

Careers for Criminology Majors

There is a diverse range of career fields that build on studies in Criminology. In exploring options, reflect on the skills you have developed through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

What skills and knowledge do I develop by studying Criminology?

Criminology is a multi-disciplinary subject that has a local and global character. Theoretical, empirical and practice-based contributions come from political science, law, history, sociology, psychology, social work and so on. Inherent in the study of criminology is an appreciation of alternative ways of looking at crime and justice problems.

Your major in criminology presents you towards a diverse range of employment opportunities. Criminologists can be found in many roles, in a wide variety of organisations. These roles may include policy development and advice, working directly with people involved in formal criminal justice institutions, developing social justice initiatives in the voluntary or charitable sector, developing and implementing law reform, or conducting criminological research.

There are a number of transferable and criminology-focused skills that you will develop throughout your degree. It is important to be able to effectively articulate these skills to potential employers. You might start by identifying examples of the following skills from the subjects you have taken so far:

Transferable skills:

- Critical analytical and research skills
- Written expression of complex ideas and concepts
- Verbal communication of complex ideas and concepts
- Interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team environments
- Capacity to link theory and practice

Criminology-focused skills:

- Knowledge of the nature, purpose and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Australia
- Knowledge of crime and justice in the international arena
- Familiarity with relevant aspects of Australian law and policy
- Ability to develop/formulate/revise policy and programs in the area of justice, law and law reform
- Awareness of the key actors, and their roles in criminal justice
- Appreciation of the intersection of socio-economic, cultural, health and legal concerns with criminal justice.
- Ability to conduct primary research and evaluation relating to criminology.

What careers build on these skills and knowledge?

The table below lists a range of careers which make use of studies in Criminology. The list is not definitive – depending on your own interests and experiences, there will be other ways to build on your criminology major.

More information on many of these career areas is available at:
http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Next Steps

The table also provides some information about ‘next steps’ i.e. what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether graduate study is required or whether immediate employment is possible.

There are two employment types for Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. These positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent graduates can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/find_a_job/professional_and_graduate_work

Preparing for employment

A valuable way to prepare for employment is to develop experience in the areas you are interested in working in. One useful way to do this is through an internship. These can arise from students informally contacting organisations, or where possible, enrolment in an internships subject eg the Bachelor of Arts internship subject for undergraduates, and the Criminology internship for Honours students.

Voluntary work can also be a valuable way of further preparing for employment. This can enable to you identify and develop your work interests, while gaining valuable experience, networking opportunities and pathways. Recent Criminology students have volunteered for organisations such as the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, Community Legal Centres, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, and a range of other not-for-profit organisations.

Through avenues such as these, you can develop transferable employment skills, gain experience about working within an organisational environment, and develop

skills in putting theory into practice. Mentoring may also be an additional benefit, in which experts in the field can provide guidance and advice as you prepare for employment.

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) also runs a formal internship program each year. We have a record of graduates having gone on to be employed by the AIC out of this internship program.

You may already be doing things that will help to prepare you for work after your Criminology degree, such as doing part time work or volunteering. It may be useful to keep in mind that while your part time job might not look immediately relevant to criminology, you will likely be developing some or all of the transferable skills listed above.

Career field	Employment setting	Next Steps: Employment and/or graduate study
Public policy and program roles	<p>Research Institutes e.g. Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Drug Foundation, Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>Government/Public Service e.g. Victoria Police, Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), Victorian Ombudsman, Victorian Auditor General’s Office (VAGO), Sentencing Advisory Council; City Councils eg City of Melbourne Drugs Action Team</p> <p>NGOs, special interest organisations, international humanitarian organisations e.g. United Nations, Red Cross, Amnesty International, UNICEF</p>	<p>Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum)</p> <p>GEPs with APS e.g. Australian Federal Police, Attorney-General, or VPS e.g. Department of Justice – either post BA or post BA Hons or Master of Criminology or other relevant postgrad studies</p> <p>Graduate study eg Master of Criminology, Public Policy or Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD</p>
Intelligence and investigation roles (crime-related)	Government/Public Service e.g. Australian Federal Police, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation,	GEPs with APS – specific departments and agencies - either post BA, post BA

