



University of  
Staffordshire



# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Your place  
of possibility

We are delighted to announce that Staffordshire University has rebranded to become University of Staffordshire. It reinforces our commitment to Staffordshire and beyond. Our brand evolution also heralds an exciting new future, with lots of new opportunities for our students.

# WELCOME TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Criminology  
Forensics  
Policing And Investigation

Explore the causes of crime and learn how to bring offenders to justice on our exciting range of hands-on, career-focused courses.

You'll also be studying at a **top 5 UK university for Criminology** (Guardian University Guide, 2025). Whether you want to be a police officer, investigator or intelligence analyst, we'll help you turn possibility into reality.

We also have unique connections into industry. You'll have the chance to help police forces with everything from testing real drug samples to working on missing person cases. As a student criminologist, you can gain experience with offender management, victim support or rehabilitation organisations.

Using our brand new £2.2m simulation facilities, you'll practise your skills with different training scenarios. You could be applying for a search warrant, booking a suspect into custody and defending your case in our mock courtrooms. Or you could be processing a crime scene, analysing evidence in the lab and interviewing witnesses.

With our next-level teaching and personalised learning, we'll offer you all the support you need to achieve real success.



EXPLORE  
OUR  
COURSES





Bringing your place  
of possibility to life

# THIS IS YOUR PLACE

**3<sup>RD</sup> FOR CRIMINOLOGY**

Guardian University Guide 2025

**8<sup>TH</sup> FOR FORENSIC  
SCIENCE**

Guardian University Guide 2024

**COLD CASE UNIT**

**NEW £2.2M  
SIMULATION  
FACILITIES**

**WORK PLACEMENTS**

**EXPERT ACADEMICS**

**STAFFORDSHIRE  
FORENSICS  
PARTNERSHIP**





# WHY CHOOSE UNIVERSITY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Find your gateway to industry  
and a future full of possibilities.  
An amazing community,  
where amazing things happen.  
**All built around you.**



## Leading modern courses

Right from the beginning, we've been at the cutting edge of industries and driving change. Building a bridge between the classroom and real-world practice. Learn the skills for the future on our career-focused courses.

## Next-level teaching

We teach in the best way, not the old way. Pushing boundaries and using hands-on, personalised learning. Championing digital innovation, from CGI to games technologies. Immerse yourself in our simulation spaces, taking you from crime scene to courtroom or ambulance to operating theatre.

## Personalised support

Get all the support you need to achieve real success. Whether you have a worry about money, your studies, your mental health or a personal issue, we're here for you every step of the way.

## Gateway to careers

With our unique industry connections, you'll unlock your potential. Unleash your entrepreneurial skills as you take on projects, explore placements or exhibit your work at shows, and gain the skills for whatever comes next. You can even become a student consultant, marketing your expertise to employers.

## Inclusive community

Become part of our open, inclusive and welcoming community. An environment that's big on personality and full of character. A place where you'll feel empowered and inspired. Where everyone is valued and you can be you.





# FACILITIES



VISIT OUR CAMPUS  
TRANSFORMATION  
PAGES FOR MORE  
INFORMATION



## Simulation-based Education

Our simulation facilities put you at the heart of the action. You could be the first on scene after a crime, interviewing witnesses, collecting DNA and digital evidence, or searching for fake goods.

Whatever the training scenario, you'll be able to practise your skills in a safe environment before doing the job for real.

We have invested £2.2m in 12 brand new simulation suites, which can be transformed into a wide range of incredibly life-like settings. These include bedrooms, bathrooms and lounges as well as a shop, office, hospital ward, custody suite and prison cell.

There is also an outdoor forensic area, along with two courtrooms where students can present cases and act as expert witnesses. Each



suite has a debriefing area and is fitted with cameras so staff can observe the action from a control room and provide detailed feedback to students, who can then re-watch their performance to clearly understand what went well and where they can improve.

The Ashley 2 facilities on our Stoke-on-Trent campus give students a rounded experience. They can track a case from crime scene to courtroom and collaborate with students from other courses.

These spaces are at the heart of our innovative approach to learning, where students are immersed in hands-on experiences to prepare them for real-life scenarios.

# EXCELLENCE IN POLICING EDUCATION

**Do you want a career in policing?**  
Study with us and we'll prepare you for your future career. No matter what your previous experience, we've got a career route that suits your needs.

