Design and Data Collection

This compulsory course, which runs in the first term, is focused on the challenges and the opportunities that different methods of data collection have for criminological research. During the course, we will critically situate the production of criminological knowledge within broader social power dynamics, foregrounding the relationship between academic scholarship and ethical and social concerns. We will discuss the relationship between theories, concepts, methods, and empirical findings. We will then examine specific research methods, including experiments and quasi-experiments; questionnaires and survey research; field research, and the collection of written documents. Finally, we will apply this methodological knowledge to evaluate published research and discuss best practices for designing

original research projects. Part-time students take this course in the first term of their first year of study.

Academic Skills for Criminologists

In this compulsory course (taught in Trinity Term) students will hone academic skills that are directly relevant to conducting criminological research and writing the MSc dissertation. They will learn about academic writing, how to research and read academic texts selectively, and how to formulate a viable dissertation research plan, among other topics. Throughout the course, students will present on their dissertation research, receiving helpful feedback and questions from the rest of the cohort and from the tutors.

6.4.2 Options

Full time MSc students take two optional modules in Michaelmas term and three in Hilary Term.

Part time MSc students take one optional module in Hilary term of their first year, and two optional modules in both Michaelmas and Hilary terms in their second year (see table 6.1).

Attendance at the weekly classes is **compulsory** and students are expected to be well prepared to be able to contribute fully to the discussion. Preparation for classes is directed by detailed reading lists distributed to students at the end of the preceding term. In these classes, students should develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of their chosen option through their own reading in preparation for classes (reading the required and suggested materials, digesting them and making preparatory notes should take no longer than eight hours a week for each option), and through discussing the readings with the course teacher and their fellow students on that option. Student learning is then consolidated through the preparation of an assessed essay in relation to each of their chosen options.

Entering for university examinations

You will be automatically entered for the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice core assessment units (i.e. Core Course: Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice, Research Design and Data Collection and the Dissertation), and these will be displayed in Student Self-Service when you login.

You will choose your options during the induction fortnight using the form emailed to you by the Abbie. It may be possible to change your choice for Hilary during Michaelmas term, depending on the number of students already on the course. Towards the end of Michaelmas Term, you will be required to have chosen and to enter formally for the optional courses for both Michaelmas and Hilary terms. You will receive an email invitation to login to Student Self Service to complete your optional course assessment selections by a given date. If you change options after the registration deadline, you will be charged a fee by Examination Schools. It may be possible to change your option choices for Hilary term, but this must be approved by Week 0 of Hilary and can only be done ONCE you have consulted the GSA, course tutors, your academic supervisor, and your college, who will help you apply for a change of exam entry. The Centre reserves the right to disallow transfers to popular courses that are oversubscribed and cancel courses with very few students.

Please note that changes of course after the Friday of the First Week of Hilary Term are discouraged.

[Examination timetables](#) are published on the University website. Timetables are published as early as possible, and no later than five weeks before the start of the examination.

Personal timetable

Your personal timetable showing your papers and the dates, times and location at which your examination will take place will be published online at least two weeks before your first examination. It is your responsibility to ensure that you sit the correct examination and misreading of information will not be considered an acceptable reason for non-attendance. If you have not received your timetable, or discover any problems with it, contact your college as soon as possible.

6.4.3 Overlap between options

Occasionally there will be some overlap between two or more options (perhaps one seminar in an option will touch on, or deal more thoroughly with a topic covered in another option). Students should note, however, that they cannot use material in an assessed essay that they have used for another essay. Nor can they use material for their dissertation that they have submitted for an assessed essay. They should consult their dissertation supervisor or option tutor if they are in any doubt about this so-called 'autoplagerism'.

Candidates make a declaration upon submitting the assessed essays and dissertation, as follows: 'No part of it has already been accepted, nor has it been currently submitted, for a degree of this University or elsewhere.'

This does not preclude the development of themes and concepts between one piece of assessed work and another, particularly where these relate to a candidate's specific research interests; however, reproducing work in one piece of assessed work which closely resembles that of another, or simply cutting and pasting paragraphs between essays, is not permitted.

6.4.4 The MSc dissertation

In addition to the option courses and the compulsory Trinity Term Academic Skills for Criminologists sessions, students write a dissertation on a topic of their own choice, subject to the agreement of the Board of Studies, of between 12,000 and 15,000 words (inclusive of footnotes, but excluding abstract, appendices bibliography, table of cases, headers, footers and index). Students will be expected to pursue dissertations along one of the following lines: i) an extended research design for further doctoral study; ii) a critical literature review of conceptual, methodological and/or substantive issues relevant to their chosen topic; iii) a small empirical study that might serve as a pilot project for later doctoral work. Students are expected to carry out the research independently, with only minimum guidance from their dissertation supervisor. In order to ensure that students achieve a rough equality of access to supervision, a guideline of eight hours supervision time has been stipulated, which should only be exceeded in exceptional cases. This time is to include both contact with the supervisor and time taken to read through and comment on a draft. Ordinarily the following supervision structure will be followed:

- A preliminary meeting, to discuss and set the research question and devise a timeline for work to be submitted.
- An intermediate meeting, checking on the student's progress.
- One draft will be read (either chapter by chapter or a complete document).

Most students will choose to research an area close to one of their option or core course topics, although a few pursue intellectual interests which have not been specifically developed by this course.

6.5 The 'Oxford Style' of teaching

Teaching at Oxford University is unique. Oxford is probably the only leading Law School in the world where the main means by which graduate teaching is done is through group discussion in seminars, alongside a series of lectures given by some of the world's leading scholars.

Teaching on the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice programme is seminar based, with groups of usually no more than 15 and often, for option classes, with smaller groups although subject to the agreement of the DGS-T, classes will usually be no smaller than 4 students. One-to-one teaching takes place when the students prepare their MSc dissertation and are allocated a supervisor to guide them.