	<p>Australian Crime Commission, Australian Customs and Border Protection Services, Worksafe, IBAC</p> <p>Specialist bodies e.g. Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency</p> <p>Victoria Police</p> <p>Federal Police (including community policing)</p> <p>International Police and security bodies e.g. Interpol</p>	<p>Hons or post graduate study</p> <p>Further training (eg Certificate in Investigations)</p> <p>Sworn police officer recruitment program, and unsworn police employment.</p> <p>Graduate research (eg Masters/PhD)</p>
Court and tribunals	<p>Government/Public Service e.g. Court Registrars</p> <p>Specialist Courts e.g. Drugs court, Family Violence court, Neighbourhood Justice Centre</p> <p>Victorian Coroner's Court</p> <p>International Courts International Criminal Court</p> <p>Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal</p>	<p>Graduate study (eg Masters)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters)</p> <p>Graduate research study (eg Masters, PhD)</p> <p>GEP</p>
Law	<p>Public Service e.g. Community Legal Centres, Victorian Legal Aid, Department of Public Prosecutions, Victorian Government Solicitor's Office</p> <p>In-house legal advice</p> <p>Law Reform e.g. AHRC, ASRC, PILCH Homeless Persons Legal Group, Federation of Community Legal Centres, Aboriginal Legal Service, ALRC, VLRC</p>	<p>Graduate study – Law.</p> <p>Graduate study – Law.</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters in Criminology, Law)</p>
Corrections and rehabilitation services	Prisons – custodial corrections	Graduate Study (eg masters)

	<p>Community Corrections (Department of Justice)</p> <p>Drug and alcohol services e.g. VACRO</p> <p>Brosnan Centre</p> <p>Brotherhood of St Laurence</p> <p>Specialist services e.g. Australian Vietnamese Women's Association</p> <p>Mental health services e.g.</p> <p>Youth Services e.g. Youth justice units</p> <p>Victim Services e.g. Victim Support, Criminal Injury Compensation</p>	<p>Department of Justice recruitment (training in-house) or minimum Certificate IV in client-facing field eg Community Services, Youth Work</p> <p>Graduate Study (eg Masters in Criminology and/or Social Work).</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters in Criminology and/or Social Work)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters in Criminology and/or Social Work)</p> <p>Graduate study (eg Masters in Criminology, Social Work or Psychology)</p>
Teaching/ Educating	<p>Secondary schools</p> <p>Universities</p>	<p>Graduate study – Teaching (requires studies to cover 2 'learning areas')</p> <p>Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD</p>
Research (social justice/criminal justice)	Universities/Govt/local and international institutions and Agencies (AIC; ICC; UN etc)	PhD

	Radio/TV – local, national ABC/ international BBC World Service	Grad study - Journalism
Security Specialist	National/International policing agencies re internet crime etc eg. Working with agencies in transitional justice in East Timor, RAMSI etc Development of policies and protocols between Australia and eg, Indonesia Advocacy at UN – working with NGOs on, eg human trafficking etc.	Police agency recruitment (eg AFP) Police agency recruitment (eg AFP)

What other careers could I consider?

Criminology majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related to the study of Criminology but make use of transferable skills and pick up on other interests.

- **Careers via graduate study** – many careers are available via graduate study which is accessible to Bachelor of Arts graduates; these include both Arts-related careers eg Journalism, Information Management/Librarianship, International Development; and careers in more diverse fields such as Urban Planning, Nursing, Information Systems, Accounting.
- **Careers via Graduate Employment Programs** - in addition to government, some other organisations have programs open to all disciplines eg Telstra, Australia Post, ANZ, Proctor & Gamble, Qantas. Graduates are generally recruited for broad-based management roles. Some management consultancies also consider applicants from all disciplines eg Bain, McKinsey.

Where can I find out more?

Further information on career areas:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Other discussions about what you can do with a major in Criminology:

- Australian Institute of Criminology – careers page:
http://aic.gov.au/criminal_justice_system/resources/aboutcriminology.html
- University of Tennessee <http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors/>

- University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand:
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/Resources/career_publications/career_view/index.aspx

Professional Associations:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options

(Career Exploration – Professional Associations by Degree - Arts)

Graduate study at University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>

<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Researching courses which are not offered at Melbourne: www.myfuture.edu.au