



**DOING WHAT  
REALLY MATTERS**

# Prospectus 2025-26

University and college courses  
for students in prison



# Springboard Scholarships – to help you soar

Are you currently in prison and eager to pursue higher education? The Springboard Scholarship offers you the chance to prepare for a degree by taking a Level 3 qualification that you need for a brighter future.

We are seeking individuals who are passionate about their studies and determined to achieve their academic and career dreams. If this sounds like you, we want to hear from you!

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Currently in prison with up to 8 years left until release.
- Demonstrated motivation to pursue a degree
- Seeking required entry qualifications for higher education

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to invest in your future. Apply for the Springboard Scholarship today and take a significant step towards your educational and professional aspirations.

*“Transform your future with education. The Springboard Scholarship is here to help you soar!”*

**Apply Now!**

For more information and to begin your application, please contact DWRM (Doing What Really Matters) on 0800 987 5953 or via PO Box 6219, Sheffield, S2 9JQ or [info@dwrm.org.uk](mailto:info@dwrm.org.uk)



DWRM, PO Box 6219, Sheffield S2 9JQ  
[info@dwrm.org.uk](mailto:info@dwrm.org.uk) [www.dwrm.org.uk](http://www.dwrm.org.uk) 0800 987 5953

# Welcome



*“Engaging in a wide range of education courses is good for my mental health. It also shows any prospective employer that I have used my prison sentence positively.”*

**Welcome to a transformative year at Doing What Really Matters. 2025 marks not just another calendar change, but a significant evolution in how we support education behind the walls.**

For those continuing with us – your persistence inspires everyone at DWRM. To those just starting this journey – you’ve already taken the hardest step by choosing education. Having walked this path myself, from basic skills to doctoral studies while serving my sentence, I know firsthand that prison education isn’t just about qualifications – it’s about reclaiming purpose when everything else feels beyond control.

**The Power of Connection** - Isolation remains one of the greatest barriers to successful prison education. This year, we’re revolutionising how students connect through our expanded Learning Communities initiative. These communities create spaces – both physical and virtual where possible – for collaborative learning, peer support, and intellectual exchange.

Our student-led Curious Minds newsletter has transformed from a simple information sheet to a vibrant platform showcasing student writing, academic achievements, and creative expression. Created by and for learners across the estate, it embodies our belief that education thrives through connection. Copies are sent to all our registered students and our external network of formerly incarcerated scholars; building bridges between students who share similar challenges but may never meet face-to-face.

**Beyond the Classroom** - Education shouldn’t end at the cell door – or the prison gate. I’m particularly proud of our expanded university partnerships, which now include eleven higher education institutions committed

to supporting prison-based learners. These partnerships bring specialised courses and resources directly to you, with on-going support from our friendly team who love hearing from you, whether by phone call, letter or EMAP.

Even more exciting is our growing network of employer partners. These organisations – ranging from construction firms to tech startups – recognise the value of prison education and actively seek DWRM students upon release. They provide not just jobs, but meaningful career pathways that build on your educational achievements.

**Your Journey, Our Purpose** - Everything we do at DWRM stems from a simple truth: education transformed my life behind the walls, and it can transform yours too. Our team – many of whom studied in prison themselves – designs every programme with your reality in mind.

The path isn’t easy. Study conditions are challenging, resources limited, and progress often feels painfully slow. But you aren’t walking this path alone. Every DWRM student becomes part of something larger – a community that believes education is a right, not a privilege, regardless of circumstance.

Make the most of the opportunities in these pages. Challenge yourself. Connect with fellow learners. And remember that your educational journey matters – not just to your future, but to all of us working to transform prison education.

You remain our why.

*Dan*  
CO-DIRECTOR, DWRM, MARCH 2025

# Doing What Really Matters

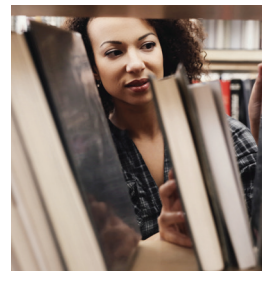
DWRM is a Social Enterprise with a mission to ensure that every prisoner has the opportunity to become a student.

We know that this can be a constructive way to use your time while you are in prison, can give you the chance to explore new subjects and debates and can also give you a renewed hope for the future.

We are a year into our new strategy focusing on Education, Employability and Engagement. This is bringing lots of new opportunities including our Learning Communities project which you can read about on page 14 & 15.

We offer study skills support in all subject areas and we act as the bridge between you and the university. We want you to know that you are not doing this alone.

We have all found our study experiences to be enjoyable as well as challenging. We hope that you will also have fun as you get started on your new and unique study experience.



Create accessible higher education opportunities

Facilitate learning communities



Provide holistic prep for post release

Career focused routes



Create and deliver solutions

Influence the evidence base



Empowering people through Education, Employability and Engagement to create Cultures of Acceptance

DWRM envisions a future where prison experience drives positive change. We bring together expertise and evidence with our commitment to inclusion as the catalyst for this change.

<p><b>1</b> Create accessible higher education opportunities for people in prison</p>	<p><b>2</b> Facilitate learning communities of excellence; Reduce the isolation of prison-based study</p>	<p><b>3</b> Provide holistic and relevant preparation for post-release employment</p>	<p><b>4</b> Generate career-focused routes into meaningful futures</p>	<p><b>5</b> Enable people with lived experience of prison to create and deliver solutions</p>	<p><b>6</b> Influence the evidence base and advocate for prison education policy reform</p>
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These 6 areas of focus demonstrate our commitment to the all-round benefits of education.



