

Programme Specification for

MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology



1. Programme title	MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	MA/ PG Cert/ PG Dip
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time/ Part-time/ Thick Sandwich Programme

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

A good first degree (2:2 or better) in a relevant subject and/or three years or more of relevant work experience, plus where applicable an English Language qualification to the appropriate level, i.e. IELTS 6.5 or equivalent. We also consider candidates with other relevant qualifications and individuals with a minimum of three years' work experience. Those without formal qualifications need to demonstrate relevant work experience and the ability to study at postgraduate level.

10. Aims of the programme

The MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology aims to engage students in a range of contemporary issues and debates about the challenges facing and the workings of the criminal justice system. It is geared towards both experienced practitioners seeking to apply academic knowledge to and critically analyse and assess

the context in which they work, and recent graduates aiming to pursue a career related to crime and its prevention and control.

Amongst the key areas considered are: recent trends in crime and anti-social behaviour; contemporary criminological perspectives and how these are and can be applied to problems of crime, disorder and social harm; the social and political context of work with offenders with a particular concern around anti-discriminatory practice; the development and significance of the 'what works' movement, evidence based practice and risk assessment; the legal and organisational context of crime prevention and control; the emergence of new forms of practice including mediation and reparation schemes; victims and victimology; interpersonal violence and hate crime; the concept of community safety and its policy and practice implications; mental health issues; the problems of youth and youth as a problem; drug misuse and drug-related crime.

The programme has a strong applied focus and seeks to equip students to draw upon criminological theory and research in order to reflect upon and consider contemporary criminal justice policy and practice. It includes the opportunity to undertake either a work-based learning project (for those already in suitable employment) or an Placement with a criminal justice agency such as a Youth Offending Team (for those wishing to gain such experience in the field).

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. Current theoretical and methodological approaches within the discipline of Criminology and their relevance to and application within contemporary criminal justice in England and Wales.
2. The historical context in which contemporary criminal justice institutions, policies and practices in England and Wales have emerged.
3. Conceptual, policy and practice issues and debates relating to work with young and adult offenders, community safety and interpersonal

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- lectures, student-led seminars, workshops and individual tutorials as well as personal study;
- learning is supported by the provision of handbooks, reading lists and web-based materials.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

- written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.

<p>violence and hate crime.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Related contemporary concerns and problems associated with crime and anti-social behaviour in England and Wales including gangs, substance misuse, sexual exploitation and mental health and existing strategies for dealing with these issues. 5. The quantity and quality of the research evidence relating to these issues, problems and debates and the extent to which this informs current policy and practice. 	
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically analyse complex issues both systematically and creatively. 2. Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory, policy and practice. 3. Develop their own strategies for undertaking criminological research in a policy and/or practice environment. 4. Flexibly and creatively apply criminological concepts and theories to a range of issues and problems. 5. Compare, contrast and critically evaluate alternative strategies for dealing with complex problems. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation for and participation in seminars and through the presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats; • formative feedback will be provided on their skills through group-work and in individual tutorials as well as in written feedback on assignments. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage their own time and resources 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation for and participation in seminars and through the

<p>and demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Synthesise and evaluate information and evidence from a range of sources. 3. Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project. 4. Formulate and justify structured arguments with reference to relevant evidence. 5. Communicate the findings from such investigations in a variety of written and verbal formats. 	<p>presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formative feedback will be provided on their skills through group-work and in individual tutorials; • practical skills such as interviewing and data analysis are an integral part of the core module on applying research in policy and practice and in the dissertation. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by</p>

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Students must complete 180 credits to gain the Masters:

The MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology is studied full-time for a period of one year or part-time over two years. All the work is at level 7, postgraduate level.

The programme is divided into study units called modules. All students have to take the following taught core modules:

- **CRM4206** Applying Criminological Research In Policy and Practice (20 credits)

- **CRM4209** Interpersonal Violence and Hate Crime (20 credits)
- **CRM4205** Community Safety and Public Protection (20 credits)
- **CRM4229** Youth Offending, Disorder and Gangs (20 credits)

In addition, it is compulsory for students to complete at least 60 credits of self-directed learning. This can be in the form of a 60 credit dissertation or a 40 credit dissertation and a minimum of 20 credits work based learning.

In addition to the 140 credits of core/compulsory modules, students complete the remaining 40 required credits by either taking one or two further taught options from the list below or through work based learning (WBL) (20, 40 and 60 credit versions of which are available).

