

Social work, criminology and sociology

2023 undergraduate courses

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MAKE WAVES

Help the vulnerable and uphold justice

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There are many areas of work that help individuals and communities to alleviate social deprivation. You can have a rewarding career that shapes the lives of those in need of support.

In criminal justice, you could go into a fascinating career in the prisons and court service, policing and investigation, or even the social service, to work with offenders and young people.



Shape society

If you're looking for a truly meaningful career – helping, understanding or protecting people – then our social work, criminology and sociology courses provide all the tools you need.



Taught by experts with extensive links to industry

Connections to industry are made through several avenues, including guest speakers and the professional connections of teaching staff. Our courses also have close working relationships with many local and national employers, such as Hampshire Constabulary, the National Probation Service, Portsmouth Adult Social Care, a Portsmouth drug addiction charity, the National Crime Agency and various international organisations.

In social work, you'll complete practice learning placements through our partnership arrangements with Southampton City, Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight local authorities, as well as other social care organisations.

Past guest speakers have included professionals who work within public health, the police, the probation service, cybersecurity, the military and charities.

BA (Hons) Criminology scored 100 per cent overall student satisfaction in the National Student Survey, 2021.





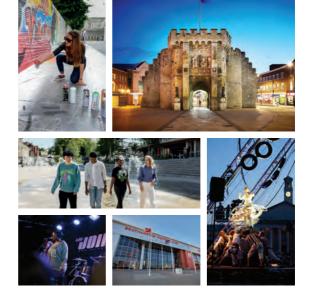
Facilities

We provide a stimulating learning environment and access to state-ofthe-art resources to help you make the most of your time with us. Flexible spaces, WiFi facilities and learning zones all contribute to our lively and contemporary study environment at Solent.

For BA (Hons) Criminology, you can make use of sophisticated eyetracker software which can trace eye positions on a computer screen. You'll also be able to use our portable crime scene and Solent courtroom during the Investigating Crime Scenes and Forensic Evidence modules.







Our great city

With a population of over 250,000 - including 46,000 students – Southampton is a thriving city that has recently had a £1.6 billion injection of investment.

It enjoys Premier League football, international and county cricket and world-class sailing. Calshot Activity Centre hosts watersports, snowsports, rock climbing and the south's only indoor velodrome. The neighbouring New Forest is a major draw for cycling, running and riding. Solent University enjoys partnerships with many sports organisations, including the Southampton Sports Centre and Gleneagles Equestrian Centre.

Southampton is a city of live music. Renowned venue The Joiners has launched many bands, stadium acts come to the Ageas Bowl, the O2 Guildhall hosts the mainstream, and festivals and street music thrive.

The city has great shopping as well as independent and state-of-the-art cinemas and theatres.





Chloë Pearson

BA (Hons) Sociology student

Why did you choose to study at Solent?

I chose to study at Solent because I loved the buzz of everything around me. The enthusiasm of the lecturers, the new buildings and the course were all very exciting.

What do you enjoy about your course?

I love the Sociology course because you have so much freedom to study what you are interested in. You can choose what you want to focus on for assignments, which makes it exciting and suits exactly what you want to study.

What is the favourite thing you have studied so far?

The favourite thing I have studied so far is social inequalities. It's been so interesting uncovering new perspectives and angles regarding the society we live in that I had never thought about before.

What do you like about Solent University?

Solent University feels new and exciting. It offers so many opportunities to get involved and develop skills, employability and character.

What are your career aspirations?

After university, I would like to be able to use my degree to help others in society. There are so many options available with a sociology degree, which is great for both keeping options open and specialising.

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Kelly Crosswell

BA (Hons) Social Work, 2017

How did university prepare you for your career?

University afforded many experiences, such as work placements, in which you work within either a statutory or voluntary agency and partake in daily social work alongside a range of professionals, gaining hands-on experience. This gave a valuable and very special approach to the academic work as I feel it offered an honest and frank insight into the reality of the highs, lows and challenges that a social work career offers.

Favourite Solent memory?

My favourite moment at Solent is hard to pinpoint as there have been many moments that I cherish – I have made some wonderful friends, and I have met and worked closely with a great network of professionals. Throughout the course I have identified and felt times of self-growth, determination and achievement. One of the most special highlights for me was having my two sons present when I graduated – they had been on the university journey with me and it was so very beautiful to have them with me to celebrate!

Tell us a little about your career story so far.

I graduated from Solent in July 2017 and started my job as a full-time children and families social worker two weeks later. My current position is actually within the same team that I was attached to for my university placement – the placement gave me the opportunity to find my passion and my place within social work, and I absolutely love my job and the team.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves – a typical working day.