## **Why choose Policing at University of Staffordshire?**

- Police Partnerships – we have active partnerships with several police forces, including Staffordshire Police
- Varied routes – to suit your professional goals and experience
- Work and learn – our apprenticeship programmes offer on-the-job training, and our degrees include work experience opportunities
- Learn from the experts – no matter which route you choose, you will learn from experts with real-world experience in policing
- Recognised qualifications – some of our courses are delivered under standards set by the College of Policing. Please see our individual course pages to find out where this applies

**We offer a range of pathways that are designed to lead into the police force.**

## **Undergraduate Degrees**

### **BSc (Hons) Professional Policing**

– Designed for those who wish to become a constable and learn in a university setting. On this 'prejoin' degree, you will be able to apply to your chosen force straight from graduation.

### **BSc (Hons) Policing and Criminal Investigation**

– This broader degree allows you to explore other areas of policing and criminal investigation, leading to careers in a variety of investigative agencies such as police forces, the National Crime Agency, border agencies or the military.

## **Work-based Learning**

### **Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA)**

– A three-year work-based learning programme where you study alongside operational duties. Recruitment is through our partner forces.

### **Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP)**

– A two-year programme for applicants who already possess a degree. It will equip you to succeed at graduate level. Apply for these work-based learning courses through your chosen force's website.

# STEP UP TO POLICING

If you don't meet our Level 3 entry requirements, we now offer a policing-specific 10-week short course to develop your academic skills, getting you ready for your education in policing.

**Find out more online.**



**FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
POLICING AT  
UNIVERSITY OF  
STAFFORDSHIRE**





# CENTRE FOR CRIME, JUSTICE AND SECURITY

Our centre leads on groundbreaking research into forensic science, criminology and policing. As a student, you will benefit from the up-to-date knowledge and expertise of our staff.

Research projects include developing new methods to combat crime at a national and international level. We also have academics researching areas such as microplastics, road safety, and alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions.

The thread running through our work is a commitment to human rights, global security and justice for all. We also aim to have an impact on policy and practice in wider social and criminal justice environments.

The centre is home to several research groups that work collaboratively across the University and with external partners.

These include:

- Violence Against Women and Girls hub
- Staffordshire University Forensic Canine Research and Development Group
- Burial Research Group
- Microplastics and Forensic Fibres Research Group



VISIT OUR  
CRIME, JUSTICE  
AND SECURITY  
WEB PAGES



As a student, you can take advantage of our unique partnership with Staffordshire Police. Opportunities include six-week or three-month student placements.

The partnership brings together university academics and policing experts. As well as sharing ideas, they deliver leading technology and services in forensics.

## STAFFORDSHIRE FORENSIC PARTNERSHIP

# COLD CASE UNIT

At University of Staffordshire, you won't just be learning the theory behind criminal investigation, you'll be living it.

In collaboration with Locate International, we have opened our very own Cold Case Unit to give assistance to police investigators and families of both missing and deceased people. You will help tackle unsolved cases and will have access to a network of international contacts.

Depending on your subject area, you could be asked to investigate a police-allocated cold case alongside other like-minded students and staff. Through our Cold Case Unit, you will have the chance to review cases, gather intelligence, work collaboratively with specialist organisations and teams, and provide working investigative reports to the police.

## Sean Phillips

Lecturer

Sean's previous career was in the West Midlands Police, retiring as a Detective Superintendent where he held responsibility for Public Protection and Vulnerability. During his career, Sean was involved in the investigation and oversight of missing persons cases. He now brings his wealth of experience and knowledge to the Cold Case Unit.

**In 2022-2023,  
there were over:**

**312,901  
CALLS FOR  
MISSING  
PERSONS**

**4,102  
LONG TERM  
MISSING  
INDIVIDUALS**

**1,033  
UNIDENTIFIED  
CASES ACROSS  
THE UK**

With University of Staffordshire, you will have a real chance to make an impact.



# CRIME TAPES PODCAST

From motive to mass murder, join the experts at University of Staffordshire as they dissect controversial crimes that have shocked the world.

The partnership brings together university academics and policing experts. As well as sharing ideas, they deliver leading technology and services in forensics.

**Professor James Treadwell**  
Crime Tapes host

Professor in Criminology. His expertise includes professional crime and organised crime, prison and imprisonment, drugs and crime, sports criminology (football violence and combat sports) and criminological ethnography.





