

Our commitment to Criminology – December 2023

We are disappointed by the confirmation provided by DfE that they will not consider funding Criminology as an Alternative Academic Qualification due to a perceived overlap with A Level Sociology. Over 43,000 candidates entered for our Applied Certificate and Diploma in Criminology, compared to 47,000 candidates entering for A Level Sociology demonstrating that there is sufficient demand for both subjects within the level 3 qualifications landscape. Our Criminology qualifications provide learners with a foundation of knowledge and skills to enable them to progress to higher education courses in related subjects and we have been working closely with several universities to strengthen these progression routes. The loss of this subject from the Level 3 qualifications landscape in England means that learners in England will potentially be disadvantaged compared to their peers in Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are continuing to review and reform our existing Criminology qualifications so that learners in Wales and Northern Ireland can benefit from the improvements we are making to the qualification.

Our current qualifications continue to contribute to performance tables and remain fundable in England until 2027 (final cohort start September 2025). We will provide additional information to centres by end of January 2024.