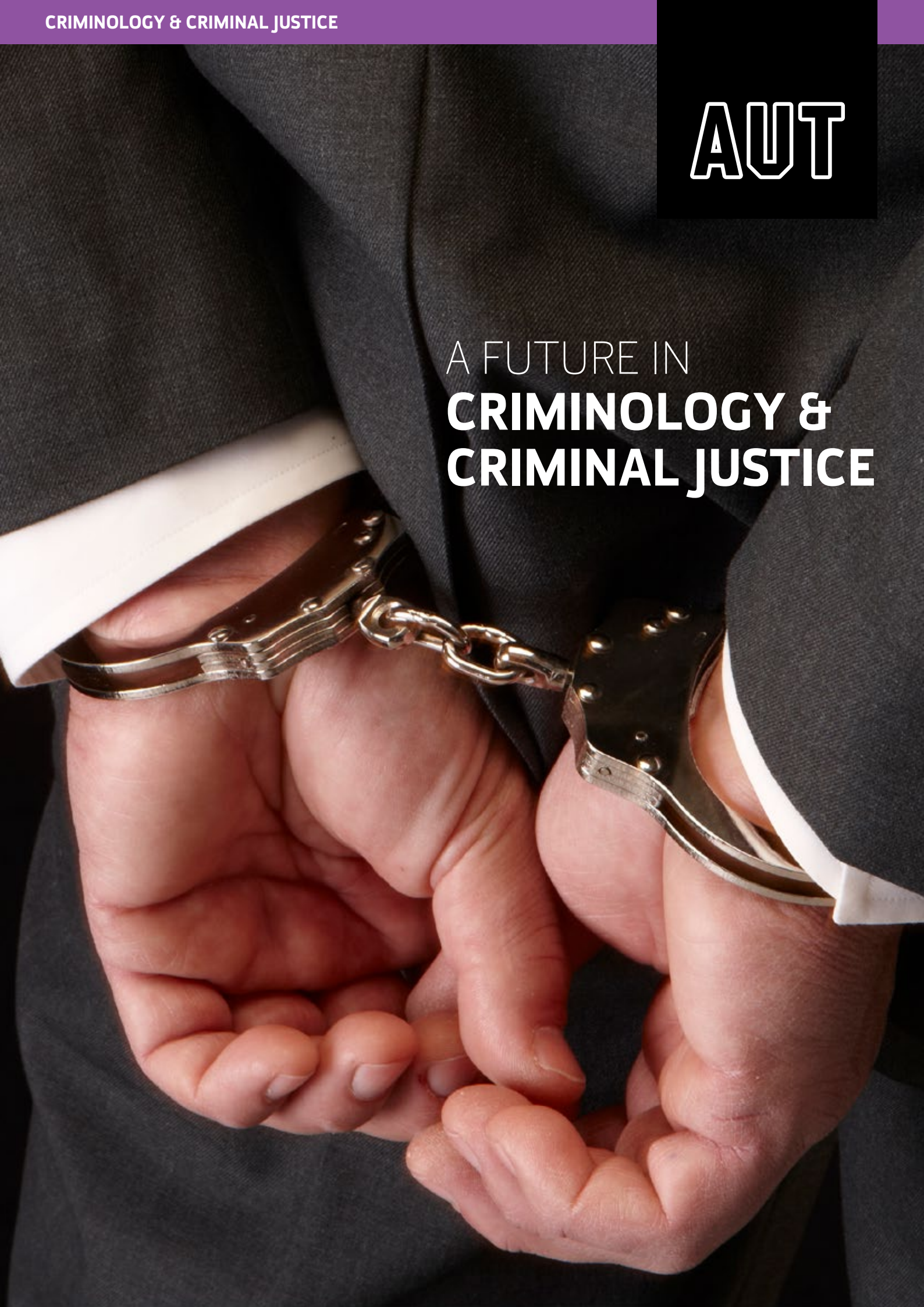


AUT

A FUTURE IN
**CRIMINOLOGY &
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**





WHAT COULD A CAREER IN CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE LOOK LIKE?

What is crime and who decides what behaviours are illegal? Who commits crimes and why? Who ends up in prison and who does not? How effective are society's responses to crime? How do we support the victims of crime? Does prison work? How can we reduce the harm caused by crime?

These are all questions addressed by the study and practice of criminology, an interdisciplinary field at the junction of law, sociology, psychology, technology and public policy. Professionals in this area need comprehensive skills in communication, analysis, problem solving and research and a strong aspirational objective of improving the criminal justice system.