My day starts at 8.30am and can consist of many different activities, such as communicating and liaising with a wide variety of professionals and organisations, including police, schools, midwives, housing authorities, doctors and so on. I undertake statutory visits, complete sensitive and analytical case-noting, assessments and referrals, and organise and attend meetings. Sometimes there are crisis situations that arise which need immediate attention, and these can happen at any time. I am also involved in reflective supervision and attend educational courses. Everything I do is in line with legislation, policies, procedures, statutory expectations and duties. A typical day can be extremely busy and there is no denying that time management, emotional resilience, empathy and reflection are key skills within this profession.

What is your area of study to you?

To me, social work is a disciplined profession in which I am responsible for identifying and tentatively exploring presenting risks and situations that children and families may need support with managing via intervention and/or safeguarding. Promoting and supporting autonomy is a very important core strand of the work, and the profession operates within a framework of legislation and policy which must be adhered to. Working in a respectful manner and communicating effectively are both key to successful social work.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

- Remain passionate and true to your core values and beliefs.
- · Appreciate your team on placements.
- Appreciate the knowledge that the lecturers have and attend all lectures missing one can set you back!
- Utilise the experiences on offer and remain curious.
- Explore and critically analyse current research.
- Get a diary and reflect on/document your growth and challenges.
- · Learn the legislation and statutory guidance.
- Take time to look after yourself! Self-care is important and necessary.



Christine Macarthur

Social Worker, Southampton City Council BA (Hons) Social Work, 2020

I am employed by Southampton City Council Children's Services in its assessment team. This is one of the 'front-door' teams which deal with the assessment of a child and their family following a safeguarding concern.

My work involves working with the family, and any professionals involved with the family, to identify any safeguarding concerns or risks, as well as the strengths within the family unit. My involvement with the family is 'shortterm', meaning that I have to turn round my assessments within a tight timeframe and either close the case or refer the child/children to the longer term teams by way of 'Child in need planning', 'Child protection planning' or 'Early help support'. Occasionally, my assessment may determine that the safeguarding risks are so significant that I have to start 'Care proceedings' and go to court to obtain a care order.

Career highlight so far?

For me, it's not the obvious 'big cases' or obtaining a care order to effectively safeguard a child long-term that have meant the most to me – it's the smaller but invaluable differences that I've made to children and young people. An example of this was a young person whose mental health was being significantly affected by the emotional abuse that they were being subjected to at home. Due to the complications in how they could receive support, I was able to help them, and within a week I had secured them a room within a supported housing charity, and their mental health challenges were starting to ease.

Why did you choose to study at Solent?

As a mature student approaching 50 years of age at the start of the degree course, and without having undertaken an Access course, I loved that Solent would consider all my previous career experiences as being relevant to the role of social work. I was previously a police officer specialising in the area of domestic abuse and honour-based violence, before also working in child safeguarding in a statutory setting, and Solent accepted those experiences as being very relevant, even if I had not formally studied since about 1984! Also, as a single mother, I loved that Solent was my local university, enabling me to access the course in a way that didn't negatively impact on my parenting responsibilities.

How has Solent helped you prepare for a career?

The course at Solent really made me delve into child development in a way that I had not considered before. Despite my past career experiences of working within safeguarding, I was ignorant about many of the social work theories and models, and evidence-based practice. The learning around these, in particular, have made me a more reflective and considered practitioner when analysing the risks and strengths within families that I assess.

What are your top tips for someone wanting a career in your field?

Use all the opportunities available on the social work course, including your placements. Be open to learning, even if you think that the placement isn't 'your bag'. Also, your tutors are there to help you, so use them throughout your time there. The links you make on your course will take you beyond your time at university and into the workplace.

I would recommend that any student social worker start looking for social work positions from December of their final year - as I did - as this is often when organisations begin looking for newly qualified social workers. In this way, I was fortunate enough to be employed - initially as a family engagement worker - in the same team from April of my final year, prior to starting my ASYE in September. I feel that this was invaluable as it allowed me to learn the processes involved in doing an assessment, and what resources and support are available to signpost and refer to - as well as just getting used to being back in the workplace after studying for three years, and building a relationship with my team prior to the harder work of ASYE starting!

What's next for you?

I'm enjoying embedding my learning in my new role and career, so that's one thing that I am concentrating on. However, I absolutely loved doing my literature review, and I received a high grade for it and amazing feedback – so much so that I have been encouraged to take my literature review further and expand it into a working paper, with the prospect of a possible research project in the future if the working paper is received favourably once published. The links I made during my time at Solent have meant that one of the tutors is now supporting and mentoring me through this process.





Rena Ampntel-Maksount-Chlil

BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology, 2019

I chose to study the BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology degree at Solent University because it is one of the few universities that offers this joint honours degree. The course content is very interesting and always up to date. The professors are always happy to help and provide you with extra guidance when you need it.