Under the 'Oxford system', students are expected to take responsibility for preparing well for classes, and should:

- read academic texts, mostly books (learned journals, monographs, textbooks) in libraries, but increasingly also texts accessed electronically. This reading is for the most part guided by a list provided by your core course or option tutor;
- think about the results of their reading in relation to any pre-seminar questions set alongside the reading list;
- attend all core course seminars, where the tutor will normally set out to portray a topic in such a way as to add value to the treatments of it which you can read for yourself, and will expect students to contribute fully to the discussion;
- attend option seminars, which might be even more interactive than core course seminars, normally requiring substantial active participation by the students. They normally aim to review and develop the understanding of a topic which the students have gained from their own reading, thinking and writing, and/or attendance at other classes;
- give presentations, as directed by the course tutor. Such presentations should last no longer than 5-10 minutes and serve to introduce the group to a particular area of study, before leading into a wider discussion. Students should 'talk to' concise handouts, and not read aloud from a set of prepared notes.

This teaching system works satisfactorily only when students take responsibility for preparing well for classes, by reading extensively from the reading lists, and by respecting and contributing to class discussions. Much of the time students will learn under their own direction and so need to be motivated to read the relevant literature and explore their critical responses to it in seminars.

It is important to realise that you do not learn simply from things said and done in the seminars themselves. By far the greatest part of your learning comes from the reading, thinking, and writing which you do for yourself. But whilst you do this reading, thinking, and writing by your own efforts, you do not do it unaided. It is the function of seminars and supervision sessions whilst you are preparing your dissertation in Trinity Term (plus to a lesser extent faculty lectures you may opt to attend), and of interaction between students themselves, to provide intensive orientation in your study, and feedback on your efforts and ideas.

Study in the vacations is also important, whether it involves preparing for the options and core seminars for the following term, revising for the course exams, or writing assessed essays or the dissertation. Many students find that by going back over the subject which they have just finished, they can consolidate and deepen their understanding of it considerably. This has great benefits not only for their grasp of that particular subject, but also for the development of their intellectual skills generally.

In all specific, academic, and course-related matters, students are encouraged to seek guidance from their course tutors, their academic adviser, or, if they are not available, from the DGS-T. Further guidance on academic writing is provided in a series of workshops.

6.6 Further information about the course

6.6.1 Induction

A two-week induction programme is run in Weeks –1 and 0 of Michaelmas Term. Induction sessions introduce students to the use of relevant bibliographical, legal and social science databases. Students are also offered introductory lectures on criminological theory, the criminal justice system, and an introduction to research methods session.

6.6.2 Resources for Courses: Reading Lists, Key Texts and Photocopying

Reading lists for each of the compulsory courses and MSc options are made available through the [University Online Reading Lists ORLO](#)

As a rule of thumb, if you wish to buy key texts, please budget at least £100 per course.

The Bodleian Libraries offer [scan and deliver](#) an electronic document delivery service for items held in our Book Storage Facility. Instead of requesting the physical item to a reading room, you can request scans of sections (articles, chapters) directly to your desktop.

6.6.3 Residency Requirement

Full time students are required to be 'in residence' during university terms (the residence limit for graduate students is twenty-five miles from the Carfax tower, which is in the centre of town). If you need to leave Oxford for a short period during term which will result in you missing a class you should inform both the class teacher and the GSA. You should consult your college advisor if you need temporary exemption from the residency requirement. You cannot obtain your degree unless your college certifies you have fulfilled the residency requirement. Part-time students are not subject to residency requirements.

6.7 Pastoral support for MSc Students

Students receive support on any non-academic matters from their college advisors and can discuss with these advisors their academic progress.

The Centre for Criminology appoints an Academic Supervisor to each student. Whilst specifically concerned with their academic progress, academic supervisors can also offer support on a range of welfare matters. Students are expected to meet their academic supervisors at the beginning and end of the first term (Michaelmas Term), and at the end of the second and third terms, although students can contact their supervisor at any time during term if they have problems or concerns which they feel cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting. Likewise, supervisors might proactively arrange an additional meeting during term if they have pressing concerns about a student's progress. The Academic Supervisor is required to write a termly report on each student's academic progress and the content of this report is communicated to the student, the student's college and the Graduate Studies Office.

In addition, students can receive support from college or department specialist advisors, such as the Welfare Officer or Harassment Officer, Advisor to Women Students, or even the Head of Department. Many colleges have extensive 'Welfare Teams' of fellow students, academic and other staff (for example, nurse, doctor, and chaplain).

If students experience personal problems which they would prefer not to discuss with their academic or college supervisor, they can contact the [University Counselling Service](#).

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise them as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided in Section 11 Complaints and Appeals.

6.8 Timetables and Key Dates

Introductory lectures will be held in Weeks -1 and 0 of Michaelmas Term. The MSc timetable is available on Canvas.

In addition to those courses listed below, students may be able to audit optional courses (student numbers permitting) which are of academic interest and use to their studies, by prior arrangement through the GSA. 'Auditing' will not require the completion of assessments for the course, though the tutor expects the student to prepare for the seminars. As such, students should devote most of their time to their chosen options. Any student auditing an MSc option can request to submit an assessed essay as a practice essay for marking and feedback. Requests will be considered on their individual merits.

6.9 Course outlines

Compulsory courses

Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice

Professor Rachel Condry

This course takes a global point of departure to explore important theoretical criminological contributions as well as implications for criminal justice practice. The course will lead students to consider the approach to criminology from a variety of perspectives or lenses. This is situated within a context that recognises that certain positionalities have historically been centred and over-represented internationally. This course challenges students to contemplate how to address this imbalance.

