

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MA Criminology



1. Programme title	MA Criminology
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	N /A
5. Final qualification	MA/PG Cert/PG Dip
6. Academic year	2014/15
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	F/t, P/T, TKS

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 Criminology aims to provide students with an advanced understanding of the nature of crime and its control. There is an emphasis on research-led teaching. By the end of the programme, the successful student will have gained an advanced understanding of:

- The major theoretical paradigms of contemporary criminology
- alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime, conflict and control
- Key issues and debates in relation to crime, conflict and control
- The major institutions and processes involved in the criminal justice system
- The techniques and issues involved in comparative analysis of crime and criminal justice.

In addition, students will have undertaken and written an in depth study of a selected area of crime and criminal justice.

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 debates within the discipline of Criminology and their implications for the way the knowledge base is interpreted
2. Advanced research methods for evaluating crime, conflict and control, including new directions in data analysis
3. Techniques applicable to their own research as well as to advanced scholarship in Criminology
4. Competing analyses of the major transformations of the institutions and processes of the criminal justice system, and their implications for policy choices and direction
5. Techniques and issues associated with comparative analyses of crime, conflict and control

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

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.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

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

1. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively
2. Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and or/practice
3. Communicate conclusions clearly to specialist as well as non-specialist audiences
4. Develop their own strategies for undertaking criminological research
5. Flexibly and creatively apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts

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. They receive formative feedback on their skills through group-work and in individual tutorials as well as in written feedback on assignments.

Assessment

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. Undertake the independent learning required for continuing professional development.
2. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems
3. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level
4. Incorporate a critical ethical dimension into practice
5. Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review of case study, informed by current understandings of the discipline

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through preparation for and participation in seminars and through the presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats. They receive formative feedback 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 criminological theory and research and the dissertation.

Assessment

Student's 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.

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

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The MA Criminology is studied either over two years part-time or full-time for a period of one year. All the work is at level 7, postgraduate 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 modules:

CRM4700 Theory and Research in Criminology
 CRM4750 Crime, Conflict and Control
 CRM4780 Dissertation in Criminology (60 credits)

Aside from the dissertation, each of these modules has a credit rating of 30 points at Level 7. Both full-time and part-time students must take these modules.

12.2 Levels and modules

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: CRM4700 Theory and Research in Criminology CRM4750 Crime, Conflict and Control CRM4780 Dissertation in Criminology	CRM4722 Criminal Justice, Courts and Prisons CRM4730 Global Criminology And EITHER but not BOTH from CRM4760 Youth Offending and Disorder CRM4770 Community Safety and Public Protection	

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)

All Level 7	CRM4700, CRM4750, CRM4780
13. Curriculum map	
See Curriculum Map attached	
14. Information about assessment regulations	
The Department of Criminology and Sociology adheres to the Middlesex University Guide and Regulations on all assessment regulations.	
15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)	
N/A	
16. Future careers (if applicable)	
The MA Criminology will enhance career prospects in the general area of crime and criminal justice including policing, community safety, youth and adult offender management, crime analysis, applied and academic criminological research and work with drug-users.	
17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)	
<p>All new students are offered an induction tour of the Library and student support (LSS) and further workshops in, for example, use of the library catalogue, searching databases and various software packages such as MS Word are offered by LSS staff and/or the Learning Development Unit (LDU). These sessions are highlighted to new students in particular, but advice, information and support is available on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The library holds copies of core texts and most of the recommended reading on MA criminology modules. Copies of key texts out of print are kept in the Photocopy Collection and available through the LSS helpdesk. 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. This process normally takes about two weeks. The UK Libraries Plus Scheme also provides access to local participating libraries. Students can apply to join this scheme at the LSS Enquiries desk.</p> <p>Post-graduate students also have access to a Post-graduate reading/computer room within the LSS.</p> <p>In addition, our students are encouraged to take full advantage of University-level and student union learning support schemes and facilities. The Learning Development Unit (LDU) is highly recommended at induction and in the formative weeks of the programme, especially for overseas students and for those entering or returning to HE after a considerable period of time out of education.</p>	
18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	L382
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Criminology Benchmark Statement 2007
20. Reference Points	

The following documents were consulted:
Middlesex University Guide and Regulations
The Learning Framework Programme Design Guide (2006)
University and School of Law Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008)
British Society of Criminology Benchmarks (2007)

21. Other information

Staff and students on the MA Criminology at Middlesex are part of a network of criminologists and sociologists throughout Europe who meet together on a regular basis at European Common Study Programme sessions. These comprise lectures and seminars on a specific theme chosen by the host university. Students who choose to participate in sessions have the opportunity to engage in debate and discussion with colleagues. Students who take the optional module CRM4730 will have the opportunity to present a paper to one of these sessions as part of their assessment