# OUR STUDENTS

“

**I have been able to have experiences such as spending a month in America on a placement with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.**”

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**Danielle Chew**

Forensic Investigation Graduate

“

**Providing continued invaluable advice, knowledge, and personal experience, the staff are true role models.**”

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**Jay Franklin**

Policing and Criminal Investigation Graduate

# MEET THE EXPERTS



**DR LAUREN METCALFE**

Course Director –  
Criminology and  
Policing

Dr. Lauren Metcalfe is the Course Director for Criminology and Policing. Her main specialism is in evidence-based policing research, and she currently supervises both undergraduate and PhD research projects, as well as maintaining international connections to offer students opportunities for wider learning.



**LOUIS MARTIN**

Course Leader –  
Criminology

Louis Martin joined the Derbyshire Constabulary in 1984, developing expertise in homicide investigation, suspicious deaths, training detectives and criminal justice. He completed a Senior Investigative Officers course which enabled him to lead and manage homicide investigations.



**DR DUNCAN PARKER**

Course Director –  
Forensics

Dr Duncan Parker is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Higher Education Group and passionately believes in the advancement of teaching innovation for the benefit of future generations of scientists in Forensic Science. His research interests are forensic and chemical education, public perceptions of science and applications of analytical methods to the study of the metabolism of alcohol.



**DEAN NORTHFIELD**

Senior Lecturer –  
Forensics

Dean worked in various roles for West Yorkshire Police before progressing to Senior Imaging Officer. He finished his time there within the Forensic Multimedia Unit. He has many years of case experience having been involved in a number of high-profile cases. He also worked for external agencies such as SOCA (Serious and Organised Crime Agency) and on large scale drug importations, among many others.



**DR ABDULRAHMAN OLEIWI**

Senior Lecturer –  
Forensics

Abdulrahman started his academic career at Baghdad University as a researcher and lecturer in molecular biology and DNA profiling. His forensic career started when he joined the Disaster Victim Identification and Mass Grave Management programme in Iraq. His expertise includes DNA profiling, molecular biology, disaster victim identification, forensic biology and more.



**SARAH PAGE**

Associate  
Professor

Sarah has practitioner experience working within the criminal justice system with offenders in a therapeutic capacity addressing addiction issues. Sarah has a wide range of research interests including poverty and crime, community safety, addictions and victimology.



**JUSTIN-MASON SPANNER**

Course leader –  
Policing and Criminal  
Investigation

Justin spent 30 years as a nationally trained and accredited Senior Investigating Officer managing murder investigations. He uses his knowledge and experience in delivering modules into the investigative syllabus of the course. Justin supervises several student dissertations each year, with an emphasis on research that explores investigative doctrine of both policing and other authoritative agencies.