The course will equip students to recognise problems, questions, dichotomies and ideas that have shaped modern criminological thought, to understand the nature of 'theory' and 'explanation' within criminology, and to both appreciate and critique the history and development of criminological thought. Acknowledging the increasing effects of globalisation, students will consider the nature of comparative and transnational criminology and come to question normative assumptions related to human rights and development. Finally, students will investigate approaches to decolonisation and criminology.

Research Design and Data Collection

Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson

This compulsory course, which runs in the first term, is focused on the challenges and the opportunities that different methods of data collection have for criminological research. During the course, we will critically situate the production of criminological knowledge within broader social power dynamics, foregrounding the relationship between academic scholarship and ethical and social concerns. We will discuss the relationship between theories, concepts, methods, and empirical findings. We will then examine specific research methods, including experiments and quasi-experiments; questionnaires and survey research; field research, and the collection of written documents. Finally, we will apply this methodological knowledge to evaluate published research and discuss best practices for designing original research projects. Part-time students take this course in the first term of their first year of study.

Optional courses

Michaelmas Term - Options

Crime and the Family

Professor Rachel Condry

News, Media, Crime and Policy

Dr Emily Rose Hay

Prisons

Dr Hindpal Bhui

Psychology, Law and Criminal Justice

Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson

Public and Private Policing

Dr Alethia Fernandez de la Reguera

Risk, Security and Criminal Justice

Professor Lucia Zedner

Sentencing

Professor Julian Roberts

Hilary Term - Options

Criminal Justice, Migration and Citizenship

Professor Mary Bosworth and Professor Lucia Zedner

Criminology and the Car

Professor Ian Loader

Death Penalty

Professor Carolyn Hoyle

Psychology of Offending and Desistance

Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson

Qualitative Methods

Professor Mary Bosworth

Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists

Dr Katrin Mueller-Johnson

Race and Gender

Dr Alethia Fernandez de la Reguera

Youth Justice

Professor Rachel Condry

7. Assessment procedures

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work. The MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice Examination Conventions can be accessed on the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice [Canvas site](#).

7.1 Assessment procedure for the MSc

Classification of final marks is determined as follows:

- Candidates are awarded the MSc when at least 50% is achieved in
 - (1) *Criminological Theories and Understanding Criminal Justice*; **and**
 - (2) the dissertation; **and**
 - (3) the six assessed essays (consisting of the *Research Design and Data Collection* and the 5 option papers). The individual marks of the six assessed essays are aggregated and an average mark awarded for the assessed essays as a whole.
- Candidates are awarded a merit when
 - (1) they achieve either marks of at least 65% on at least 6 of the papers **or** achieve an overall weighted average of 65%; **and**
 - (2) where taken, the continuous assessment element for *Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists* and/or *Qualitative Methods* has/have been satisfactorily completed.
- Candidates are awarded a distinction when
 - (1) they obtain a mark of 70% or higher on all papers **or** obtain an overall weighted average of 70% **and**
 - (2) where taken, the continuous assessment element for *Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists* and/or *Qualitative Methods* has/have been satisfactorily completed.

Candidates who have failed any assessment items at the first attempt will not normally be eligible for the award of a Merit or Distinction classification overall.

Students should be aware that unlike some other academic institutions, Oxford does not operate a quota system of distinctions, nor is there a Bell curve used on degree awards.

7.1.1 Summative assessment

Formal, 'summative' assessment is conducted by the following means over the 9-month period for full time students, and over the 21-month period for part time students:

- Completion of an examination for the core course, to be taken in Week 0 of Trinity Term (date to be confirmed).
- Production of six assessed essays (one for each substantive option and one for 'Research Design and Data Collection') written unsupervised and unaided during the last three weeks of term. Students may not approach course tutors for clarification on essay questions or help with or feedback on essays. Students are expected to draw on the course readings in their options papers. While they may be rewarded for also drawing on additional work, examiners may reduce the mark of those who fail to cite course readings. **Note:** Candidates should take seriously the word limits imposed (both upper and lower). Where a candidate submits an assessed essay, a dissertation (or other piece of written coursework) which exceeds the word limit prescribed by

the relevant regulation, the Board of Examiners may reduce the mark by up to 10 marks (by up to one grade only). Those who write less than the lower word limit may likewise be penalised.

- Production of a dissertation (**Note:** Candidates should take seriously the word limits imposed, as above).
- In the case of candidates who have taken 'Qualitative Methods' and/or 'Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists', a series of practical assignments are required for the relevant option.
- Students receive brief written feedback on all their end-of-term assessed essays and their dissertation.

7.1.2 Formative assessment

In Michaelmas Term, full and part time (first year) students are required to complete a compulsory 1,500-word practice essay related to 'Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice' or, for full time students either of their two option courses, for formative assessment purposes, to be submitted by Friday at midday of Week 3.

Formative assessment includes feedback through termly sessions for each student with their academic supervisor and a cohort feedback session.

7.2 Previous Examination Performance

Students may wish to know how previous cohorts have fared in the examinations process. Copies of the Examiners' Reports for the MSc programme are available on the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice Canvas site.

Students may want to consult the examination questions set in previous years, to have an indication of what to expect. These are also available on the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice Canvas site.

7.3 Examined papers

There is a **three-question** examination for the 'Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice' course (based on the topics covered in Michaelmas and Hilary term), taken Week 0 of Trinity Term, **date, time and details to be confirmed**.

Treatment of absent answers and part answers, short answers, weak answers, and misunderstood questions: the mark for a completely absent answer in any script will be zero. The mark for a part answer, or a "skipped", "rushed final", "short" or "weak" answer will be such a mark above zero as is appropriate, relative to more successful answers, in terms of the quality of what has been written, and the extent to which it covers the question. The overall mark for a script will be arrived at by averaging the number of marks, including zeros, over the number of questions that should have been answered on the paper.