This structure is quite flexible and allows for one of six routes to be pursued once the 80 credits of core taught modules have been completed, as follow:

- **Route A – CRM4795** Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (60 credits) plus 2 x 20 credit taught options
- **Route B – CRM4795** Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (60 credits) plus 20 credit WBL module plus 1 x 20 credit taught option
- **Route C – CRM4795** Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (60 credits) plus 40 credits WBL module
- **Route D – CRM4796** Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (40 credits) plus 20 credit WBL module plus 2 x 20 credit taught options
- **Route E – CRM4796** Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (40 credits) plus 40 credit WBL module plus 1 x 20 credit taught options
- **Route F – CRM4796** Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (40 credits) plus 60 credits WBL module

The taught options and the various WBL modules available are as follows:

Taught Options

- **CRM4204** Critical Issues in Criminal Justice (20 credits)
- **CRM4223** Cybercrime and Society (20 credits)
- **CRM4607** Drugs and Crime (20 credits)
- **CRM4570** Environmental Crime and Green Criminology (20 credits)
- **CRM4251** Global Criminology and Policing (20 credits)
- **CRM4221** Human Rights and Justice (20 credits)
- **CRM4252** Political Violence and Terrorism (20 credits)
- **CRM4203** Psychological Interventions and Responses to Offending (20 credits)
- **SSC4100** Research Design and Ethics (20 credits)

WBL Modules

- **CRM4231** Placement (*20 credits*)
- **CRM4232** Placement (*40 credits*)
- **CRM4233** Placement (*60 credits*)
- **CRM4242** Work Based Experience (*20 credits*)
- **CRM4242** Work Based Experience (*40 credits*)
- **CRM4243** Work Based Experience (*60 credits*)

N.B The Work Based Experience module is for students conducting a project informed by their academic learning within their own existing workplace; the Placement module is for those placed in organisations for a period of time during their studies.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION
REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>CRM4206 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4209 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4205 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4229 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Either</p> <p>CRM4795 <i>60 credits</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>CRM4796 <i>40 credits</i></p> <p>If 40 credits dissertation taken (routes D, E, F) then one from the following must be taken:</p> <p>CRM4241 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4242 <i>40 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4243 <i>60 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4231 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4232 <i>40 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4233 <i>60 credits</i></p>	<p>As necessary, students may also choose from the following to achieve 180 credits:</p> <p>CRM4204 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4223 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4607 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4570 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4251 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4221 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4252 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4203 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>SSC4100 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>For students on routes A-C, the following WBL modules are available as an option:</p> <p>CRM4241 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4242 <i>40 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4231 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4232 <i>40 credits</i></p>	
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12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
All Level 7	All core modules (as above)

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Regulations follow those set out in the Middlesex University Guide and Regulations.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

The Employability Service and Department of Criminology and Sociology have built up a wide range of placement opportunities for criminology students in, for example, Youth Offending Teams, prisons, Community Rehabilitation Companies, voluntary organisations and research institutions. Placements/Placements cannot be guaranteed but every effort is made to support students in finding these.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

The programme is designed for those who want to expand their knowledge and understanding of crime and criminal justice practice at national and international levels. We have an excellent employment record, with many graduates working in youth offending, probationary, community safety policing, and mental health and substance misuse services, in practitioner, research and managerial occupations.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

Our students are encouraged to take full advantage of University-level and student union learning support schemes and facilities.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding) L372

system)

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

QAA Criminology Benchmark Statement (2014)

20. Reference points

The following references points were used in designing programme:

- Middlesex University Regulations 2014-15
- QAA framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland August 2008
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education 2010
- QAA Benchmark Statement for Psychology (2007)
- QAA Sociology Benchmark Statement (2007)
- QAA Criminology Benchmark Statement (2014)
- University and School of Law Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy QAA Descriptors

21. Other information

N/A

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Current theoretical and methodological approaches within the discipline of Criminology and their relevance to and application within contemporary criminal justice in England and Wales.	C1	Manage their own time and resources and demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.
A2	The historical context in which contemporary criminal justice institutions, policies and practices in England and Wales have emerged.	C2	Synthesise and evaluate information and evidence from a range of sources.
A3	Conceptual, policy and practice issues and debates relating to work with young and adult offenders, community safety and interpersonal violence and hate crime.	C3	Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project.
A4	Related contemporary concerns and problems associated with crime and anti-social behaviour in England and Wales including gangs, substance misuse, sexual exploitation and mental health and existing strategies for dealing with these issues.	C4	Formulate and justify structured arguments with reference to relevant evidence.
A5	The quantity and quality of the research evidence relating to these issues, problems and debates and the extent to which this informs current policy and practice.	C5	Communicate the findings from such investigations in a variety of written and verbal formats.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Critically analyse complex issues both systematically and creatively.	D1	
B2	Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory, policy and practice.	D2	