# How it works

**Because we understand all the barriers, at DWRM we are committed to offering you a high standard of service and support. With us you get:**

- Real university courses from reputable universities who work in partnership with us to support students in prison.
- Access to digital offline study materials (via Coracle Chromebooks in most prisons).
- Advice about the best start for your journey into Higher Education, such as the role of Foundation years to help students who may not have achieved A levels or BTECs to reach pre-university levels
- Personal support via the most convenient means for you – call our free phone number, write to our PO Box, use Email a Prisoner or ask your Distance Learning Co-ordinator to contact us on your behalf.
- Help with essential study skills, including digital literacy, (especially when you are released).
- Access to tutor support via scheduled telephone “drop-in” seminars.
- Support to ensure that your learning is not interrupted by transfers. You can put our freephone number on your PIN and call us if you move – we’ll make all the rest of the arrangements.
- Assistance with funding applications and advice about student loans.
- The opportunity to finish your studies on campus or online if you’re released during your course, with support from our peer mentors. All our partner universities have committed to supporting this.
- Specialist recruitment support for people with convictions, linking you in to the right employers, with support to write a strong disclosure statement.

## What does it all mean?

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For university study, you will usually need GCSE English (Language or Literature) and Maths Grade 4/C or above - or the equivalent (such as Level 2 Functional Skills).

For some courses you will also need Level 3 qualifications like A Levels or BTECs to qualify. Each course is worth ‘UCAS points’ – for example, a C grade at A level is worth 32 points. Universities specify how many points you need to start their course. Your Prison Education Manager will have a table to help you calculate your points or you can contact us for help and advice.

### FOUNDATION YEAR

A popular option for people who have been out of education for a few years or are nervous about committing to a full degree. You’ll cover a range of study skills and some introductory topics for your chosen subject.

Where possible we try to provide funded opportunities to get you started with your studies, which we know is especially important for people on long sentences.

# DWRM in numbers

415

STUDENTS HAVE  
STARTED OR  
COMPLETED  
MODULES SO FAR

5

CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO RESEARCH OR  
POLICY REFORM

42

PRISONS WHERE  
WE HAVE  
STUDENTS

2820

FREEPHONE  
CALLS FOR STUDY  
SUPPORT TAKEN IN  
2024

We are delighted that so many of you are using our freephone number to speak directly to the academic teams at your universities. We are taking about 300 calls a month, and if you can't get through, our voicemail messages are checked throughout the day.

Our students tell us that they enjoy discussing different points of view without a specific agenda being proposed, because this enables them to develop their own ideas and perspectives.

Tutors have told us that being able to speak directly to students about their assignments results in a high standard of work and they have all been impressed at the level of engagement and interest shown by students.

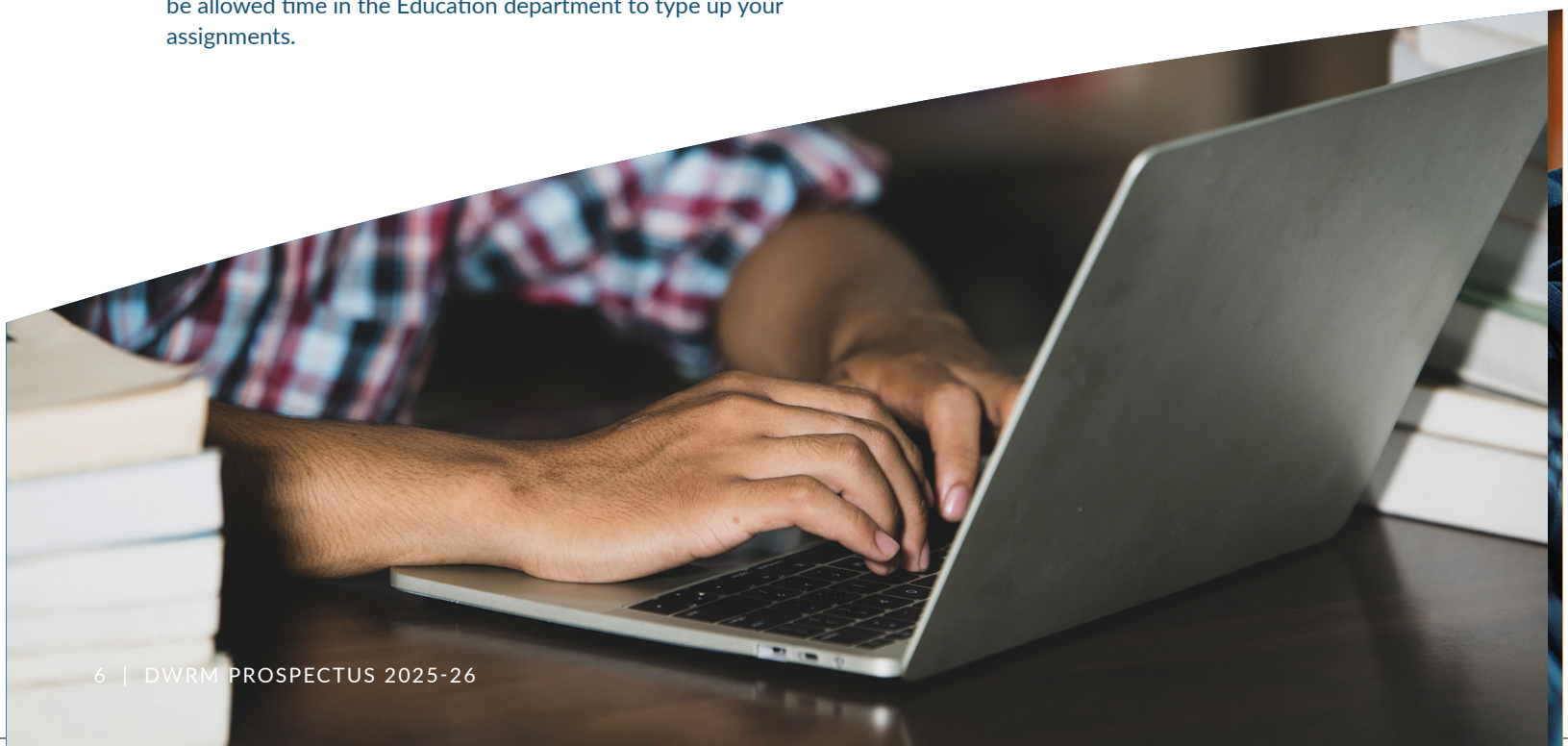
We know that many of you are now using Coracle devices, and we are continuing to push for greater access to technology. Even if your prison does not have a contract with Coracle, please speak to us about other options. You should be allowed time in the Education department to type up your assignments.