7.4 MSc options

7.4.1 Form of assessed essays for the MSc options

Options (other than the Methods courses – see Sections 7.4.3) are examined by means of an assessed essay of 4,000–4,500 words, including footnotes (when using OSCOLA, footnotes that are purely citations do not count toward the word limit) but excluding abstract, appendices bibliography, table of cases, headers, footers and index, written during weeks seven to ten of Michaelmas and Hilary terms. A selection of three titles shall be posted on the Criminology Canvas site by noon on the Friday of Week 7 of the relevant term (titles will also be emailed to students at this time).

Your assessed essays must be typed with a margin of 3 to 3.5 centimetres on the left-hand side of each page. You should use font size 12 for the main text and font size 10 for footnotes. The text should be double-spaced and the footnotes and quotations should be single-spaced. Footnotes should normally be placed at the bottom of each page. Pages should be numbered and **EACH page should record your candidate number (not student number) in a header or footer box**. Essays should be submitted online as detailed below. All written work must be submitted in English. All assessed essays should include a bibliography.

Note: Candidates should take seriously the word limits imposed (both upper and lower). Where a candidate submits an assessed essay, a dissertation (or other piece of written coursework) which exceeds the word limit prescribed by the relevant regulation, the Board of Examiners may reduce the mark by up to 10 marks (by up to one grade only). See further [Examination Regulations](#).

7.4.2 Submission of assessed essays

Candidates shall be required to submit each essay online, no later than noon, on Wednesday of Week 10 of the relevant term onto the [Inspira](#) submissions site. The essays will automatically be checked for plagiarism using the *Turnitin* software. Assignments must be submitted by **12:00 midday** according to the **time in the UK. The university has a strict 5 penalty deduction rule for late submissions!** For each essay submitted candidates must read and confirm the Declaration of Authorship. You cannot submit your essay until you have ticked this Declaration.

7.4.3 Research Methods Courses

For 'Research Design and Data Collection' candidates will be required to submit an essay of 2,500 to 3,000 words at the end of Michaelmas term. A choice from three titles will be offered.

There are two sorts of assessment for the two other Research Methods courses, 'Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists' and 'Qualitative Methods', and both must be satisfactorily completed by all candidates.

First, each candidate will be required to complete assignments during the term which will be marked on a pass/fail basis. Candidates who fail any of these assignments may be required to re-submit the assignment, normally within 7 days.

Secondly, at the end of the term in which the course is taught, each candidate will be required to submit an essay of 2,500 to 3,000 words. A choice from three titles will be offered.

7.5 Dissertation

7.5.1 Form and timing of the dissertation

The MSc dissertation shall be between 12,000 and 15,000 words long, inclusive of footnotes, but excluding abstract, appendices, bibliography, table of cases, headers, footers and index (when using OSCOLA, footnotes that are purely citations do not count toward the word limit). The dissertation shall be on a topic of the student's choice, subject to the agreement of the Board of Studies. Candidates should choose a topic broadly within the general remit of criminology and/or criminal justice and complete a form (emailed by the GSA), with a working title, by noon on **Wednesday of Week 4 of Hilary term**. The Chairs of the Board of Studies and the Board of Examiners will appoint a supervisor for each student for the purpose of guiding the student's work on the dissertation. They will also appoint two assessors for each dissertation.

Part time MSc students will choose and submit their proposed topic by **Friday of Week 4 Michaelmas term** of their second year.

The exercise of identifying a topic for research and a working title enables students to do preliminary work in choosing an area of interest, with an eye to both viability and the availability of appropriate supervisors. A Dissertation Supervisor will be assigned to each student by the Board of Studies (this may be your Academic Advisor, if your chosen topic fits their expertise). Students are not expected to ask tutors to pre-approve working titles before submission to the Board of Studies, as such advice might unfairly prejudice the review process and creates, in practice, an unnecessarily time-consuming double assessment process.

Working titles will only be refused approval if they do not fall within Criminology or Criminal Justice (broadly conceived), if there is no appropriate supervisor available to provide expert guidance, or if the Board of Studies believes the student would have difficulty in successfully completing their proposed dissertation in the time available (please note that students should avoid criminal law topics as it is unlikely that a supervisor will be found).

Full time students are not usually expected to start working on their dissertations until Trinity Term. However, it is often advisable to start preliminary work before then, particularly if the student has chosen to undertake empirical research. It is also **imperative that students who are engaging in empirical research apply for ethics approval at the earliest possible juncture**. Securing ethics approval can be a time-consuming process that can interfere with research plans, as research cannot start until approval has been granted. Details on how to apply for ethics approval can be found on the [Research Support](#) university site. Students who want to engage in empirical research for their dissertation should discuss the ethics process with their academic supervisors in early Hilary Term.

Students must notify the GSA of ethics applications and confirmation evidence should be sent to gsa@crim.ox.ac.uk.

Part time MSc students are expected to work on their dissertations throughout their second year of study.

7.5.2 Choosing a dissertation title

Students are not normally allowed to change the substantive area of study for their dissertation approved and supervisors and assessors appointed. Working with their supervisors, they will narrow down the focus of their research and finalise a title.

When you and your supervisor have agreed a final title, you should complete the form emailed by the GSA for approval **by Wednesday of Week 7 of Trinity term**.

Once you have been appointed a supervisor, you should not seek further help with your dissertation from any of the other MSc tutors. If you have problems in relation to your dissertation supervision you should consult the DGS-T or the GSA.

7.5.3 Preparation of the dissertation

Your dissertation must be typed with a margin of 3 to 3.5 centimetres on the left-hand side of each page. You should use font size 12 for the main text and font size 10 for footnotes. The text should be double-spaced and the footnotes and quotations should be single-spaced. Footnotes should normally be placed at the bottom of each page. Pages should be numbered and **EACH page should record your candidate number (not student number) and the dissertation title in a header or footer box**. All written work must be submitted in English. All dissertations should include a bibliography.

