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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Knowledge and understanding</th>
<th>Teaching/learning methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:</td>
<td>Students gain knowledge and understanding through:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>• lectures, student-led seminars, workshops and individual tutorials as well as personal study;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The historical context in which contemporary criminal justice institutions, policies and practices in England and Wales have emerged.</td>
<td>• learning is supported by the provision of handbooks, reading lists and web-based materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Conceptual, policy and practice issues and debates relating to work with young and adult offenders, community safety and interpersonal</td>
<td><strong>Assessment methods</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
violence and hate crime.

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.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

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

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.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through:

- 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.

Assessment methods

Students’ cognitive skills are assessed by:

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

C. Practical skills

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

1. Manage their own time and resources

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through:

- preparation for and participation in seminars and through the
and demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.

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.

presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats;
• 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.

**Assessment methods**

Students’ practical skills are assessed by:
• written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.

**D. Graduate skills**

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

**Teaching/learning methods**

Students acquire graduate skills through

**Assessment methods**

Students’ graduate skills are assessed by

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 7</th>
<th>COMPULSORY</th>
<th>OPTIONAL</th>
<th>PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Students must take all of the following:

- **CRM4206**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4209**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4205**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4229**
  - 20 credits

Either

- **CRM4795**
  - 60 credits

Or

- **CRM4796**
  - 40 credits

If 40 credits dissertation taken (routes D, E, F) then **one** from the following must be taken:

- **CRM4241**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4242**
  - 40 credits

- **CRM4231**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4232**
  - 40 credits

- **CRM4233**
  - 60 credits

As necessary, students may also choose from the following to achieve **180 credits**:

- **CRM4204**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4223**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4607**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4570**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4251**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4221**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4252**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4203**
  - 20 credits

- **SSC4100**
  - 20 credits

For students on routes **A-C**, the following **WBL modules** are available as an option:

- **CRM4241**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4242**
  - 40 credits

- **CRM4231**
  - 20 credits

- **CRM4232**
  - 40 credits
### 12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module level</th>
<th>Module code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Level 7</td>
<td>All core modules (as above)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 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 |
|                |      |
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and understanding</th>
<th>Practical skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A1</strong> Current theoretical and methodological approaches within the discipline of Criminology and their relevance to and application within contemporary criminal justice in England and Wales.</td>
<td><strong>C1</strong> Manage their own time and resources and demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A2</strong> The historical context in which contemporary criminal justice institutions, policies and practices in England and Wales have emerged.</td>
<td><strong>C2</strong> Synthesise and evaluate information and evidence from a range of sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A3</strong> Conceptual, policy and practice issues and debates relating to work with young and adult offenders, community safety and interpersonal violence and hate crime.</td>
<td><strong>C3</strong> Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A4</strong> 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.</td>
<td><strong>C4</strong> Formulate and justify structured arguments with reference to relevant evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A5</strong> 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.</td>
<td><strong>C5</strong> Communicate the findings from such investigations in a variety of written and verbal formats.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive skills</th>
<th>Graduate Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B1</strong> Critically analyse complex issues both systematically and creatively.</td>
<td><strong>D1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B2</strong> Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory, policy and practice.</td>
<td><strong>D2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme outcomes</td>
<td>Module Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applying Criminological Research in Policy and Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interpersonal Violence and Hate Crime</td>
</tr>
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<td>Youth Offending, Disorder and Gangs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Community Safety and Public Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (60 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dissertation in Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (40 credits) and (at least 20 credits) WBL</td>
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