## Quotes from student feedback, 2024

*"The way DWRM organises and manages the distance learning process has been exceptional."*

*"Studying has given me hope for the future in terms of finding a job upon release."*

*"The phone-in sessions to speak to tutors and the library team have been invaluable."*



*“Background – I served 19 years for an 18 month IPP so every moment over my tariff became difficult and challenging.”*

**Filling the time with purposeful activity was essential to my survival and self preservation.**

When times are tough it's difficult to function and get on with the everyday tasks of eating, let alone focus on in depth intellectual coursework.

There is plan A which is to utilise my own strategies including gym, cooking and eating.

A few simple pleasures in prison.

And then I turn to others for support.

And that is where DWRM came into its own.

Not only do they provide a course like many other providers in prison, but they go above and beyond and they are a friendly voice on the other end of the phone which is far beyond their remit and makes them all together human.

So that voice on the end of the phone helps me stay focused, helps me in times of need, listens to my difficulties and helps me feel human again.

ARON

## UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Westminster are delighted to have supported so many students through our funded provision of Level 3 modules over the past 4 years.

This has been an important part of our work to enhance the educational opportunities for people in prison. All the tutors who have supported students through these modules have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know students and reading assignments.

As our funding situation changes at the end of this academic year, we have made the difficult decision to pause the delivery of these modules whilst we explore how best to move forward. We intend to increase the number and level of courses that we have available for students in prison. This will require us to reflect on the successes and challenges of the experience so far and will take a bit of time.

We want to thank all the students who have worked with us over the past four years. We hope that you take your University of Westminster credits proudly with you into everything that you do in the future.



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## Learning Communities

**Coventry University has been contributing to the Further and Higher Education (FHE) Campus at one of our nearby prisons since 2023. The FHE Campus is an innovative prisoner-led initiative which fosters a supportive and inclusive community of learners taking higher level qualifications.**

Staff in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the university have contributed two series of monthly workshops to this initiative with planning for a third in progress. Seminars have consisted of study skills and subject masterclasses. Study skills topics have included critical reading and writing, academic English, analysing media, resilience and presentation skills. Masterclass topics have included participatory digital activism, living desistance, climate change denial, conspiracy theories and culture wars, the American West, deconstructing the Mafia ‘mystique’ and modern rebellion.

The positive and constructive environment is evident in how much participants engage with the session even if it isn’t primarily in their qualification subject area. All the staff who have taken part comment on how their sessions have been received in such an enthusiastic, focused and welcoming manner by all those who attend. Prison staff and prisoner-leads have been extremely supportive of the initiative and have gone to great lengths to assist with the delivery of seminars. The seminars have also led to other collaborative working such as seminars on evaluation for PLI leads and contributions to educational events such as a penology conference and structured visits for university students.

All in all it has been a great experience and we are keen to work further with the prison to develop this approach to H.E. in prison environments! Dr Cath Morgan - Assistant Professor Criminology and Lead for Commercial and Community Engagement, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Coventry University.

### Key facts

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This is a student led initiative. Contact us about setting up something similar in your prison

#### DATES AND TIMINGS

We suggest this works best as a monthly seminar event, with smaller discussion groups happening on a weekly basis

#### QUALIFICATIONS

This programme is designed to support students on all qualification pathways

## A wide range of Level 3 options

OSC is a distance learning course provider that has helped over 110,000 learners globally take the next step towards achieving their ambitions. Whether you're looking to start a new career, get to university or just want to stretch yourself academically, OSC can help.

- Exactly the same qualifications you would receive in traditional school or college.
- Flexible! No set start date and no scheduled classes to attend or a timetable to follow.
- All qualifications are independently accredited by established awarding organisations.