Note: Candidates should take seriously the word limits imposed (both upper and lower). Where a candidate submits an assessed essay, a dissertation (or other piece of written coursework) which

exceeds the word limit prescribed by the relevant regulation, the Board of Examiners may reduce the mark by up to 10 marks (by up to one grade only). See further [Examination Regulations](#).

Each dissertation should have a cover sheet (supplied by the GSA) attached to it containing the title, subtitle (if any) and candidate number. It should also state the Oxford term and year of submission and the number of words of the dissertation.

The dissertation should be accompanied by an **abstract** and a table of contents. The **abstract** should summarise the scope and main arguments of the dissertation in approximately 300 words. It should be one side only of A4-sized paper and should include the title of the dissertation, the candidate's number, the title of the degree (MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice) and the term and year of submission. The abstract should **NOT** be included as part of the word limit. Acknowledgements are acceptable if brief.

7.5.4 Submission of dissertations

Candidates shall be required to submit their dissertation online, no later than 12:00 midday UK time, on Wednesday of Week 8 of Trinity term into the [Inspira](#) submissions site. The dissertation will automatically be checked for plagiarism using the [Turnitin](#) software.

Students may wish to upload their dissertation to the Oxford Research Archive (ORA). Further details can be found on the [ORA website](#).

7.6 Referencing and Plagiarism

The University now defines plagiarism as 'Presenting work or ideas from another source as your own...', whereas previously the definition was worded 'presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own' (see [Plagiarism | University of Oxford](#) for full statement).

All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition. Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence.

Please note that the University's rules on plagiarism prohibit the unauthorised use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in exams and coursework submissions.

'Unauthorised use of artificial intelligence is the presentation of work produced wholly, or in part, by AI as your own. This could include the use of material produced by translation software, paraphrasing tools, text generation software such as essay bots, and/or tools to generate graphics, artwork, code or any other material. Use of AI in the process of preparing work for summative assessment without authorisation is still academic misconduct, even if the student amends the AI output.'

Specific guidance on academic good practice and topics such as time management, note-taking, referencing, research and library skills and information literacy can be found on the Oxford students [study skills and training site](#).

Two systems of referencing are acceptable, the so-called Harvard system, and the OSCOLA system (Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities). Broadly speaking, the Harvard system is better suited for social sciences papers, while OSCOLA is more appropriate for essays making significant references to legal cases. Guidelines on referencing can be found on the [Bodleian Library website](#).

The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (Oxford University Press) adopts a version of the Harvard system, and students are encouraged to follow that model. [Guidelines for OSCOLA](#) can be found on the Law Faculty website.

You should consult your Option Tutor on the type of referencing system most appropriate for your written work.

The Academic Writing Skills session in Michaelmas term cover the topic of referencing, and all students are highly recommended to attend it.

7.7 Notification of results

We do not post results of the assessed essays and nor do we disclose marks to other students in any other way. Marks and feedback will be emailed to students individually. The results for the dissertation, exams and for the course as a whole will also be available online via Student Self-Service, generally within a few days of the Final Examiners' Meeting.

7.8 Assessment standards

70-100: Distinction level

Papers which are awarded a distinction will be well structured, well-argued and comprehensive. They will be analytical, rather than merely descriptive and will go beyond the most obvious sources of knowledge. The candidate will have demonstrated an unusually clear grasp of most of the issues (including all the more important ones), used an unusually wide range of material, and displayed very good skills in evaluating the material and using it to construct arguments which deal with the issues.

80-100: Superb work showing fine command of intellectual debates and making a creative contribution to them.

75-79 Excellent work, intellectually stimulating argument.

70-74: Fine work showing powerful analysis, a distinctive argument, and full awareness of the secondary literature and critical engagement with it.

65 – 69: Merit level

Papers awarded a merit will have strong and well-developed independent critical analysis that moves beyond issues discussed in seminars. The candidate will have demonstrated clear and logical arguments with an awareness of nuances and complexities in debates. The paper will have strong evidence of independent research drawing on a wide range of literature. There will be some indication of distinction potential; no significant errors of fact or interpretation.

50-64: Pass

Papers which are awarded a pass mark will demonstrate a competent grasp of most of the more important issues, a familiarity with and understanding of a reasonable range of relevant materials, and good skills in evaluating the material and using it to construct arguments which deal with the issues.

55-64: Higher pass: Sound analytical standard with most points developed rather than stated. Some evidence of independent critical analysis and evaluation and synthesis of material. Addresses the question and provides a reasonably focused answer. Some awareness of nuances and complexities in debates.

50-54: Pass: Basic analytical skills apparent from identification of intellectual problems with some structured discussion of them. Partially addresses the question but lacks focus. Broadly satisfactory grasp of key issues. Arguments appropriate, but underdeveloped.

0-49: Fail

An unsatisfactory piece of work. At best, the answer will simply describe the most relevant research and debates but will not demonstrate any skill at analysis or argumentation. It is likely that this candidate will not have clearly demonstrated much understanding of the question or the issues it raises. Some of the most relevant material is likely to have been ignored and irrelevant material included.

45-49: Marginal fail: inadequate development of points made.

0-44: Outright fail: inadequate coverage and inadequate analysis.

Candidates are expected to pay attention to academic style, grammar, use of referencing and citation conventions and clarity of expression, as these will be taken into account in the assessment process.

8. Arrangements for reassessment

In the case of failure in one part of the examination, the candidate will be permitted to retake that part of the examination on one further occasion. The mark for any resit will be capped at a pass mark. Candidates may carry forward the marks gained for the successfully completed components. Candidates who have failed any assessment items at the first attempt will not normally be eligible for the award of a Merit or Distinction classification overall.

Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice

Candidates who fail, do not attend, or withdraw from, the Criminological Theories and Criminal Justice examination may resit the examination. This will normally be according to the standard timetable for examinations in the following academic year. Candidates who fail one or more of the written examinations may have the opportunity to re-sit in September.

