

Information for participants (Wave 1)

What is this study about?	NextSteps is a research initiative of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) which seeks to understand the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of soon-to-be graduates of criminology and criminal justice in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The project is a longitudinal study that will survey graduates prior to graduation and then again (if you agree) at 1, 2 and 5 years after graduation.
Who is conducting this study?	This research is being conducted on behalf of ANZSOC by the University of Wollongong and Monash University. The research team includes Professor Jason Payne (UOW, jasonp@uow.edu.au , +6142214837), Professor Tara McGee (Griffith University), Dr Kate Burns (Monash University), Dr Natalia Hanley (UOW) and Kaylee Shepherd (UOW).
Who will participate?	NextSteps is a longitudinal study of students graduating from specialist degree programs in criminology or criminal justice, or those who are graduating with a Major or Specialisation in criminology or criminal justice. Students will be participating from a range of universities across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.
What are participants asked to do?	Participation involves the completion of a simple and easy to use online survey, accessed using the QR code that was published with the project flyer. The first NextSteps survey takes about 30 minutes to complete. In addition, participants will be asked for their consent to be recontacted for a longitudinal follow-up survey after 12 months, and then again after 2 and 5 years. To facilitate this, you will be asked to supply an email address and mobile phone number so that we can contact you with an invitation. All future survey waves will also take approximately 30 minutes to complete.
What types of questions will I be asked?	In Wave 1, participants will be asked a series of questions about their attitudes and perceptions of the criminal justice system, their experiences of studying criminology and criminal justice, as well as their expectations of post-graduate employment and or future study. Similar questions will be asked in future Waves to see what things have stayed the same and what has changed. Example questions include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Now that I you are close to completing your studies, do you consider yourself competent to apply yourself to work? 2) How much do you agree that people commit crimes because they have a problem with drugs or alcohol? 3) Do you think that criminological research participants should be allowed to change their mind and withdraw from research? 4) I feel confident that I will be able to apply my learnt knowledge to the workplace. <p>You will also be asked whether you are happy to participate in the longitudinal component of this research. To facilitate this, you will be asked to provide a contact name, phone number and email address. You can choose to remain anonymous if you do not want to be recontacted for future waves of the NextSteps study.</p>
Is my participation anonymous?	NextSteps is designed as a longitudinal study where the objective is to understand how things change for you (and your peers) after you graduate. To make this possible, we will need your phone number and email address to be able to recontact you and this means that your participation is not anonymous. If you wish to participate anonymously in the Wave 1 survey, you can. It just means that we will not be able to recontact you for the prize draw, nor for any future waves of the NextSteps study.
Will my teachers know if I participated?	No. This project has been designed so that your current teachers will not know whether you participate (or not). There is no academic benefit of participating, nor any consequence for not participating.
Will my university know that I participated?	No. We have designed NextSteps so that your personal information (email and phone number) is collected separately and stored securely in a separate file and location. At no time will any personal information be made available to anyone outside the Research Team and not for any reason other than to contact you about NextSteps . Your University might be interested in knowing more about how its students responded to the survey. If they do, they will only be able to access a subset of the fully deidentified data, and only if there were more than 50 participants from that University. There will be no way that your University can identify you and your responses.

<p>Will my data be linked in future waves?</p>	<p>Yes, with your permission.</p> <p>To understand how your experiences and perceptions change over time, we will need to link your responses from the Wave 1 survey to the responses you provide in any future Waves that you participate in. We will do this by first allocating you a unique identification number and we will then use that number to match your responses over time. This number is just a randomly generated number and cannot be used to identify you personally.</p> <p>Importantly, we will not link your responses to any other information or external data system (such as student records) without your consent.</p>
<p>Are there any risks?</p>	<p>This study has been specifically designed to minimise risks. However, depending on your own personal circumstances there is a small chance that some questions might be upsetting to you. If this happens, we encourage you to exit the survey immediately and, if you feel necessary, reach out to Lifeline on 13 11 14. We will remind you of this as the survey progresses, and we will provide you with follow-up information at the end, just in case you need it.</p>
<p>Are there any benefits?</p>	<p>Your contribution to this study is important. It will help us to better understand the diverse experiences of criminology students in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, especially as they move into the workforce.</p> <p>To thank you for your participation in Wave 1, we are offering every participant the chance of winning one of 10 electronic gift vouchers, each valued at \$50. The prizes will be drawn at the end of the data collection in November 2022 and winners will be contacted directly by email or SMS.</p>
<p>What happens with the results?</p>	<p>The data collected in NextSteps will be analysed by the research team and used in a range of publications and presentations. Publications and outputs will be disseminated through social media platforms, including the ANZSOC Twitter and Facebook pages.</p>
<p>Do I have to participate?</p>	<p>No. Participation in NextSteps is voluntary and you can choose to withdraw from the study at any time without anything happening to you. If you decide to withdraw before submitting your survey responses, you can do so at any time before pressing the 'submit' button. Un-submitted responses are deleted. Once you have submitted your responses, they cannot be deleted or withdrawn.</p> <p>If provide your consent to be recontacted for a follow-up survey, you are free to change your mind and withdraw consent at any time. To do this, you can contact the lead Investigator (jasonp@uow.edu.au) and request that your details be removed from the re-contact database. You can also simply decline the invitation to participate in future waves and we will remove you from the recontact database automatically.</p>
<p>How is my data used and how is my privacy protected?</p>	<p>Your responses in the NextSteps study are treated as strictly confidential. This means that we will never give information to anyone that could be used to identify you.</p> <p>Specifically, the data for this study will be securely and permanently stored at UOW for the duration of the project. A copy of the deidentified survey responses will be made available to the research team, and a subset of those survey responses may be made available to a participating university upon request.</p> <p>A fully confidentialised version of the data will later be archived with the Australian Data Archive, once the project has ended in 2027. Other researchers, including potential PhD students, may apply to access the de-identified data for reasons that are consistent with the aims and scope of the project, but their access will be subject to additional Human Research Ethics Approval.</p> <p>Your personal information (email address and phone number) will be securely stored for the duration of the project in a separate file and location. It will be password protected and accessible only to the UOW members of the research team (CI Payne, CI Hanley and CI Sheppard). At the conclusion of the project in 2027, your personal details will be permanently destroyed, unless we have your expressed permission otherwise.</p>