**SARAH WATSON**

Course Leader –  
Professional Policing

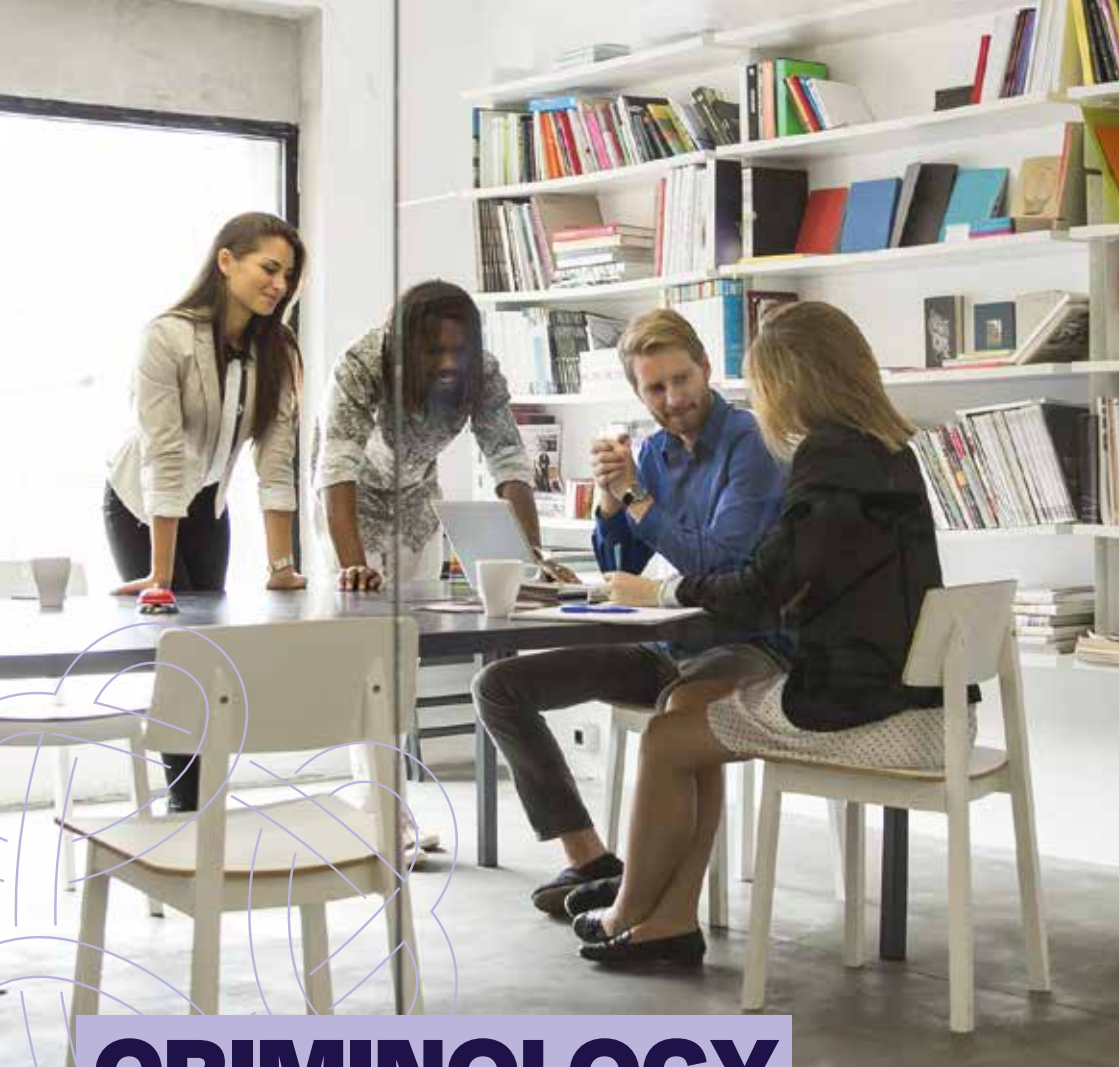
Sarah has a Criminology background and undertook her undergraduate degree as a mature student and has been in academia ever since. Her particular focus is on firearms which is what she is undertaking her PhD in, exploring mass shooting incidents across Europe. Sarah teaches on modules around policing roles and responsibilities and academic study skills as well as on some of our vulnerability-based modules.



# OUR COURSES

Course title	Award	UCAS Code	UCAS Offer	Duration in years
Criminology	BSc(Hons)	M012	112–120	3
Criminology	MSci	M014	120–128	4
Criminology (with foundation year)	BSc(Hons)	M015	48	4
Criminology (with placement year)	BSc(Hons)	M013	112–120	4
Forensic Investigation	BSc(Hons)	F412	112–120	3
Forensic Investigation	MSci	8H16	120–128	4
Forensic Investigation (with foundation year)	BSc(Hons)	FM13	48	4
Forensic Investigation (with placement year)	BSc(Hons)	F415	112–120	4
Forensic Science	BSc(Hons)	F410	112–120	3
Forensic Science	MSci	2R14	120–128	4
Forensic Science (with foundation year)	BSc(Hons)	F413	48	4
Forensic Science (with placement year)	BSc(Hons)	F416	112–120	4
Policing and Criminal Investigation	BSc(Hons)	FM4X	112–120	3
Policing and Criminal Investigation (with foundation year)	BSc(Hons)	FM6X	48	4
Policing and Criminal Investigation (with placement year)	BSc(Hons)	FM5X	112–120	4

Course title	Award	UCAS Code	UCAS Offer	Duration in years
Professional Policing	BSc(Hons)	I766	112–120	3
Professional Policing (with foundation year)	BSc(Hons)	I777	48	4



# CRIMINOLOGY

The ideal springboard if you want a career in offender management, supporting victims or delivering crime prevention strategies. We don't just teach the theories behind criminality, but explore solutions to crime too. On the course, you can take a broad approach or choose a specialist pathway.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> FOR CRIMINOLOGY

Guardian University Guide 2025



**FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
THE COURSE  
HERE**



### Why choose us...

- You'll get the opportunity to complete work experience within the criminal justice and rehabilitation sectors.
- Learn directly from experienced industry professionals, including former senior police officers, criminologists, solicitors, barristers, experts from the prisons and probation sector, victim support and counter terrorism.
- You will come to understand the development of the criminal justice institutions (police, prisons and courts) in the UK, as well as the inter-relationships between these systems, as mechanisms to respond to crimes and social harms.
- We offer flexible study options including a placement year or an integrated Masters.