## Available courses

Choose from a wide range of A Levels including accounting, business studies, law, sociology and politics, plus Level 3 courses such as garden design, electrical theory and maintenance, sports coaching, fitness and health, business-start up and more.

## Costs and funding

Costs for an A level are about £500. A list of grant funding organisations can be found in the Hardman Directory in your prison library, or you can pay for the course yourself, or you can apply for our Springboard Scholarship funding.

### Key facts

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Maths and English Level 2

#### ASSESSMENT

Exams: you will need to arrange with your education department to sit these at the end of your course on the dates set by the exam body, so please check that they can arrange this. We will provide details of the exam board and course code you need. You can also choose to study the course without sitting the exam.

#### DATES AND TIMINGS

Rolling start dates and flexible course length but fixed exam dates (May / June)

#### QUALIFICATIONS

A Levels, other Level 3 qualifications

## Level 3 Access to Health Diploma

Awarded by Ulster University, the Access to Health programme enables students who have not got mainstream entry qualifications to progress to further study.

The key aims of the programme are to enable students to improve their ability in English and Study Skills, particularly in the area of health; gain knowledge and skills for optimising career opportunities; gain a sound foundation in the basic concepts of chemical and physical science; explore basic concepts and theories within the context of health and the wider science arena. The course has been adapted to be suitable to study in prison.

## Available courses

Students studying on the programme will complete modules in:

- Academic English and Study Skills
- Human Biology
- General Science
- Clinical and Professional Practice

## Costs and funding

Full cost £1500, but students may be eligible for funding support through the college. Please apply prior to acceptance.

### Key facts

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Maths and English Level 2 and an interest in science

#### ASSESSMENT

Short weekly tasks for informal tutor feedback and a mixture of formal coursework and exams for each module

#### DATES AND TIMINGS

Starts in February and lasts for 1 year

#### QUALIFICATIONS

120 credits at Level 3 which is sufficient for university entry

# Feedback

Your feedback is a central part of our continuous improvement. We invite you to share your ideas and experiences of study and we will always listen, even when things are not going well.

## YOUR VOICE:

*81% of our students would definitely recommend their course to others based on their experience*

## TEACHING AND SUPPORT:

*85% of our students reported the feedback returned on their assignments were very useful*

## HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE STUDY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU?

*"DWRM have expertly guided me through every step of my studies and have assisted with all my queries."*

*"This course has been the best and most important achievement I have gained while incarcerated."*

*"This has been a really positive experience and one that I believe should be available to others."*

*"The interaction with the tutors is both enlightening and humbling. Just to be judged as an equal academic makes you feel so welcome and you are encouraged to keep studying."*

L3



## Help to start your own business

The mission at Rocketeer is to simplify the complicated process of creating and starting a business in today's digital and tech world.

Rocketeer offer two new business related courses designed to allow people in prison to keep up to date with new developments in business. Whether you are looking for employment in digital marketing, or want to understand how best to market your own business, these courses will provide you with up-to-date insights and give you the confidence to launch a successful campaign.

### AI-Powered Digital Marketing: The New Way To Reach

**Your Customers:** Discover how AI is revolutionising digital marketing in this comprehensive course. Learn to leverage cutting-edge AI tools for email, social media, paid advertising, and SEO strategies. Gain the skills to create cohesive marketing campaigns that effectively reach and convert customers across multiple platforms.

### AI-Powered Business Startup: Launch Your Business the

**Smart Way:** In today's digital landscape, adopting AI is crucial for startup entrepreneurs to gain a competitive edge. This course equips non-coders with practical AI strategies for idea generation, market research, marketing, customer support, and website creation. Gain essential skills to enhance business operations and competitive advantage through a 'human + AI' approach.

## Costs and funding

Each course costs £475 and needs to be self-funded.

## Key facts

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

English Level 2 and an interest in business / marketing

### ASSESSMENT

You will receive a detailed study pack and have assignments to complete for marking and feedback.

### DATES AND TIMINGS

Courses last for 9 months and can be started at any time.

### QUALIFICATIONS

All courses are certified by the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (IOEE)



University of Essex

## One year university qualification, with options to continue

### Build a Bigger Future, One Step at a Time. Business, Law, Healthcare, Psychology.

At Essex, we don't look at who ticks all the boxes, but at who is up for a challenge and you will earn your qualification by committing to an intellectual and cultural journey.

A Certificate in Higher Education (Cert HE) is equivalent to the first year of a degree and is a fully accepted higher level qualification. On completion, you can opt to continue your study to complete a full degree. The Cert HE will take 16 months to complete and requires 15 hours of study per week.



Coracle  
Inside

You will require use of a Coracle device to be able to study this course.

## Available courses

**Cert (HE) Business and Management** Grasp fundamental management skills and key business concepts, with our CertHE Business and Management. This course will develop your understanding of the four main decision-making areas to consider in business and explores core topics within management such as HR, finance and marketing.

You'll study interesting topics, including:

- how to establish effective working teams
- marketing fundamentals and the impact on consumers
- the economic environment within which businesses operate
- financial and management accounting

**Cert (HE) Law with Criminology** Fascinated with crime stories? Study our CertHE Law with Criminology and take the first step to developing your understanding of criminal law.