Research Design and Data Collection, and Options

Candidates who have failed to obtain an aggregate mark of 50 per cent for assessment for the options, have withdrawn from any assessment, or not submitted, may resubmit assessments for which they obtained a mark of 49 per cent or less. Candidates may resubmit assessed essays according to the standard timetable for submitting essays in the following academic year. Resubmitted work will be based on the material studied for the course that the candidate took, even when the resubmission happens in the following academic year, but the candidate cannot submit a reworked version of the original submission.

Continuous assessment element of Research Design and Data Collection, Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists and Qualitative Methods.

Candidates who fail to complete an assignment which forms part of the continuous assessment element of Quantitative Analysis for Social Scientists and/or Qualitative Methods to the satisfaction of the respective Course Tutor may be required to resubmit that assignment by noon on Wednesday of Week Ten of the relevant term. Resubmitted work may be a reworked version of the original submission.

Dissertation

Candidates who fail, do not submit, or withdraw from, the dissertation may resubmit the dissertation by the required date in Trinity Term of the following academic year. Resubmitted work may be a reworked version of the original submission.

9. Prizes

[Professor Roger Hood](#) CBE, QC (Hon), PhD, DCL, LLD (Hon), FBA, 1936 – 2020, was Professor Emeritus of Criminology, Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, and Director of the Oxford Centre for Criminology 1973 – 2003.

Professor Hood endowed a prize for the best overall performance each year in the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The Roger Hood Prize (£500) was awarded for the first time at the end of the 2003-04 academic year to the best MSc student. The prize will only be awarded if the student receives an overall distinction.

There is also a Prize of £350 for the best dissertation, awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

10. Course evaluation

The DGS-T and course tutors are committed to making a thorough evaluation to assess whether the aims and objectives of the course are being achieved and to improve the course by identifying its strengths and weaknesses. There are various methods by which we seek to obtain feedback from students about their experiences. There are informal means by which students can communicate their experiences of this course: through the meetings with their Academic Advisor and through direct communication with the course teachers. Rather more formal is the role of the **Student Representative**. Students have the opportunity to elect a representative amongst their cohort in Week 0 of Michaelmas term, one representative for each of the full time and part time courses. MSc and research students' reps will attend termly meetings (normally Tuesdays of Week 9) with the Board of Studies to represent the students' needs and interests. The Board of Studies feeds back to the students, via the Student Representative, their responses to students' comments and concerns. The Board makes clear which of the suggestions for change they feel able to act upon. In some cases, change might not be possible until the following academic year.

As part of the wider Law Faculty students also have the opportunity to elect a student representative to sit on the **Law Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee**. This student representative will be chosen amongst the year's Graduate Taught students. These elections are overseen by the Law Students' Association and are conducted over the faculty's postgraduate email list. The Centre strongly encourages students to nominate someone for this position and to participate fully in the elections. The person nominated can be the same or different to the representative on the Board of Studies.

Students who are enthusiastic to serve their fellow students (and incidentally gain an insight into how Oxford's academic governance operates) might consider standing for these positions in the Michaelmas Term, and student interest in these positions is warmly welcomed. Over the course of the year students who have suggestions they wish to make to the Centre and the Faculty, who have issues to raise, or who seek advice may wish to do so through these committee representatives.

Students are encouraged to consult their student representatives about the course and Centre (e.g. core course, options, tutors, administration, supervision) and consult the representatives for the Law Faculty Graduate Studies Committee about any problems related to the law faculty more widely (for example, database support, the law library, and other facilities).

Subject to the requirements of data protection legislation, the Faculty of Law maintains a database on its alumni to track how our students fare in the employment or higher education market, to help students keep in touch with each other, to send out job opportunities and relevant events (e.g. conferences, seminars, calls for papers) and to provide new students with ideas about possible career choices.

10.1 MSc student feedback

There is a more structured method for conducting course evaluation, namely the use of an anonymous questionnaire administered in Week 7 of each term for each course taken.

The questionnaires are administered anonymously online by the GSA. The feedback is then collated, and the findings presented to the Board of Studies.

10.2 Graduate Student Reporting (GSR)

In addition to feedback forms and questionnaires aimed at collecting student feedback on their course and the learning environment, students also have the opportunity to comment on their progress and related matters on the Graduate Student Reporting (GSR) system. This is the University of Oxford's automated system designed to report on student progress. All students are strongly encouraged to take full advantage of this feedback opportunity.

The Academic Supervisor is required to write a report on each student's academic progress each term, on the GSR System. The contents of this report are communicated to the student, and the student's college. **You are strongly encouraged to take part in this process.** Access to GSR for students will be via [Student Self Service](#). Students will be sent a GSR automated email notification with details of how to log in at the start of each reporting window, and who to contact with queries.

It is strongly recommended that you complete a self-assessment report every reporting period. If you have any difficulty completing this, you must speak to the GSA. Your self-assessment report will be used by your supervisor(s) as a basis to complete a report on your performance this reporting period, for identifying areas where further work may be required, and for reviewing your progress against agreed timetables and plans for the term ahead.

Use this opportunity to:

- Review and comment on your academic progress during the current reporting period
- Measure your progress against the requirements and agreed timetable for your programme of study
- Identify skills developed and training undertaken or required (taught programmes only)
- List your engagement with the academic community
- Raise concerns or issues regarding your academic progress to your supervisor
- Outline your plans for the next term (where applicable)

11. University Policy Statements and Codes of Practice

11.1 Supervision

The role of the Academic Advisor is to guide and advise the student throughout their course of study. However, postgraduate students are expected to work independently most of the time and not seek help from supervisors at every juncture.

Students do not normally seek help or advice from their Academic Advisors on matters concerning fees, accommodation, childcare, or other personal issues not directly related to academic/course matters. They seek support from their College Advisors for these 'domestic' matters.