### What you'll learn...

Delve into the criminal mind, challenge your conceptions of society, and develop a thorough understanding of human rights. You can study criminology as a broad subject, or specialise on one of our career-focused pathways:

- Offender Management
- Terrorism and Organised Crime
- Victim Support

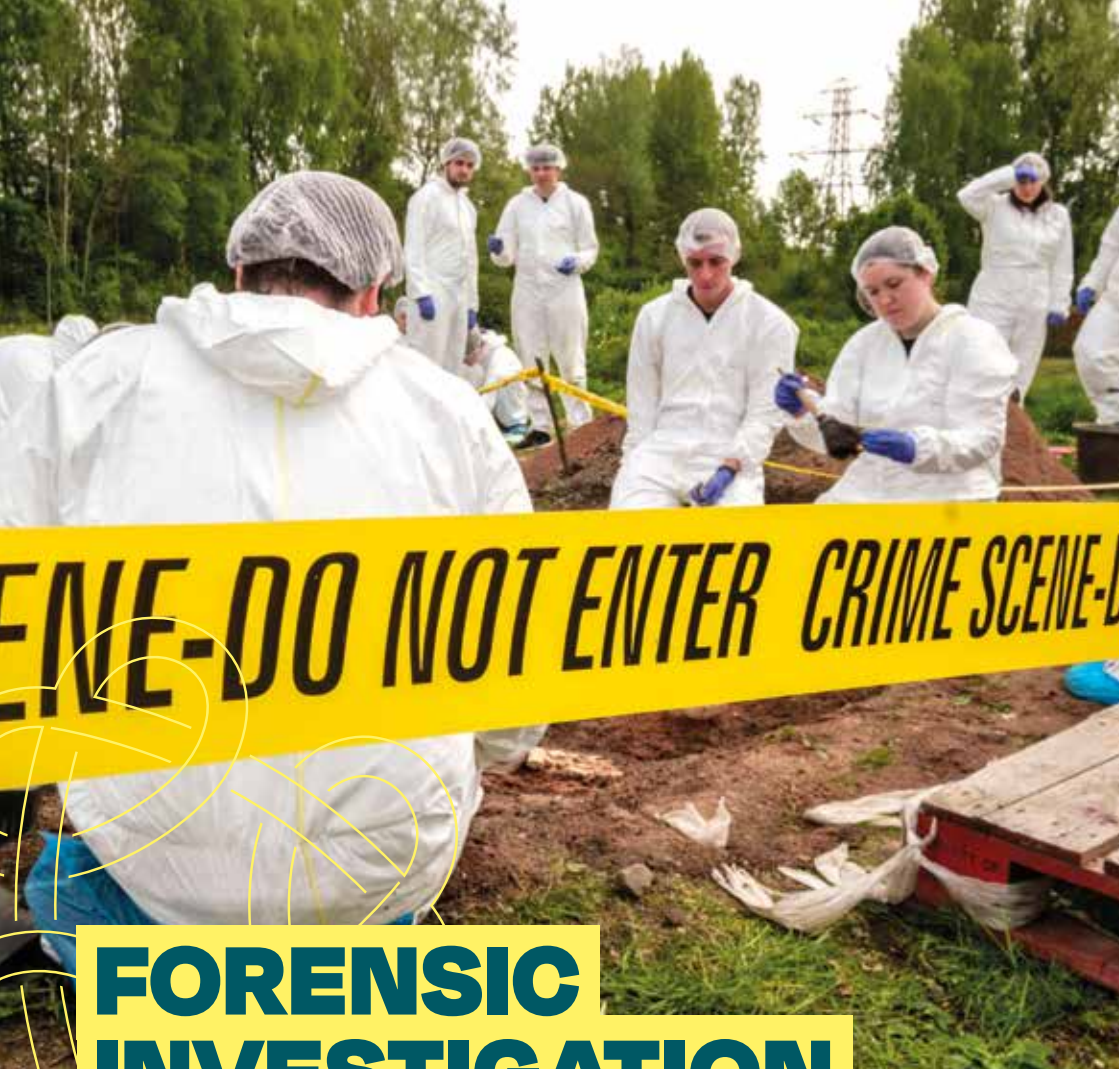
### Module examples:

- Psychological Contexts of Crime and Punishment
- Punishment and Penology
- Working with Victims
- Rehabilitation of Offenders
- Transnational Organised Crime

### What you could do next...

This degree will unlock pathways to a wide range of rewarding careers. Recent graduates have gone on to secure careers in prison and probation services, third sector (victim support, rape crisis, drug and alcohol support), social and crime-related roles and much more.





# FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

ACCREDITED BY



Learn how to manage crime scenes, analyse crucial evidence and help with real forensic cases. You'll develop real-world skills, including crime scene photography. We also teach you how to process digital evidence.



FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
THE COURSE  
HERE



## Why choose us...

- Our Forensic Investigation degree is accredited by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, meaning you'll graduate with an industry-approved qualification.
- You'll have the opportunity to gain practical skills through placements and work experience within the forensic sector.
- You'll benefit from our industry-standard facilities and hands-on learning in our crime scene spaces, mock courtrooms and specialist laboratories for analysing digital, biological, chemical and physical evidence.
- Learn under dedicated, dynamic and passionate academics with international research profiles, extensive experience of forensic casework and ex-senior police officers.
- Benefit from our Staffordshire Forensic Partnership and links with the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

## What you'll learn...

Our focus is on ensuring you are equipped with the skills and knowledge to pursue a career within forensic investigation. You'll have the opportunity to specialise in areas aligned with your professional goals, see our course page for a list of specialist optional modules.

### Module examples:

- Digital Evidence Processing
- Investigative Skills
- Collection and Analysis of Scene Evidence
- Expert Witness and The Legal System
- Modern Forensics

## What you could do next...

We help you to grow your skills for your future career. Graduates from our degree have progressed onto careers as crime scene officers, police officers, prison officers, intelligence research officers, laboratory analysts, fraud investigators, digital forensic examiners, teachers, forensic technicians and fingerprint analysts. Career destinations include Cyfor, HMRC, West Midlands Police.





# FORENSIC SCIENCE

Learn the science behind solving crimes and get the chance to do practical projects with police forces. Develop your scientific expertise and real-world analytical skills. The perfect platform to launch your career as a forensic scientist.

## ACCREDITED BY



FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
THE COURSE  
HERE



## Why choose us...

- Our Forensic Science degrees are accredited by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.
- Learn directly from forensic practitioners as well as expert forensic academics who work collaboratively with international forensic scientists.
- Put theory into practice by getting hands-on with our facilities including our bedsits, shop, prison cell, mock courtrooms and specialist lab facilities for analysing digital, biological, chemical and physical evidence.
- Gain practical experience through placement and work experience opportunities within the forensic sector. In addition, benefit from our industry networks and partnerships, including Staffordshire Police with our Staffordshire Forensic Partnership.

## What you'll learn...

Our modules have been designed to help you develop scientific expertise and advanced problem-solving, and apply it to very practical demands. You'll have the opportunity to specialise in areas aligned with your professional goals via our specialist optional modules.

