



# Criminology Mātai Taihara

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Olivia Mayhew

BA (Major: Psychology, Minor: Criminology),  
studying for a MA (Coursework) (Sociology)

## Examine the social impacts of criminal behaviour

Criminology is currently one of the fastest growing and most popular areas of study in the social sciences internationally.

Criminology at Otago focuses on the critical study of crime and victimisation, theories of crime causation and prevention, the criminal justice system and the responses of the broader community to crime.

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## Why study Criminology?

The minor in Criminology provides the opportunity to study core concepts in criminology:

- crime and deviance
- social control
- crime and victimisation in the media and cultural discourses
- the shifting boundary between what is socially considered legitimate and criminal behaviour
- the wider institutional dynamics of legal systems
- justice processes and institutions.

## Combine the Criminology minor with high-profile majors

Students who take the minor in Criminology will find that it provides both an opportunity to study a fascinating and relevant area of life in New Zealand and a strong support programme for some of Otago's high-profile disciplinary majors like Psychology, Sociology, Gender Studies, Anthropology, Politics, or Media, Film and Communication Studies.

## Diploma for Graduates in Criminology

The Diploma for Graduates in Criminology enables students to develop a sophisticated understanding of how crime has been defined, researched, represented and governed across time and space, and in Aotearoa New Zealand today. We examine a wide variety of different forms of crime and theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding and researching crime. We explore the criminal justice system, victims' perspectives on crime, and crime in relation to gender, ethnicity, class, media, culture, technology, the environment, and more.

The Diploma for Graduates is ideal for students planning towards careers in areas such as social work, law, human rights, justice advocacy, the criminal justice system, violence prevention, and victim support. Our programme can also serve as a bridge to postgraduate study.

The Diploma for Graduates in Criminology consists of papers worth at least 120 points, of which four papers are at 300-level or above. The programme may be completed in one year full-time, or over more than one year part-time.

## Career opportunities

Students studying Criminology will be introduced to insights and debates that can help inform their future careers in law, social work, teaching, public health, theological ministry or work with NGOs.

Students will also have an advantage for careers in any aspect of the public service that is involved with policing, justice, victim support, corrections, social development or social policy.

For questions about  
Criminology  
[otago.ac.nz/criminology](http://otago.ac.nz/criminology)



## PROFILE

### Olivia Mayhew

Bachelor of Arts (Major: Psychology, Minor: Criminology), studying for a Master of Arts (Coursework) (Sociology)

"I was always into crime and psychological shows which I think ignited my initial interest in these subjects. I chose Psychology as my major as I believe it is a far-reaching subject where you can acquire an array of transferable skills and knowledge.

"Criminology was my minor as I had not yet really developed a career interest within this field, but it was something I had a strong personal interest in and thought it would couple well with Psychology.

"I loved and appreciated the understanding I grew from my minor around criminality and looking more broadly into what contributes to crime – rather than just pointing our fingers at individuals and deeming them as bad people. The subject really made me look more holistically at society and gave me the tools to critically engage with things such as the media, politics, and what we just accept as the status quo. I loved analysing specific crime stories and unpacking them, which is something I would not have learnt to do otherwise.

"The most challenging aspect of the paper was engaging with the theories in writing – sometimes I found it hard to articulate all the complex thoughts in my head into clear writing, but this is a skill that grows in time, and Criminology certainly helps with that.

"When I started university, I aspired to have a career as a psychologist. As I progressed through university, like most people, my goals and aspirations changed and I decided to pursue a Master of Arts (Coursework) in Sociology. I grew a strong passion for this subject area, and the papers offered are some of the most beneficial and mind-changing I have completed during my studies.

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"My master's research is going to examine the experiences of New Zealand prison volunteers to understand more about what they do, as I believe their work is of huge value. I am hoping to do some interviews later in the year and am excited to see where this project goes. My BA, with all the essay writing (that I dreaded at the time), was so beneficial in developing my skills to produce strongly structured work, which is paramount for a dissertation project so I am grateful to past me for enduring all those essays.

"Like many people my age, I am still very unsure about my career and postgraduate



study is allowing me some more time to figure myself out. I have recently been interested in perhaps looking to intern at a government department like the Ministry of Justice or a NGO. I want to work somewhere where I can combine my sociological understanding of our world and the interpersonal skills I acquired through my Psychology course – at the moment I am keeping my eyes open to see what sparks my interest."