Applied for: Criminology/ Criminology and Criminal Justice/ Criminology with Policing

Offers received:

Swansea University – 128 points

Bristol, University of West of England/University of Gloucestershire – 120 points

University of Worcester – 112 points

Choosing a Criminology course at university will provide the opportunity for me to look at  
extending my knowledge from A-level. International crime, youth offending, prisons and crime surrounding drug use interest me. In recent years, I have become concerned with crime and the impacts this has on society, which the course explores. In sociology, learning about crime and deviance in society has intrigued and inspired me to apply for criminology. Furthermore, I want to pursue a career in the police because I want to help people and reduce crime in the community, to make it safer. Criminology would help me reach my goal. Studying sociology and geography has prepared me for the course because they are essay-based subjects. Similarly, doing an A level in health and social care has developed my organisational skills and independence, both necessary to complete coursework and meet deadlines.

My work experience with Gloucestershire Constabulary helped me gain first-hand experience of what a career in the police would involve. I learnt about how the Police Force and Prison Service are structured as well as contemporary issues in policing. This will be invaluable to my studies as it gives me background knowledge to a key part of the course. In September, I started 'The Science Behind Forensic Science' course on FutureLearn, to widen my understanding of criminology. In addition, I have attended university open days and listened to talks about criminology. Topics discussed at these events have further boosted my interest and confirmed that a degree in criminology is what I really want to do. In my spare time, I enjoy watching documentaries on crime to further my understanding. I've particularly enjoyed, 'The Prosecutors' which explores the Crown Prosecution Service and 'Louis Theroux' which is about law and disorder in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Other relevant and useful skills for criminology have come from extracurricular activities. I  
took part in the NCS scheme; as part of the programme we had to organise and hold a charity event. This developed my team working skills; co-ordinating with other people and  
communicating with the members of my team ensured the tasks were completed on time and the event was successful. This will benefit me at university, as I would be confident in group work and be able to effectively work with others. I also got the chance to develop my  
leadership skills and ability to work under time pressure because I led a team for the charity  
project; I had to allocate jobs to other team members and ensure that they stayed on track.  
This was a challenging but valuable skill that will be useful as I am capable of effectively  
leading a team of people to achieve an objective. Our team had to organise the event and  
attract sponsors in just one week; this was difficult but rewarding as we managed to raise  
£1000 for our charity - The Pied Piper Appeal. As a result, I will be able to cope with the  
increased workload compared to A-levels; I now know that I am capable of working under  
pressure to meet submission deadlines.

I have also completed the EPQ; I chose to explore a prominent issue in today's society -  
'Should the police be armed on the streets of Britain?' The wider reading, I carried out for  
this, increased my knowledge for a degree in criminology. Researching information also gave me the opportunity to practise and develop my independent research skills; a useful skill for university as a lot of the course will require independent, proactive study. Furthermore, EPQ has developed my essay writing and organisational skills, which will be extremely useful for the degree course in completing assignments along with the need to meet challenging deadlines.

To conclude, I am excited about exploring the subject of criminology at degree level and  
widening my understanding of the subject to pursue a career in the police. I have taken the  
steps necessary to prepare myself for student life and can't wait to start.