Equivalent to the first level of undergraduate study, this course covers a range of interesting topics, including:

- the legal framework that underpins the UK judiciary, executive and parliament, and the Human Rights Act
- key principles of prevention, intervention and rehabilitation of offenders within the criminal justice system
- influences of criminal behaviour, and the social and economic effects upon both communities and the state

**Cert (HE) Healthcare Management** Gain a solid understanding of leadership and managerial approaches across a variety of healthcare contexts, in our CertHE Healthcare Management. Throughout the course, you'll consider the management principles that underpin healthcare services, while exploring key management topics such as finance, HR management and business management. You'll also learn to recognise

contemporary challenges associated with healthcare management and develop your understanding of effective communication processes.

Explore a broad range of exciting topics, including:

- global disease patterns and the importance of control
- budgeting, cost management and capital investment analysis
- the key drivers for developing healthcare policies
- HR theories and practices in a global context
- evaluating your academic, personal and professional skills

**Cert (HE) Psychology** Fascinated by what makes people tick? Our CertHE Psychology could be the first step into an exciting career in psychology. You'll explore key topics such as human memory, cognition, the ways in which people – as individuals or in groups – influence one another, and much more. Delve into the science of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, and learn about the different fields within psychology. You'll also examine how psychology can be applied to real-life settings and help us to understand the thoughts and actions of individuals and social groups.

Explore a broad range of topics, including:

- the history of individual differences, and the ethical issues and controversies it raises
- the ethical and cultural approaches to mental health, stress and wellbeing
- the role of psychology in analysing how attitudes are formed and changed
- theories and methods in the field of social psychology
- an introduction to the study of human memory and cognition

## Costs and funding

16 month course £6176 fees (funded by student loan)

## Key facts

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Flexible entry. You just need to demonstrate aptitude to study and Level 2 Maths and English.

### ASSESSMENT

Written assessment to be submitted to the Essex online platform via DWRM.

### DATES AND TIMINGS

Start dates throughout the year

### QUALIFICATIONS

Complete modules worth 15 or 30 credits at Level 4, with 120 credits required for Cert HE qualification.



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

L4-6

## Criminology and Criminal Justice

This course examines the causes and consequences of crime and how this intersects with related disciplines such as sociology and psychology.

It will be suitable for people who have completed the Westminster Foundation modules.

You will explore responses to crime from multiple perspectives and will be encouraged to draw on your own experiences of the justice system, as well as questioning contemporary crime, control, justice and investigation methods and forms of policing.



Coracle  
Inside

You will require use of a Coracle device to be able to study this course.

## Available courses

### BSc (hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice

Debate and question contemporary crime, control and punishment and criminal justice system issues such as investigation methods and forms of policing

Explore responses to crime from multiple perspectives as you study its relationship with other disciplines including law, sociology, psychology and the history of police science

## Costs and funding

£3080 per year payable by student loan

## Key facts

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Open entry requirements, if you do not have Level 3 qualifications you will need to submit a full written application

### ASSESSMENT

Essays and reports alongside informal assessment and quizzes.

### DATES AND TIMINGS

4 ½ years part-time study starting in September

### QUALIFICATIONS

Gain a Cert HE after 18 months or a Dip He after 36 months



UNIVERSITY OF  
GREENWICH

L4-6

## Mathematics Degree

Greenwich University believes in giving students the skills that employers value and the confidence to achieve great things.

Their maths courses are highly regarded, being ranked 3rd in the UK in Maths for Student Satisfaction (Complete University Guide, 2022).

## Available courses

### BSc (hons) Mathematics

By studying a degree in maths, you will grow as a mathematician, gaining analytical skills that you can apply to problems in the real world. You will also learn how to use mathematical software so you can understand the strengths and limitations of computers and other tools.

You will learn to identify and analyse relevant data to solve problems and develop skills such as logical analysis, deduction, mathematical modelling, problem-solving and the appropriate application of mathematical concepts.

## Costs and funding

Full-time study £9250 per year

Part time study £2312 per 30 credits

Payable by student loan

## Key facts

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

104 UCAS points from A levels which must include grade C or higher in A level maths

### ASSESSMENT

Each course has formal assessments which count towards your grade. Some courses include 'practice' assignments, which help monitor your progress..

### DATES AND TIMINGS

3 year full time course starting late September

### QUALIFICATIONS

Each module is worth 15 or 30 credits. You require 120 credits at each of Level 4, 5 and 6 to complete your degree.

## For aspiring sports leaders

**The Global Institute of Sport (GIS) is the leading provider of ground-breaking sports university degrees worldwide.**

GIS is ranked #1 worldwide for sports employment outcomes for its graduates by Sport Business magazine.

Its unique focus on collaboration with the sports industry is exemplified in its partnerships with more than 50 leading sports organisations, including the Premier League and The Football Association.

GIS is a college of the University of East London; graduates of this programme will be awarded a degree from UEL.

## Available courses

### **BA (Hons.) Sports Management**

Unlock your future in the exciting world of sports management with this dynamic course, designed to launch your career in one of the fastest-growing industries.

You'll dive deep into the business of sport, learning how to analyse the external forces shaping the industry while mastering the essential skills of communication, problem-solving, and leadership.

This course will empower you with cutting-edge, evidence-based strategies, preparing you to tackle real-world challenges and drive success in your sports management career.