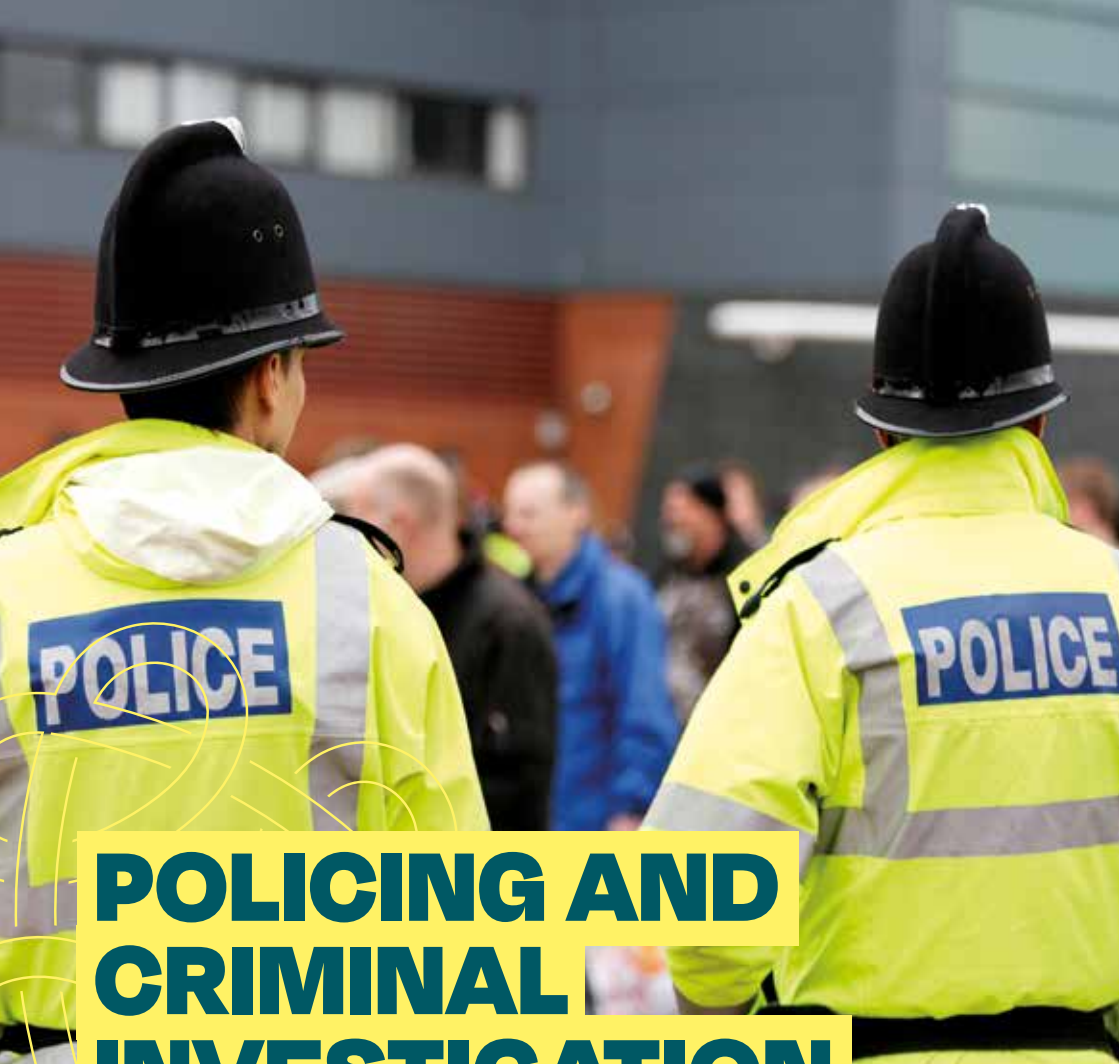
### Module examples:

- Analytical Methods in Forensic Science
- Biological Methods in Forensic Science
- Collection and Analysis of Evidence
- Expert Witness in the Legal System

## What you could do next...

Graduates have secured roles as forensic scientists (forensic chemist, forensic biologist, DNA analyst, firearms analyst) at national providers, including key forensics and Cellmark. Other destinations include crime scene officers for various police constabularies, forensic technicians, fingerprint analysts, public service organisations, and many students continue into postgraduate studies and research.





# POLICING AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Whether solving crimes, searching for missing people or giving evidence in court, so much depends on the professional skills of an investigator. Gain the real-world knowledge and experience for careers within a range of policing and investigative agencies.



**FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
THE COURSE  
HERE**



## Why choose us...

- You will have the opportunity to personalise your degree and choose from modules such as vehicle collision investigation, transnational organised crime and cybercrime.
- Learn directly from experienced industry professionals, including former senior police officers, criminologists, forensic caseworkers and other academic experts.
- Learn in our state-of-the-art facilities, including a crime scene spaces, specialist interview rooms, digital law courts and simulation facilities.
- Benefit from our excellent partnerships with local organisations such as Staffordshire Police and the OPFCC as well as international partnerships with European Police Academies.
- Opportunity to take a placement year to gain real-world experience and an understanding of what it's like to work in the sector.

## What you'll learn...

Our modules have been designed to prepare you for a wide variety of roles within the public and private sectors, plus, you will have the opportunity to specialise in areas aligned with your professional goals. See our course page online for a full list of modules.

### Module examples:

- Policing theory
- Practical Methods of Criminal Investigation
- Fairness in Policing
- Case File to Court
- Risk and Vulnerability

## What you could do next...

Graduates typically pursue work in areas such as the police, Trading Standards, Regional Organised Crime Units, Action Fraud, the Surveillance Commission, as well as other organisations with investigative requirements. Roles include police staff investigator, criminal justice worker, border force officer, police constable or detective constable.





# PROFESSIONAL POLICING

**You'll be ready to cope from day one as a police officer after taking our hands-on course. We'll introduce you to the varied work of policing. Module examples include policing in a digital age through to crime prevention.**



**FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
THE COURSE  
HERE**



## Why choose us...

- This degree is a recognised route into policing to help you get yourself into the best position to join a police force. What's more, the course is licenced by the College of Policing.
- With us, you will have the opportunity to undertake an evidence-based research project, directly linked to a current policing issue, enabling you to connect to potential employers during your degree.
- Benefit from the knowledge of our experienced industry professionals, including former police officers, criminologists, forensic caseworkers and other academic experts.
- Experience our state-of-the-art facilities, including a crime scene spaces, specialist interview rooms, digital law courts and simulation facilities.
- Benefit from the extensive professional networks provided by your lecturers in order to prepare yourself for a role in operational policing.

