

MA Comparative Drug and Alcohol Studies



Programme title	MA Comparative Drug and Alcohol Studies
Awarding institution	Middlesex University
Teaching institution	Middlesex University
Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	N/A
Final qualification	MA
Year of validation	
Year of amendment	
Academic Year	
Language of study	English
Mode of study	Part-time only – Distance Learning

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

We welcome applications from graduates with a good first degree (2:2 or better), or equivalent qualification, in a relevant subject, 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 post-graduate level.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

1. provide a high quality programme relevant to the needs of policy makers and practitioners, and of students and researchers working in, associated with, or preparing to enter, the field of alcohol and drug use/ problem use/ addiction.
2. provide an emphasis on Europe and to educate researchers and practitioners to work on a cross national basis in the above stated field.
3. demonstrate that a multi-disciplinary approach is necessary to enable

students to engage critically with a wide range of theories and approaches to understanding substance use, problem use and addiction.

4. foster a critical appreciation of research, policy and intervention and to engage students in critical, on-going debate regarding their understanding of substance use and responses to use and problem use globally.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. Key themes and concepts relating to drugs and alcohol
2. Policy and practice issues related to drugs and alcohol across Europe
3. Theories and explanations for drug use and addiction
4. Alternative approaches to researching and analysing drug and alcohol policy and practice issues
5. The importance of a research evidence base for policy and practice
6. Ethical underpinnings of research, policy and practice
7. The techniques and issues associated with comparative analysis of policy and practice in relation to drugs and alcohol

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through distance learning materials, blended learning styles incorporating online discussion boards and meetings, podcasts and intensive block teaching and learning sessions

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by various summative assessment methods including coursework essays, online exams, research proposals, policy analyses, case study analyses, portfolios and reflective diaries.

Formative assessment methods are embedded within all modules covering core knowledge and understanding to aid students' developmental progress.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Critically assess and apply theoretical perspectives to specific areas of policy and practice
2. Critically assess recent research and scholarship from a range of disciplines in relation to drug and alcohol use/addiction
3. Evaluate the factors that influence drug and alcohol research, policy and practice
4. Develop their own strategies for undertaking policy and practice research in the European arena
5. Compare and contrast approaches to drug and alcohol strategies and initiatives at international level

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through active participation in formal and informal learning environments that make use of self-directed study supported by staff expertise via lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorial support via email, telephone, Skype and online meetings (many students will not be in close travelling distance to the university).

Assessment methods

Students' cognitive skills are assessed summatively by coursework and formatively by the submission of exercises and work in progress.

C. Practical skills

On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Formulate and present structured arguments and justify conclusions drawn based on evidence.
2. Manage their own time and resources in undertaking a distance education programme.
3. Synthesise and evaluate a wide range of information resources and evidence
4. Communicate effectively to a range of target groups in various contexts
5. Design and conduct original research

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through active participation in assigned tasks specific to drug and alcohol policy and practice. Critical skill development is integral to the teaching approach.

Assessment methods

Students' practical skills are assessed summatively by written coursework, portfolios, reflective diaries and opportunities to engage in practical employment settings. These skills are assessed formatively by the submission of exercises and work-in-progress as well as by contributions to online discussions and meetings.

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

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Students must complete 180 credits (90 ECTS) to gain the Masters.

The programme is studied over two years part-time. All work is at level 7, post-graduate level. The study period falls within the Middlesex University academic year. The programme is divided into study units called modules.

All students have to take the following modules:

CRM4xxx Introduction to drug and alcohol studies (Induction: non-credit bearing)
CRM4xxx Substance use and addiction theories (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)
CRM4xxx Responses to drug and alcohol use (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)
CRM4xxx Drug and alcohol policies in Europe (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)
CRM4xxx Dissertation in drug and alcohol studies (core) (60 credits) (30 ECTS)

EITHER

CRM4xxx Research methods for drug and alcohol studies (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)

OR

CRM 4xxx Evidence-based practice applied to prevention and treatment (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)

Students choose **two** of the following option modules:

CRM 4xxx Drugs and crime (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)
CRM 4xxx User perspectives (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)
CRM 4xxx Cultural and social aspects of drug and alcohol use (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)
SSC 4031 Integrated Work and Learning (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS).

Autumn Term Year 1 (40 credits)	Spring Term Year 1 (40 credits)	Autumn Term Year 2 (40 credits)	Spring/Summer Year 2 (60 credits)
CRM 4xxx Introduction to drug and alcohol studies (Induction: non- credit bearing)	CRM 4xxx Drug and alcohol policies in Europe (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	Students choose two of the following option modules:	CRM 4xxx Dissertation in drug and alcohol studies (core) (60 credits) (30 ECTS)
CRM 4xxx Substance use and addiction theories (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	EITHER CRM4xxx Research methods for drug and alcohol studies (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	CRM 4xxx Drugs and crime (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	
CRM 4xxx Responses to drug and alcohol use (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	OR CRM 4xxx Evidence-based practice applied to prevention and treatment (core) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	CRM 4xxx User perspectives (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	
		CRM 4xxx Cultural and social aspects of drug and alcohol use (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	
		SSC 4031 Integrated Work and Learning (option) (20 credits) (10 ECTS)	

- There is an opportunity for students to undertake a work experience or work-based learning (for students in relevant employment) as part of this programme. Students undertaking this option may choose SSC

4031 Integrated Work and Learning. This equates to 15 days in the agency (respectively).

- The precise options for each student programme will be agreed with the programme leader. All students will undertake at least two option modules in addition to the core modules and the dissertation.
- Modules are rated at 20 credits as similar programmes to this will be running in other universities in Europe and this ensures compatibility. It is envisaged that some EU/international students will want to study at Middlesex University.
- Each 20 credit module represents 200 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment including formal teaching.