You'll explore everything from sports marketing and fan behaviour to strategic event management, gaining practical insights through case studies, live discussions, and direct industry insight.

With this course, you'll be fully equipped to take the sports business world by storm and make an impact in the global marketplace.

## Costs and funding

£9,535 per year; three year degree course, payable by student loan

## Key facts

### **LEVEL OF STUDY**

Undergraduate

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

96 UCAS points. Professional experience and industry qualifications can be assessed for applicants without the necessary UCAS points.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students will be required to submit coursework assignments in each module.

### **DATES AND TIMINGS**

Every September and January

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Cert HE (after 1 year)

Bachelor's degree with Honours (after 3 years)



## MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

You will gain a systematic understanding and critical awareness of key principles of criminology, developing knowledge of the history of ideas, the cultural context, and the social and political theories that inform and influence the practice of criminology.

Students will graduate with the ability to identify appropriate methodologies for dealing with complex problems and design and successfully complete a substantial empirical criminology research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide understandings of criminology in the contemporary world.

Much of this course focuses on topical debate – helping you to look at things critically and from different perspectives. You also have a choice of two routes to take on your course:

- **Desistance and Resettlement Route:** You will have the opportunity to engage with key issues related to prisons, probation and rehabilitation and resettlement. You will also be able to work with criminal justice organisations on a digital co-production project
- **Social Justice Route:** This route takes a critical approach in investigating the criminal justice system. It examines how the system has been perceived and resisted by those working outside of institutional power structures. It investigates how criminology is a 'rendezvous discipline' by engaging with, and pushing at, the margins of the discipline, the relationship between social marginalisation and criminalisation, and how to put the 'margins' at the centre. This route is ideal for those who want to work to shape the system from either outside or within the system

## Costs and funding

£10,000 payable by post graduate student loan

### Key facts

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UK bachelor's degree in any subject at 2:2 or above, or equivalent qualifications.

#### DATES AND TIMINGS

Start dates September and February

#### CO-PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

If you do not want to study for a post graduate qualification, but are interested in participating in academic study at this level, we are seeking participants for the co-production projects which form part of the Desistance and Resettlement Route.



# Watch this **Space**

## New partner universities coming soon

We expect to be offering a wide range of courses including:

Politics

History

Sociology

Philosophy

Creative Writing

**in early 2026**

and will share details as soon as they are finalised.



# Next Steps

Found a course you like?  
Here's what to do next:

**1 Seek approval**  
Speak to your Distance Learning Coordinator about your interest in Higher Education. Remember that you will need approval from your Prison Governor via the SIFT.

**2 Apply to us when you're ready**  
Complete our application form, which is available from your education department, and send it to us. Or contact us by post: PO Box 6219, Sheffield S2 9JQ, by email: [info@dwrn.org.uk](mailto:info@dwrn.org.uk) (we also use email-a-prisoner) or by Freephone: 0800 987 5953 to express your interest. Include information about your existing qualifications, your education, career goals and release date. If you are an ISP, tell us your next possible parole release date.

**3 Completing your application**  
We book an initial session with you to review your application and establish your personal goals and existing qualifications, so that we can complete your application on your behalf. We have rolling deadlines for all applications.

**4 Apply for finance**  
We will explain how to apply for student finance (loan, grant or sponsorship). If you want to start your loan application, ask your Distance Learning Coordinator (or us) for an application form. You must be within 6 years of your release date to be eligible for a loan, 8 years for a Foundation year. If you are not eligible for a student loan, we can help you to apply for a scholarship. For example, Longford Trust can cover the cost of one university module for serving prisoners who cannot access other finance. The application deadline for Longford Trust funding is June 5th every year; application forms are available from DWRM or Longford Trust at PO Box 72887, London N2 2FG.

**5 Induction**  
If the university accepts your application, we will send you full course details and info on the admissions process.

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## The key steps

- Your education department has copies of our application form.
- You need your Prison Governor's permission to apply.
- Apply when you're ready: we accept applications right through the year.
- We can help you apply for student finance or scholarships.
- We'll stay in touch throughout your studies.



# Take Charge of Your Learning Journey

## Create Your Own Learning Community

Have you ever wished for more meaningful educational opportunities during your sentence? Do you enjoy discussing ideas with others and helping fellow students learn? You have the power to create valuable learning spaces—right where you are.

### Why Start a Learning Community?

- **Personal Growth:** Develop critical thinking, leadership, and communication skills
- **Community Building:** Form meaningful connections through intellectual engagement
- **Ongoing Education:** Continue learning regardless of sentence length or student loan eligibility
- **Empowerment:** Take an active role in your education and help others do the same

DWRM has developed 2 programmes to get you started:

#### 1. Language and Thinking (L&T)

The L&T programme equips you with fundamental skills for academic success through:

- Critical analysis of texts and ideas
- Reflective writing practices
- Collaborative discussion techniques

#### What Others Have Said:

*"The L&T programme helped me see myself as a genuine student capable of university-level work. Now I'm helping others discover the same thing about themselves."*

#### 2. Thinking Out Loud - Philosophy for the Real World

Cut through academic jargon and explore life's biggest questions through music & film. This course brings philosophy to life—debating morality, identity, justice,

and free will in open, thought-provoking discussions.