Students will normally meet their Academic Advisor at the beginning and end of Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. In Trinity Term students are allocated a Dissertation Supervisor to work with throughout the term. In addition to these meetings, students can contact their supervisor at any time during term if they have problems or concerns which they feel cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting. Likewise, supervisors might proactively arrange an additional meeting during term if they have pressing concerns about a student's progress.

11.2 University procedure for complaints and appeals

The University, the Social Sciences Division and the Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Law hope that provision made for students at all stages of their course of study will result in no need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment).

Where such a need arises, an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below) is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Many sources of advice are available from colleges, faculties/departments and bodies like the [Counselling Service](#) or the [Oxford SU Student Advice Service](#), which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of those sources before pursuing your complaint.

General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the faculty committees.

Complaints

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the Centre, then you should raise it with the Director of Graduate Studies. If your concern relates to the course as a whole, rather than to teaching or other provision made by Centre, you should raise it with the Centre Director. Complaints about departmental facilities should be made to the GSA.

If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Dean, Professor John Armour (dean@law.ox.ac.uk) who will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the [University Student Complaints Procedure](#).

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by your college, you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers, Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates (as appropriate). Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

Academic appeals

An academic appeal is an appeal against the decision of an academic body (e.g. boards of examiners, transfer and confirmation decisions etc.), on grounds such as procedural error or evidence of bias. There is no right of appeal against academic judgement.

If you have any concerns about your assessment process or outcome it is advisable to discuss these first informally with your GSA who will be able to explain the assessment process that was undertaken and may be able to address your concerns. Queries must not be raised directly with the markers/assessors or examiners.

If you still have concerns, you can make a formal appeal to the Proctors who will consider appeals under the [University Academic Appeals Procedure](#).

Please remember in connection with all academic appeals that:

- The Proctors are not empowered to challenge the academic judgement of examiners or academic bodies.
- The Proctors can consider whether the procedures for reaching an academic decision were properly followed; i.e. whether there was a significant procedural administrative error; whether there is evidence of bias or inadequate assessment; whether the examiners failed to take into account special factors affecting a candidate's performance.
- On no account should you contact your examiners or assessors/markers directly.

11.3 Policy on free speech

[Free speech](#) is the lifeblood of a university.

It enables the pursuit of knowledge. It helps us approach truth. It allows students, teachers and researchers to become better acquainted with the variety of beliefs, theories and opinions in the world. Recognising the vital importance of free expression for the life of the mind, a university may make rules concerning the conduct of debate but should never prevent speech that is lawful.

Inevitably, this will mean that members of the University are confronted with views that some find unsettling, extreme or offensive. The University must therefore foster freedom of expression within a framework of robust civility. Not all theories deserve equal respect. A university values expertise and intellectual achievement as well as openness. But, within the bounds set by law, all voices or views which any member of our community considers relevant should be given the chance of a hearing. Wherever possible, they should also be exposed to evidence, questioning and argument. As an integral part of this commitment to freedom of expression, we will take steps to ensure that all such exchanges happen peacefully. With appropriate regulation of the time, place and manner of events, neither speakers nor listeners should have any reasonable grounds to feel intimidated or censored.

It is this understanding of the central importance and specific roles of free speech in a university that underlies the detailed procedures of the University of Oxford.

12. Dispensation from study requirements

12.1 Extension of time

Taught courses

Students working for a taught graduate course are expected to complete the course within the normal time-scale for the course in question. Permission to defer taking an examination, other than for serious personal reasons, e.g. ill health, is therefore rarely given. Technology failure is not acceptable as an excuse. Students will understand that the time allowed for the completion of the course is a significant element in the nature of the examination as a whole, and therefore requests for an extension to that time for particular individuals are bound to be treated with particular care. Students who wish to apply for an extension of a deadline must apply to the Proctors through their Student Self Service and/or College.

12.2 Suspension of status

Since students are expected to complete a graduate taught course within the time-scale of the course in question, suspensions of status are rare. If a student cannot work for a particular reason, e.g. illness, family circumstances, financial hardship, then application for suspension of status can be sought, for not less than one and not more than three terms at any one time.

12.3 Illness

Students whose work is unavoidably interrupted for any significant period due to illness should consider applying for a suspension of status until the following academic year. A student whose illness is not serious enough, or of too short duration to justify suspension of status, may, nevertheless, feel that it is likely to have an adverse effect on their performance in the examination. In this case they must ask their **College** Senior Tutor (not Academic Advisor) to inform the University Proctors who, with sufficient evidence (including a doctor's report) have the option, at their discretion, of writing to the examiners and asking that the candidate's illness be taken into account. Candidates should not write directly to the Proctors or seek advice on this process from the DGS-T. Your College Office should be able to further advise you on this matter. Extensions to essay or dissertation deadlines are granted only in exceptional cases where there is sufficient evidence that illness has made impossible the successful completion of the written work. Again, students who wish to apply for an extension of a deadline must apply to the Proctors through their College.

13. University facilities and resources

13.1 Bodleian Library

The Bodleian Library provides training in [information skills](#) and information literacy. Some workshops are offered under the auspices of the APDP; others are offered directly by the Library.

13.2 Careers Service

The [Careers Service](#) has a range of events and resources for doctoral students.

13.3 IT Services

Through its [IT Learning Centre](#), IT Services offers a range of computing courses.

13.4 Centre for Teaching and Learning

The [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#) has a useful set of resources.

13.5 Language Centre

The [Language Centre](#) offers specialist and difficult languages training. Please note that you should discuss attending courses run by the Language Centre with your supervisor and GSA BEFORE signing up for or attending any course.

