



Law, Criminology & Public Services

Your guide to careers in justice, law and criminal justice

Liverpool & Merseyside | Level 1 to Degree Level | Multiple pathways available



Why Choose a Career in Law, Criminology or Public Services?

- Make a difference to society — protect the public, uphold justice, defend the vulnerable
- Multiple career pathways — police, prison, probation, law, criminology and related fields
- Job security and progression — public sector roles offer excellent benefits and advancement
- Interesting and varied work — no two days are the same in criminal justice careers
- Good salaries and pensions — competitive pay with strong pension schemes
- Entry routes for all backgrounds — various qualifications and apprenticeships available



Skills and Personal Qualities

- Integrity and honesty — trustworthiness and impartiality are essential
- Communication skills — explaining complex information to diverse people
- Analytical thinking — assessing situations, evidence and risk
- Problem-solving — handling difficult situations and making judgements under pressure
- Physical fitness — especially for police and prison roles
- Empathy and attention to detail — supporting people and handling evidence carefully



Useful School Subjects

- English — report writing, communication and presenting information
- Maths — data, evidence and problem-solving
- Citizenship / PSHE — understanding law, justice, rights and society
- History — understanding institutions, evidence and analysis
- PE — fitness standards for police, prison and uniformed roles



Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

Courses are available at local colleges across Merseyside. Many courses accept students without GCSEs.

Public Services & Uniformed Services Courses (Foundation Routes)

- City of Liverpool College — Uniformed Public Services L1 Diploma (no prerequisites) | L2 Diploma | L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma
- St Helens College — Public and Uniformed Services courses L1-L3
- Hugh Baird College — Uniformed Services provision available
- Excellent progression to Police, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance, Prison Service and Armed Forces

Criminology & Criminal Justice Courses

- City of Liverpool College — Criminology L3 Diploma (2-year)
- Hugh Baird College — Introduction to Principles of Criminology L2 | Access to HE: Criminal Justice (Policing) | Foundation Degree in Criminology (FdA)
- Sefton Sixth Form College — Criminology Applied Diploma L3 (2-year) | Law A-Level

Law & Solicitor Training

- Sefton Sixth Form College — Law A-Level
- Liverpool John Moores University — LLB (Hons) Law | LLB with Foundation Year | Legal Practice Course
- University of Liverpool — Law degrees (LLB and specialist pathways)
- Legal apprenticeships with law firms throughout Merseyside

Police, Prison & Probation Direct Entry Routes

- Merseyside Police — Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (3 years) | Direct entry with degree
- HM Prison Service — Prison Officer entry programmes | Civil Service Fast Track
- National Probation Service — Probation Officer Apprenticeship | Graduate training programmes

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

Apprenticeships and Training

- Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship — 3 years, earn while you learn
- Prison Officer and Probation Officer apprenticeship routes
- Legal apprenticeships — solicitor and paralegal routes with law firms
- Civil Service apprenticeships across justice and public services
- Search live vacancies: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- Supported Internships (for students with an EHCP) are run by local colleges with their selected employer partners — ask your careers adviser whether this route could suit you

Jobs, Volunteering and Work Experience

Criminal justice careers have specific entry requirements — most require age 18+, DBS clearance and health checks. Check requirements early.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Police Constable	Merseyside Police	Degree Apprenticeship or degree entry
Prison Officer	HM Prison Service	Entry programme (18+, security clearance)
Probation Officer	National Probation Service	Apprenticeship or degree + training
Solicitor	Law firms, councils, in-house teams	Law degree + SQE + work experience
Paralegal / Legal Assistant	Law firms, legal departments	Level 3 + legal training
Criminology Analyst / Researcher	Government, universities, policy	Criminology degree route

Police constables start at £24,000–£27,000 (sergeants/inspectors £37,000–£45,000+). Prison officers £21,000–£24,000, probation officers £22,000–£25,000, trainee solicitors £25,000–£35,000 (senior solicitors £45,000–£70,000+).

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Volunteer as a Police Cadet or with community safety schemes
- Visit employer websites (Merseyside Police, HM Prison Service, National Probation Service) for entry requirements
- Check DBS requirements and criminal record policies early — some roles have restrictions

Next Steps and Contact Information

- Visit college open days and websites
- Search for local jobs: www.indeed.co.uk | www.notjustjobs.com
- Find apprenticeships: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

TAGS Careers	www.tags.careers — local careers information and resources
Colleges	City of Liverpool College: www.liv-coll.ac.uk Hugh Baird: www.hughbaird.ac.uk Sefton Sixth Form: www.seftonsfc.ac.uk
Employers	Merseyside Police: www.merseyside.police.uk HM Prison Service: www.gov.uk/hmpps Probation: www.gov.uk/nps
Universities	Liverpool John Moores: www.ljmu.ac.uk University of Liverpool: www.liverpool.ac.uk UCAS: www.ucas.com
More Support	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs
Apprenticeships	www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk www.indeed.co.uk www.notjustjobs.com