- Debate philosophical themes in music, film, and TV
- Unpack big questions and dilemmas
- Develop intellectual freedom and think critically
- Discover your voice

#### What Others Have Said:

*"This course opened my mind—I question everything now. It's the best thing I've done in years."*

*"I'm using parts of my brain I forgot I had. I'm starting to see the bigger picture."*

#### How it works:

- Use self-study materials at your own pace
- Receive training on facilitating your own study group
- Join scheduled telephone support sessions
- Lead philosophical and critical thinking discussions using our guided materials
- Get ongoing support from partnering universities to lead sessions with other students

#### Resources provided:

- Comprehensive printed materials
- Recorded sessions on DVD
- Training in group facilitation

#### Supported By:

This initiative is a collaboration between DWRM and multiple universities including University College London (UCL), Coventry University, Wrexham Glyndŵr University, Bath Spa University, and University of Portsmouth, with additional support from The Royal Institute of Philosophy.

#### Contact:

Speak to your education department today to request an application form and begin your journey as both a learner and a leader.

*Developed by people who have navigated the journey from prison education to academic study—we understand where you are and where you can go.*

# Learning Communities

DWRM is establishing a network of Learning Communities which aim to reduce the isolation of prison-based study. This is based on feedback from current and formerly incarcerated scholars about what support is required to generate successful outcomes.

Through a supported programme of events we aim to promote and raise the status and value of study in prison. We work with students in each prison to develop a suitable programme, supported by university partners and formerly incarcerated scholars who have volunteered to be part of the programme. We aim to improve study skills and increase the confidence and motivation of students. We are also producing a regular newsletter (Curious Minds) to support students in prison to feel more connected to the Learning Community.

Please contact us for more information.

Benefits of Learning Communities to support students in prison with Higher-Level education

1. **Peer Support and Motivation:** Study groups create a sense of community among incarcerated students, fostering mutual encouragement and motivation. This support system can help maintain engagement and persistence in their studies.

2. **Collaborative Learning:** Group discussions and collaborative problem-solving enhance understanding of complex subjects. This interactive learning approach can be particularly beneficial in grasping higher-level concepts.
3. **Resource Sharing:** Study groups facilitate the sharing of educational resources, such as books, notes, and online materials. This can be crucial in a prison setting where access to resources may be limited.
4. **Skill Development:** Participating in study groups helps develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. These skills are valuable both during incarceration and post-release.
5. **Emotional and Mental Well-being:** The social interaction and support provided by study groups can improve mental health and reduce feelings of isolation, contributing to overall well-being.
6. **Preparation for Exams and Assignments:** Study groups offer a platform for students to prepare for exams and complete assignments together, ensuring they stay on track with their educational goals.
7. **Building a Learning Culture:** Establishing a culture of learning within the prison can inspire more inmates to pursue education, creating a positive environment that values personal growth and development.

By leveraging the collective strengths and knowledge of group members, study groups can significantly enhance the educational experience for students in prison, helping you to achieve your academic goals and prepare for successful reintegration into society.

**GLOBAL FREEDOM SCHOLARS NETWORK** 23 MAY 2024

**"WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?"**

**"NO MATTER WHAT HAT I WEAR PEOPLE ONLY SEE MY 'I'VE BEEN TO PRISON' HAT WITH THE PINK POM POMS - I AM NOT THAT PERSON ANYMORE"**

**"SOMETIMES STAFF DON'T WANT TO ENCOURAGE GROUP DISCUSSION & EXTERNAL VOICES - WE NEED ADVOCATES"**

**"WE MUST BRING POSITIVE & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & POWER NOT NEGATIVE ENERGY"**

**"I AM WARY OF TOKENISTIC TITLES"**

**"SOME PEOPLE IN THE SYSTEM WANT YOU TO FAIL .. MAKE SURE TO FIND GOOD PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP"**

**"BEWARE OF BOX TICKING EXERCISES"**

**"THIS WORK SAVES LIVES"**

**LIVEILLUSTRATION.CO.UK**  
GRAPHIC RECORDING, EVENT VISUALISATION & ILLUSTRATION

**THE CITY LAW SCHOOL**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

**DWRM**

**INCARCERATION NATIONS NETWORK**

# Prison, studying and Neuro Diversity

I am a former prisoner, student, and I have ADHD, and with this I was in good company. According to a report published by the ADHD Foundation, one in four prisoners in the UK are believed to have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Distance learning can be challenging when you have ADHD, and these challenges are only exacerbated by the prison environment. I can find myself distracted very easily, and the noise and chaos of custody, as well as an enthusiastic, chatty padmate, provided many opportunities for me to temporarily forget about my workload!

This workload can also feel overwhelming and support systems in prison can be limited. That's why the additional support that studying with DWRM provides, means you never feel like you're managing alone.

There are other practical tips I found useful to keep me engaged and on track. Visual aids were huge for me, and the post it notes, multi-coloured brain storms and bullet points, and calendars with key deadline dates not only kept information fresh in my mind, they too had the added benefit of brightening up my cell! Incorporating movement into my routine also helped with the challenge of having to remain still and focused on my work. Even in

bang up I would make sure that I broke up my study sessions with a little cell workout, and made sure I got outside as much as possible and went to the gym. Breaking the work into manageable chunks and giving yourself a little reward (for me, sweet treats from canteen or some rubbish TV!) for successful completion of each makes a large word count or multiple deadlines feel a lot less daunting and overwhelming. I also found sometimes working in the library, or other communal areas when I could, for a change of scenery made the time where I had no choice but to sit in my cell and do my work feel much less like a chore.