13.6 Canvas

[Canvas](#) is the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Criminology has a main course Canvas sites – MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice, as well as sites for each of the courses offered on the MSc. These sites are accessible using your Oxford password and login details

14. University and divisional procedures for research ethics review

It is a formal requirement that all research involving human participants should be subject to ethical review. It is now the expectation – and in some cases formal requirement – of funding bodies that all research involving human participants is subject to an ethical review process. Moreover, researchers, and indeed participants themselves, are now recognising the importance of ethical scrutiny. Most other universities are following a similar course, and it is important that this University is committed to ensuring that its research activities involving human participants are conducted in a way which respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and which minimises risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself. This requirement will affect some students who are considering interviewing, for example. Further information can be sought from the DGS-T and the [CUREC website](#):

15. Equal opportunities

15.1 Equal Opportunities Statement (Students)

The University of Oxford and its colleges aim to provide education of excellent quality at undergraduate and postgraduate level for able students, whatever their background. In pursuit of this aim, the University is committed to using its best endeavours to ensure that all of its activities are governed by principles of equality of opportunity, and that all students are helped to achieve their full academic potential. This statement applies to recruitment and admissions, to the curriculum, teaching and assessment, to welfare and support services, and to staff development and training.

[Equality and Diversity Unit](#).

15.2 Recruitment and admissions

Decisions on admissions are based solely on the individual merits of each candidate, their suitability for the course they have applied to study, assessed by the application of selection criteria appropriate to the course of study. Admissions procedures are kept under regular review to ensure compliance with this policy. We seek to admit students of the highest academic potential. All selection takes place without regard to gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, sexual orientation, social background or other irrelevant distinction. Applications from students with disabilities are considered on exactly the same academic grounds as those from other candidates. We are committed to making arrangements whenever practicable to enable such students to participate as fully as possible in student life. Details of these arrangements can be found on the [University Admissions](#) site, and information will be provided on request by colleges or by the University Disability Coordinator.

None of the above shall be taken to invalidate the need for financial guarantees where appropriate.

15.3 The curriculum, teaching and assessment

Unfair discrimination based on individual characteristics (listed in the statement on recruitment and admissions above) will not be tolerated. University departments, faculties, colleges and the central quality assurance bodies monitor the curriculum, teaching practice and assessment methods. Teaching and support staff have regard to the diverse needs, interests and backgrounds of their students in all their dealings with them.

16. Equality and Diversity

16.1 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Oxford

“The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected. We recognise that the broad range of experiences that a diverse staff and student body brings strengthens our research and enhances our teaching, and that in order for Oxford to remain a world-leading institution we must continue to provide a diverse, inclusive, fair and open environment that allows everyone to grow and flourish.” University of Oxford [Equality Policy](#)

As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration.

The [Equality and Diversity Unit](#) works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the ‘protected characteristics’ of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The EDU has a team of advisors covering each area of equality and diversity, in relation to both staff and students – except provision for disabled students. This is the responsibility of the [Disability Advisory Service](#). They also support the [University’s Harassment Advisory Service](#).

EDU’s work is overseen by the Equality and Diversity Panel and receives input from the Disability Advisory Group, BME Staff Advisory Group, and LGBT+ Advisory Group. These groups are composed of staff and student representatives from across the collegiate University and are in turn supported by different [networks](#).

There are a range of faith societies, belief groups, and places of worship within the University and in and around the city centre. For details you can visit the [faith societies and belief groups webpage](#). The Faculty of Law also offers a space in the St Cross Building for quiet contemplation and prayer. The [Contemplation Room](#) is located on the ground floor, close to the Faculty’s main teaching spaces (the Cube, Seminar Room D and Seminar Room F) and close to the accessible entrance on Manor Rd.

As a member of the University, you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment. Bullying and harassment are unacceptable behaviours which can cause harm, physically or emotionally. As such, the University expects all members of the University community, its visitors and contractors to treat each other with respect, courtesy and consideration.

If you have experienced bullying or harassment, you are encouraged to seek support and advice. The University has approximately 490 trained harassment advisors available to support you as part of its [Harassment Advisors’ Network](#).

The Oxford Student Union (SU) is also a great source of support. It runs a series of [campaigns](#) to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students, as well as having a wide range of [activities](#), [student clubs and societies](#) to get involved in.

16.2 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Faculty of Law

At the Faculty of Law, we incorporate equality, diversity and inclusion into our core objectives, making every effort to eliminate discrimination, create equal opportunities and develop good working relationships between different people.

All our activities are led by the Associate Dean for Equality and Diversity, [Professor Ignacio Cofone](#), with the support of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer (EDI Officer), [Clara Elod](#), and overseen by the [Equality and Diversity Committee \(EDC\)](#), which reports directly to the Law Board. EDC meets twice a term, on Tuesdays of Weeks 4 and 8, and **all meetings are open to students**, with no reserved business. If you would like to raise an item for discussion, you can do so directly by emailing the [EDI Officer](#) or contacting your [student representative](#) on the Committee. Every year, at least three student representatives join the Committee (one from each degree type: undergraduate, and postgraduate taught and research).

You can find out more about our recent activities and get involved by visiting [Equality, Diversity & Inclusion | Faculty of Law](#). Please email the [EDI Officer](#) if you have any questions. We are keen to listen to student voices and work together to make the Faculty a more inclusive space for all questions.

16.3 Student Welfare and Support Services

There are several services available to provide support to you during your studies at the University. You can find useful information on the [Student Welfare and Wellbeing website](#).

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice, and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit [Disability | University of Oxford](#).

The Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service. For more information visit: [Counselling and mental health | University of Oxford](#).

The Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service provides a safe space for you to be heard, with advisors offering free support and advice to any current student who has been impacted by sexual harassment or violence. All specialist caseworkers at the service are trained to support you at your pace, non-judgementally and in confidence. For more information, visit: [Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service | University of Oxford](#).

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the Oxford SU's Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit: [Peer Support | University of Oxford](#).

Lastly, the Faculty has trained mental health first aiders and harassment advisors whom students may contact for advice. They can be found at [Mental Health First Aiders | Faculty of Law](#) and [Harassment Advice | Faculty of Law](#).