## What you'll learn...

Our modules are designed to give you all the career skills and practices that are key to a future in law enforcement. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to align the course with your goals, see our course page for a list of specialist optional modules.

### Module examples:

- Introduction to Crime and Crime Prevention
- Policing Vulnerability
- Professionalising Investigation
- Policing in a Digital Age
- Evidence Based Policing Project

## What you could do next...

Successful completion of this course provides one of the recognised routes into the police service. However, each police force in England and Wales has its own process and requirements. Please check specific requirements before starting studies.

Our students typically pursue careers as police officers in both territorial police forces and national ones such as the British Transport Police. Others have gone on to roles such as Anti-Social Behaviour officer, Prison Officers and roles in the army as an Officer or the Royal Military Police.



# OUR STUDENTS

“The support from the lecturers was amazing, it's really engaging and helpful and you can learn a lot of things that you didn't know before.”

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**Ellie Roberts**

Forensic Science graduate

“Our lectures are very engaging, providing lots of knowledge on Criminology as a whole. We're also provided with lots of information and knowledge we can apply to the real workplace.”

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**Harriet Birch**

Criminology student

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Subject to approval/validation

**We're always striving to deliver the most current and relevant degrees, both by creating new courses and regularly reviewing our current offering.**

Each time we make changes, the course goes through a rigorous approval process to ensure that it's the perfect fit for our students, employers and other relevant stakeholders.

Some of the courses inside this guide may be marked as 'subject to approval' or 'subject to validation',

but don't worry, this just means some of the details of the course won't have been finalised yet. As soon as new courses are approved and validated, up-to-date information will be provided on the online course pages at **[www.staffs.ac.uk/courses](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/courses)**

If you have been offered a place and there is a significant change to the course, or for any reason, the course doesn't run – we will contact you immediately and fully support you in finding the best suitable alternative.

At the time of printing in September 2024, the courses listed in this guide represent those we intend to offer for the 2025/2026 academic years. Very occasionally, however, we need to make changes to our courses, including their content and the way in which they are delivered. In some instances, courses can be discontinued or combined with other courses.

Reasons for withdrawing courses can include insufficient student numbers and courses not receiving the necessary accreditation or approval. Changes to course information may include operational and academic reasons.

If circumstances beyond our control mean we cannot provide particular educational services, all reasonable steps will be taken to minimise any disruption to those services. However, the University will have no liability for any loss or damage suffered by any prospect or student as a result.

As a prospective student of University of Staffordshire, it's your responsibility to ensure you have fully reviewed up-to-date course information before you apply,

and that your chosen course fully meets your requirements. You should also check the course still meets your requirements before accepting an offer to study with us.

Student satisfaction scores have been provided by Unistats and are correct at the time of going to print. For more information, visit: **[discoveruni.gov.uk](http://discoveruni.gov.uk)**

If we discontinue a course or programme and you're not happy with the alternative offered, or if a programme is changed and you're not happy with the changes, you'll be given the opportunity to withdraw from the programme. Up-to-date course information can be found on our website (**[www.staffs.ac.uk](http://www.staffs.ac.uk)**), or by calling us on **01782 294400**.

If you're offered a place at the University of Staffordshire, your offer will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Offer. If you become a student of University of Staffordshire, you will enter a contract with us and be bound by our rules and regulations. These, too, may vary from time to time (**[www.staffs.ac.uk/rulesandregs](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/rulesandregs)**).





University of  
Staffordshire

## **TOP 5 FOR FIRST GEN STUDENTS**

The Mail University Guide 2025

## **TOP 10 FOR CAREER PROSPECTS**

Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2023

## **TOP 20 FOR FACILITIES**

Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2023

## **TOP 5 FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION**

The Times and The Sunday Times Good  
University Guide 2025

## **BEST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION**

For Games - TIGA Games Industry Awards  
2024

## **TOP 20 IN THE ENGLISH SOCIAL MOBILITY INDEX**

LSBU and Higher Education Policy Institute  
2024

For more detailed information  
on courses or studying at  
University of Staffordshire visit:  
[www.staffs.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/undergraduate)

Find us on:  
[www.staffs.ac.uk/socialmedia](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/socialmedia)