Find something you're passionate about or really interested in! This is by far the best way to ensure success in your studies. I cannot

speak for everybody with ADHD of course, but personally having to do any kind of research or admin on a topic that I find boring is almost impossible, the executive dysfunction is real! However if you've found that topic, or end goal, that truly captures your attention then studying is fun, learning and accumulating knowledge and experience was just an extended hyperfocus rabbit hole that I often fall down anyway, but with a qualification at the end of it!

Studying opens so many more doors than just the professional; new ways of thinking, improved self esteem and the satisfaction (and dopamine boost!) of achieving a goal made my decision to study one of the best I've ever made.

LAUREN

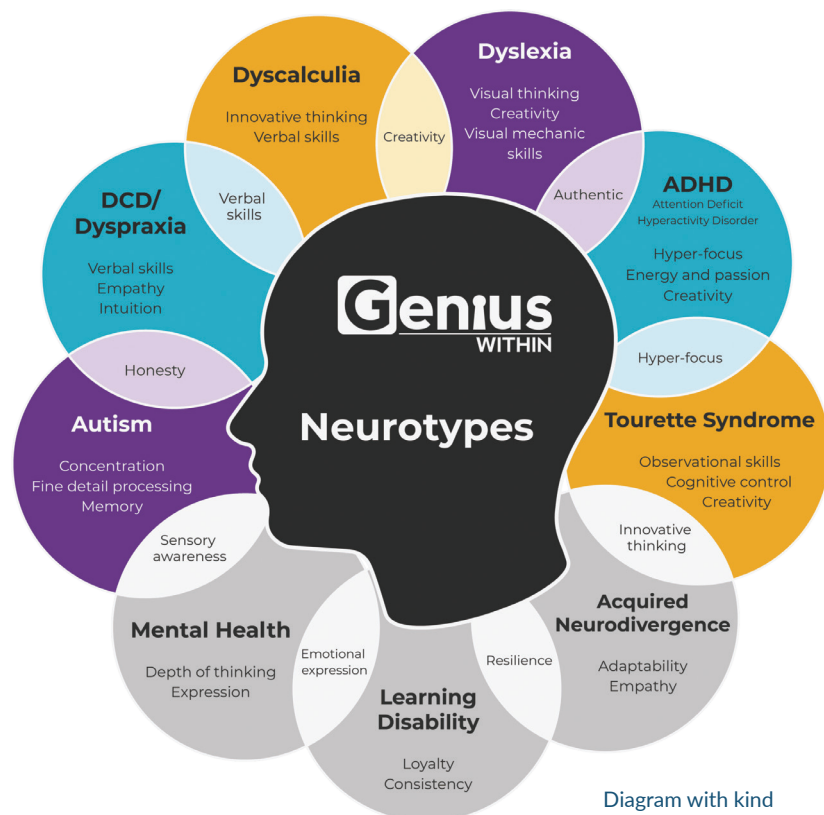


Diagram with kind permission from <https://geniuswithin.org/>

# Post release options

## When you are approaching your release date, as our student you can contact us to discuss continuing support:

- Approximately 12 weeks before your release, please let us know if you want to complete an initial IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) document about yourself and your employability or continuing education goals.
- We will set up a call with you, to go through the IAG and start to have a sense of what you would like/are able to do.
- We will take into account any known licence conditions or restrictions and discuss the best options for your specific circumstances.
- We will follow with emails (via EMAP) to finalise the details.
- We hope to have a rounded idea of your areas of interest and skill by the time that you are released.
- If you wish to continue studying, we will support you with your transition to study in the community.
- If you are seeking work or training, we can offer support on our Employability programme.

## If you are already released by the time that you are near the end of your studies

- When you are within 12 weeks of your proposed course completion, you can be referred to our Employability programme.

- We will provide you with a brief IAG document to complete, as above
- We can then set up a call to go through the IAG to understand what you would like to do
- We will follow that up directly and start to work with you online or face to face, depending on circumstances and distance

## OUR EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME:

Once we have established some baseline information about you, we can start to address any practical gaps (e.g. CV/ Personal Disclosure Statement and work-based skills) and also look at suitable employment, training or other education options.

You may also be offered the support of a mentor, to further enable your employability journey.

*"Before I took the course, I wouldn't have had the courage to ask anyone for a job... It opened my mind. I thought I was no help to anyone but now I can have confidence looking for jobs."*



**REBOOTED**

Rebooted is a charity that gives former prisoners laptops to help them continue access to education on release. If you're studying inside and want to continue, apply for a free laptop using the form on your Coracle laptop.



**WORKING CHANCE**

Unlocking women's potential

**Support to access education or training for women with convictions:** If you identify as a woman or non-binary, you can get support to access education or training from the charity Working Chance. Whether you're going back to college, looking for a change in career, or need a qualification to get the job you want, education or training could be for you. We can support you with applications, personal statements, and disclosing your conviction if you need to. As an employment charity, we can also help you to access training alongside finding a paid job For more information head to [www.workingchance.org](http://www.workingchance.org) or email [media@workingchance.org](mailto:media@workingchance.org)

# DOING WHAT REALLY MATTERS

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