I enjoyed the balance between studying and socialising. I believe that Solent offers a unique university experience, which has allowed me to meet so many new people from different backgrounds and have incredible experiences and memories that I would not have had at any other university.

I feel confident that the opportunities that Solent University and the Criminology and Psychology course have given me have prepared me for the future. Even though I am passionate about criminal profiling and cybercrime, this degree has also given me the knowledge and skills to allow me to enter other professions in areas such as health and social care, as well as research sectors. UncaughtException Control of the function and the functi

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Chloe Ford

BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology, 2020

The course was amazing – I really liked the Police, Law and Community module which was extremely helpful for me when it came to applying for different jobs, and also when I went to an interview.

The course as a whole was very interesting and the lecturers were always willing to help and take extra time to explain anything. Overall, the course definitely prepared me for a career in this field.

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Ricky Mo

Social Worker, Southampton City Council BA (Hons) Social Work, 2017

How did university prepare you for your career?

Solent University prepared me for my career in social work by teaching me about legislation, social work theories and methods, and interpersonal skills that would underpin my practice. The social work lecturers were always available to offer support and to impart their knowledge and experience to draw the best out of me.

Tell us a little about your career story so far.

As my third-year placement was coming to an end, I was asked by a senior practitioner from a different department if I would like to work for them on a three-month contract. After two weeks, I was called into the office and told that they were not going to renew my contract as the learning disabilities team had requested that I work with them, carrying out Care Act assessments – I happily accepted the position. After a month of working with them, a permanent post came up and I was asked to apply. I got the job and began working with them full-time before I even graduated.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

A typical working day generally consists of responding to emails and making telephone calls to clients, other professionals and service providers. All communication needs to be case-noted so that there is always a record of progress and outcomes. Sometimes it is required to visit a client to conduct an assessment of their care and support needs. Once this is done, the assessment needs to be typed up, followed by creating a support plan and a package of care to meet any identified needs.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

- Document everything if it is not recorded, it did not happen.
- · Look at your tasks daily and prioritise accordingly.
- You will need to develop your emotional resilience situations can become quite challenging, so you need to have strategies in place to maintain your own health and wellbeing.
- Ask if you don't know don't feel embarrassed if you don't know what to do.
- Take full advantage of any training it is crucial to aid your continuing professional development.
- Make sure you take supervision this is a good time to reflect on your practice, raise any concerns and be supported to gain some perspective on your workload.



BA (Hons) Criminology, 2020

I studied criminology and really enjoyed the fact that, no matter the unit, there was always lots of choice in terms of essay topics and breadth of study.

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We had lots of scope to direct our own learning and follow our own interests while also being supported by staff, which meant that, for me, I learned more and enjoyed it as well. All the lecturers had their own unique way of teaching and a wealth of real-world experience, which meant that they could tell or show us how the theories we covered worked in practice. This meant that when it came to finding a job after graduating, I had a better understanding of challenges in the real world and how to tackle them.



We were also encouraged to find work experience and get exposure to the concepts we studied, which was invaluable in getting a job later on. Practical knowledge and experience are essential, and all the lecturers had links to industries which meant that students had access to tailored interview tips – an advantage when it came to contacting professionals for dissertation research and a broad range of trips (for example, to America), and guest lecturers (both ex-offenders and officials). Overall, Solent University and individual staff on the Criminology course were supportive and invested in the students' success. Lecturers were friendly, down-to-earth and willing to go the extra mile to make units engaging and practical.



Kirsty Kearns

BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Forensic Psychology, 2020 – now known as BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Psychology

The support and mentoring I received during my time at Solent has taught me that I am capable of achieving whatever I set my mind to. Every lecturer had time and patience, which I believe is invaluable when things get inevitably overwhelming. Nothing was too much trouble and there was a genuine sense of care. Because of this I now feel empowered and ready to take on any challenge I may face in my public service career.

Studying at Solent has not only provided me with solid foundations but has also given me the inspiration, contacts and continued support to propel me into the career that I worked so hard for.

The BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Psychology degree course had a good balance of theoretical and historical theory, while keeping its finger on the pulse of modern and current crime and punishment issues facing society today. The topics and modules throughout the three years were varied and engaging. This gave me a hunger to continue my learning outside of the university premise and inspired me to take on criminology as a career.



Course list

Course	UCAS tariff points	Work placement opportunity	Foundation Year available	
BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation with Psychology	112–128	Y	Y	
BA (Hons) Criminology	112–128	Y	Y	
BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology	112–128	Y	Y	11
BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology	112–128	Y	Y	10
BA (Hons) Social Work	112–128	Y	Y	000
BA (Hons) Sociology	112–128	-	Y	101
Social Sciences Foundation Year	48	-	-	111



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