Most people in this area work in the public sector in wide-ranging roles that reflect the breadth of the discipline. Some are involved in policing. Others work in the courts or in prisons. Others find employment in social development, utilising their skills to create community initiatives to support victims and offenders. There are also roles in policy analysis and in university research and teaching positions.

Do you have a passion for social justice and a desire to improve your community? Can you communicate with people from all walks of life? Would you like to tackle the extensive problems that crime presents to our society? If so, then a career in criminology could be great for you.

OUTLOOK AND TRENDS

Advocates needed for a better system – Imagine a time when criminal justice repairs the harm done to society by crime. Can we imagine a world without prisons, a world where the failing war on drugs is replaced by a model that treats addiction. We need to continue to advocate for an improved criminal justice system that overcomes perennial problems of racism, prison overcrowding and abuse of power.

Changes of approach – Restorative justice, a process that focuses on rehabilitation and reconciliation, has been part of New Zealand's justice system for over 10 years. Ongoing reforms of New Zealand's child welfare system is also bringing about changes in youth justice and sentencing outcomes. However effective rehabilitation for people inside prison is not so positive – currently less than 30% of people leaving prison have received effective rehabilitation (2018 figures). Qualifications in criminology and restorative justice will enhance employment opportunities for people wanting to move into any of these areas.

New Zealand Police diversifying – With the aim of building stronger cultural diversity within the New Zealand Police workforce, the NZ Police are recruiting more women and more people of Māori, Pacific, Indian, African and Asian ethnicity.

NZ Police has multiple intakes throughout the year to fill vacant positions. Each intake has 40 to 80 recruits. Auckland has the most police officer opportunities because of its ongoing population growth, hugely diverse populace and high turnover of police officers.

Career options within NZ Police – After two years of policing, you can diversify into specialist areas that draw on putting your criminology study into practice, such as Youth Aid, Family Violence Team, Iwi Liaison, Ethnic Liaison and Child Protection. Your knowledge of policing and society, as well as theories of crime prevention and evidence-based policing will hold you in good stead. NZ Police state a degree can strengthen a candidate's application for the NZ Police force.

Support in and out of prison – Another employment option for criminology graduates is with the prison services, which is run through the Department of Corrections and a couple of private providers. Correction officer numbers are increasing in prisons so there are a good number of vacancies.

Outside of prison there are also rehabilitation and support roles, such as probation officers, social workers, case managers and transition specialist support. Criminology graduates bring a critical understanding of crime, punishment, and other aspects of criminology to these roles.

WORK SETTINGS

Criminologists find employment in a range of roles, working for a variety of organisations, such as:

- Department of Corrections
- Local authorities
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Social Development
- National and international human rights organisations
- New Zealand Customs
- New Zealand Police
- Non-governmental community groups
- Universities and other tertiary providers



CAREER ROLE EXAMPLES

Policy analyst – Assists in the shaping and influencing of policy by researching and evaluating information to assist in the design, development, analysis and review of organisational or government policy. Usually involves writing relevant documents or reports, and may require extensive consultation with interested parties.

Probation officer – Ensures offenders fulfil the legal requirements of the outcome of their sentence outside of prison. Liaises with courts, community correction sites, offenders' homes and community organisations to set up support to meet those requirements.

Corrections officer – Based in prisons and responsible for containing and managing offenders. Involved with prisoners' attendance at rehabilitation and education programmes, trade training and other programmes inside prison. Often has a focus on encouraging offenders to make changes and not reoffend. Source: Department of Corrections

Transition specialist support staff – Working within NGOs, iwi and Māori organisations to meet the needs of young people and whānau when moving from state care and transitioning into independent living. (New role established mid-2019 to support young people leaving state care).

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Specific skills

- Knowledge of contemporary debates within criminology in regards to New Zealand society
- Comprehensive understanding of criminal justice institutions and crime in New Zealand, including the impact of social responses
- Ability to critically examine criminal justice policies and practices in order to envisage alternatives to present day criminal justice issues
- Awareness of crime prevention programmes
- Understanding how criminology concepts can be applied in real world settings

General skill requirements

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Problem solving
- Cross-cultural awareness
- Research and critical analysis
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Organisation and time management skills

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Strong social conscience and interest in human rights issues
- Inquisitive and open to having personal assumptions about the world challenged and expanded
- Committed to developing a deeper understanding of crime prevention and the role of the police force
- Interested in theory and practice of punishment, including prison systems and alternative options