12.2 Levels and modules

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Introduction to drug and alcohol studies (Induction: non-credit bearing)</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Substance use and addiction theories (core)</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Responses to drug and alcohol use (core)</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Drug and alcohol policies in Europe (core)</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Dissertation in drug and alcohol studies (core)</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least two from the following:</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Drugs and crime (option)</p> <p>CRM 4xxx User perspectives (option)</p> <p>CRM 4xxx Cultural and social aspects of drug and alcohol use (option)</p> <p>SSC 4031 Integrated Work and Learning (option)</p>	<p>Students must complete 120 credits before they can progress to the Masters dissertation.</p>

<p>EITHER CRM 4xxx Research methods for drug and alcohol studies (core)</p> <p>OR CRM 4xxx Evidence-based practice applied to prevention and treatment (core)</p>		
---	--	--

Compulsory modules are those that must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be made unless these modules have been successfully completed. Each of these modules makes a unique contribution to the learning objectives of the programme.

Optional modules are those from which a specified minimum number must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be given unless this specified minimum number of optional modules has been successfully completed. Each of the possible combinations of optional modules will make a similarly unique contribution to the achievement of the learning objectives of the programme.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

<p>Level 7 <i>compensatable.</i></p>	<p>Core modules - <i>No core module is</i></p>
--	--

13. Curriculum map

See Curriculum Map 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)

Students may elect/apply to undertake Integrated Work and Learning (20 credits SSC 4031) in an area that is relevant to their career pathway or aspirations. University staff on the Programme Team and Associate Members of the Drug Alcohol Research Centre (DARC) have links with professionals and practitioners working in drugs/alcohol agencies and organisations, as well as in related areas such as criminal justice, which would be willing to offer placement opportunities. The EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) in Lisbon has agreed to support placements.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Students will be able to develop careers in research and practice within the drugs and alcohol field and related areas, both nationally and within the wider European context. The opportunity to continue studies at PhD level is also an option.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

For those studying at a distance, the library provides materials, support and advice to registered students who are unable to visit a Middlesex University Campus on a regular basis or not at all. This service includes: postal delivery of books from within the Middlesex University Collection, electronic delivery of photocopies of journal articles and chapters of books as allowed within British copyright law, and general help with the search for materials and use of library systems.

Material that is not in stock but required for individual research/dissertations can be obtained via the British library on completion of a request form.

The University English Language Centre offers English language courses (pre-entry) to enable applicants to achieve the required entry score.

Students whose first language is not English or who otherwise wish to have support with academic writing can access the specialist Learner Enhancement Team (LET).

My Learning (the electronic learning platform) provides additional information and resources to support students. Course materials, links to resources and interactive exercises are provided.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	005L406-PGL406
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Criminology Benchmark Statement 2007

20. Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the 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 Sociology Benchmark Statement (2007)
- QAA Criminology Benchmark Statement (2007)
- University and School of Law Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy QAA Descriptors

21. Other information

Students will have the opportunity to study abroad and study with students from partner institutions:

Aarhus University, Denmark

Universitas Miguel Hernandez de Elche-Alicante, Spain

University del Piemonte Orientale "A Avogardo", Italy

EMCDDA – European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Lisbon

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.

Curriculum map for *MA Comparative Drug and Alcohol Studies*

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	Key themes and concepts relating to drugs and alcohol	C1	Formulate and present structured arguments and justify conclusions drawn based on evidence.
A2	Policy and practice issues related to drugs and alcohol across Europe	C2	Manage their own time and resources in undertaking a distance education programme
A3	Theories and explanations for drug use and addiction	C3	Synthesise and evaluate a wide range of information resources and evidence
A4	Alternative approaches to researching and analysing drug and alcohol policy and practice issues	C4	Communicate effectively to a range of target groups in various contexts
A5	The importance of a research evidence base for policy and practice	C5	Design and conduct original research
A6	Ethical underpinnings of research, policy and practice		
A7	The techniques and issues associated with comparative analysis of policy and practice in relation to drugs and alcohol		
Cognitive skills			
B1	Critically assess and apply theoretical perspectives to specific areas of policy and practice		
B2	Critically assess recent research and scholarship from a range of disciplines in relation to drug and alcohol use/addiction		
B3	Evaluate the factors that influence drug and alcohol research, policy and practice		
B4	Develop their own strategies for undertaking policy and practice research in the European arena		
B5	Compare and contrast approaches to drug and alcohol strategies and initiatives at international level		

Programme Outcome																		
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5			C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Highest level achieved by all graduates																		

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes																
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Substance use & addiction theories	CRMxxxx	x		x	x			x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Responses to drug & alcohol use	CRMxxxx	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
Drug & alcohol policies in Europe	CRMxxxx		x		x	x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	
Dissertation in drug & alcohol studies	CRMxxxx	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Research Methods for drug & alcohol studies	CRMxxxx			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Evidence-based practice applied to prevention & treatment	CRMxxxx			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Drugs and crime	CRMxxxx	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
User perspectives	CRMxxxx	x	x		x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	
Cultural & social aspects of drug & alcohol use	CRMxxxx	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
Integrated work and learning	SSC4031		x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