SALARY GUIDE

	Salary
Probation officer	
Probation officer (new)	\$54,446-\$68,500
Probation officer (senior)	\$61,000-\$68,000
Analyst	
Policy analyst graduate salary	\$49,890-\$60,000
Policy analyst (2 years' experience)	\$58,314-\$67,000
Senior policy analyst	\$105,000-\$150,000+
Police officer	
Police officer starting salary	\$57,795-\$64,675 (full package, not incl overtime)
Police officer with four years' experience	\$64,390-\$74,641 (full package, not incl overtime)
Corrections officer	
Corrections officer trainee salary	\$51,490
Corrections officer	\$54,001-\$63,420

Sources: Department of Corrections, NZ Police, payscale.com, State Services Commission, Careers NZ

Salary range is indicative of the New Zealand job market at the time of publication (May 2019) and should only be used as a guideline.

FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS

There is a range of postgraduate study available at AUT for criminology and criminal justice students, including a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) specialisation in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Postgraduate Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Master of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Staff research specialisations include youth crime, prison reform and abolitionist perspectives, police accountability, ethical policing, police culture, rural crime, media representations of crime, child witnesses in the criminal courts and criminal narratives and identity.

THE AUT ADVANTAGE

All criminology and criminal justice students complete a supervised work placement in their final year. This involves 150 hours of real life work experience in an organisation chosen by you and relevant to criminology – such as the NZ Police, Corrections, youth-focused organisations, agencies that work with people newly released from prison, restorative justice providers, and organisations that advocate for change within the criminal justice system. Some students receive offers of employment as a result of their placement.

ERINA MAKO

Ngāruahine, Tūhoe, Ngāti Tūwharetoa
Sergeant and Initial Training Instructor, Te Tāhu
Tauria, School of Initial Training, Royal New Zealand
Police College Tāmaki Makaurau

Bachelor of Arts in Criminology* and Bachelor of
Business in Management

"Initially, I started studying criminology out of interest while also doing a business degree. As I learned more about the complexity of criminology and the underlying contributing factors as to why people commit crime, I started to relate it to my everyday world. This led to a change in thought about my career and I joined the New Zealand Police.

I've had a varied career over the past eight years. After completing four years on the frontline, I joined the Intelligence Unit before moving on to a national pilot; a family harm initiative called Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke.

In 2017 I did a six month teaching and learning advisor secondment at the Royal New Zealand Police College in Wellington. This led to another career change. I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant after taking a permanent position as an Initial Training Instructor of new police recruits joining the organisation.

In April 2018 I came back to Auckland to my current role – Wing Team Leader for the Tāmaki Makaurau Recruit Wing. This is a non-residential initial training course in Auckland for police recruits who find it a barrier to do training for 16 weeks in Wellington. I really enjoy working in training space and playing a part in helping people start their journey as a police officer is definitely one of the most rewarding roles I've had.

I've always taken an organic approach to my career. I have a strong sense of self and look for opportunities – either as they present themselves or by creating them. I love what I do.

Having a degree in criminology has certainly been advantageous. It provides the academic framework that underpins what I do in my job, giving me an evidence-based approach and helping me to understand crime from different perspectives."

* NB: The Bachelor of Arts in Criminology is now called Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice.



USEFUL WEBSITES

Ministry of Justice

www.justice.govt.nz and New Zealand

Government jobs online

www.jobs.govt.nz

NZ Police

www.newcops.co.nz

www.police.govt.nz

Department of Corrections

www.careers.corrections.govt.nz

Australian and NZ Society of Criminology

www.anzsoc.org


FURTHER INFORMATION

For the most up-to-date information on criminology and criminal justice or the Bachelor of Arts, visit www.aut.ac.nz/criminology

FUTURE STUDENTS

Contact the Future Student Advisory team for more information: www.aut.ac.nz/enquire

futurestudents@aut.ac.nz

 @AUTFutureStudents


CURRENT AUT STUDENTS

Contact the Student Hub Advisors team for more information:

0800 AUT UNI (0800 288 864)

www.aut.ac.nz/enquire

studenthub@aut.ac.nz

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EMPLOYABILITY & CAREERS

For other Future Career Sheets visit:

www.aut.ac.nz/careersheets


For employability and career support, AUT students can book an appointment through

<https://elab.aut.ac.nz/>


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55 Wellesley Street East, Auckland Central

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The information contained in this career sheet is correct at time of printing, August 2019.