

Programme Specification for
MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology



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| 1. Programme title | MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology |
| 2. Awarding institution | Middlesex University |
| 3. Teaching institution | Middlesex University |
| 4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body | |
| 5. Final qualification | MSc/ PG Cert/ PG Dip |
| 6. Year of validation Year of amendment | |
| 7. Language of study | English |
| 8. Mode of study | Full-time/ Part-time |

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 (ie. 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:

- provide a high quality programme relevant to the needs of students preparing to enter, or already employed within the field of criminology, criminal justice and forensic psychology;
- provide an emphasis on contemporary understandings of theory, research, policy

and practice relevant to criminology, criminal justice, and forensic psychology to educate students to work in a critically and analytically informed context;

- develop student appreciation of international research, policy and practice from the overlapping domain of criminology, criminal justice and forensic psychology and advance student skills in quantitative and textual dataset analysis;
- foster a critical appreciation of alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime and offender behaviour interventions, treatment responses and rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. Contemporary theories, concepts and debates relating to the cross-disciplinary study of criminology, criminal justice and forensic psychology.
2. Alternative approaches to researching and analysing crime, criminal justice and related psychological practice.
3. Policy and professional practice concerning criminal offending and offender rehabilitation and treatment.
4. Core knowledge domains within criminology and psychology including a focus on crime victims, human rights, cognitive psychology and social and developmental psychology.
5. The major criminal justice institutions, process and procedure involved in the prosecution, diversion, and management of young, vulnerable, and 'dangerous' offenders.
6. Ethical underpinnings of research policy and practice.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- lectures, student-led seminars, workshops and individual tutorials;
- specialist guest lectures;
- field visits relevant to criminal justice process and offender management;
- 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:

- various summative assignments including coursework essays, legislation critique, policy and case study analysis, observation reports, research proposals, and quantitative and textual dataset analysis;
- formative assessment methods which are embedded within all modules covering core knowledge and understanding to aid students' developmental progress.

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| <p>7. The importance of a research evidence base for policy and professional practice and interventions.</p> | |
| <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 assess and apply theoretical perspectives to specific areas of research, policy and practice. 2. Critically assess recent research and scholarship from a range of disciplines relevant to the overlapping fields of criminology, criminal justice and forensic psychology. 3. Analyse and interpret quantitative and textual data to deduce significant findings and apply to professional practice contexts. 4. Communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. 5. Develop their own strategies for undertaking criminological, criminal justice and psychological research. | <p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active participation in formal class teaching and learning sessions and through the presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats supported by staff expertise and pedagogical practice; • students receive formative feedback on their skills through group feedback methods, in individual tutorials, as well as written feedback on assignments. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summatively by coursework; • formatively by the submission of exercises and work in progress. |
| <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. Formulate and present structured arguments and justify conclusions based on evidence. 2. Manage their own time and resources in undertaking a MSc. level programme. | <p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active participation in assigned tasks specific to the field of criminology and forensic psychology; • practical skills such as interviewing and data analysis are an integral part of the core research methods module and the dissertation. |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Carry out data analysis using computer aided tools. 6. Design and conduct original research. | <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summatively by written coursework including essays, the critique of legislation, policy and practice case study analysis, observation reports, research proposals, quantitative and textual dataset analysis, the research dissertation, and through oral presentation of their ideas and arguments in seminar paper presentations. |
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The MSc. Criminology with Forensic Psychology is studied over one year full-time or two years part-time. 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. Aside from the dissertation, all modules have a credit rating of 20 credits at Level 7. Students who successfully complete 120 taught credits but who do not undertake a dissertation or placement project will be awarded a PG Diploma. Students who successfully complete 60 taught credits will be awarded a PG Certificate in Criminology with Forensic Psychology.

All students have to take the following modules:

- **CRM4201** Contemporary Criminological Theory and Research (core) (20 credits)
- **CRM4202** Forensic and Investigative Psychology (core) (20 credits)
- **CRM4203** Psychological Interventions and Responses to Offending (core) (20 credits)
- **CRM4207** Research Strategies in Criminology and Psychology (core) (20 credits)
- **CRM4204** Critical Issues in Criminal Justice (core) (20 credits) or
- **CRMXXXX** Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (core) (20 credits) delivered in HMP Wandsworth
- **CRM4970** Dissertation in Criminology with Forensic Psychology (60 credits) or
- **LAW4641** Practicum in International Organisations (60 credits)

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

- **CRM4607** Drugs and Crime (Distance Learning) (terms 1 &2)

- **CRM4221** Human Rights and Contemporary Justice (term 1)
- **CRM4223** Cybercrime and Society (term 1)
- **CRM4251** Global Criminology and Policing (term 1)
- **CRM4209** Interpersonal Violence and Hate Crime (term 1)
- **SOC4617** Qualitative Research Methods (term 1)
- **SOC4618** Quantitative Research Methods (term 1)

Term 2

- **CRM4205** Community Safety and Public Protection
- **CRM4570** Environmental Crime and Green Criminology
- **CRM4252** Political Violence and Terrorism
- **CRM4229** Youth Offending, Disorder and Gangs
- **SOC4954** Social Science Statistics with SPSS
- **SOC4953** Qualitative Analysis with Nvivo

Term 3

- **CRM4231** Placement
- **CRM4241** Work Based Experience

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION
REQUIREMENTS

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| <p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>CRM4201 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4202 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4203 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4207 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4204 <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>or</p> <p>CRMXXXX <i>20 credits</i></p> <p>CRM4970 <i>60 credits</i></p> <p>or</p> <p>LAW4641 <i>60 credits</i></p> | <p>Students must take one 20 credits option module:</p> <p>CRM4209</p> <p>CRM4221</p> <p>CRM4223</p> <p>CRM4229</p> <p>CRM4251</p> <p>SOC4617</p> <p>SOC4618</p> <p>CRM4205</p> <p>CRM4231</p> <p>CRM4241</p> <p>CRM4252</p> <p>CRM4570</p> <p>CRM4607</p> <p>SOC4953</p> <p>SOC4954</p> | <p>Students must complete 120 credits before they can progress to the Masters dissertation.</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 | No core module is compensatable |

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)

Students may elect/apply to undertake Work Based Experience (20 credits **CRM4241**) in an area that is relevant to their career pathway or aspirations. University staff on the Programme Team have links with professionals and practitioners working in the police service, youth justice organisations, prison and community-based rehabilitation teams, drugs/alcohol agencies, forensic mental health and offender management, among others, which would be willing to offer placement opportunities.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

There are a wide range of career options available to graduates of this course. The course equips students for employment in posts working directly with offenders in prison and in community-based settings.

There are in prison administrative posts working on prisoner rehabilitation plans and prisoner health and well-being, roles within various charitable organisations, and offender rehabilitation and therapeutic projects applying cognitive-thinking techniques.

Students are also equipped for office-based positions engaging in research, data analysis, and programme evaluation offered by research organisations, the charitable and voluntary sector, in Ministry of Justice Departments such as the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), policing organisations, and the government's high-level crime fighting agency the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The opportunity to continue studies at PhD level is also an option.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

A wide range of academic and learning support services are available to students on the MSc. Criminology with Forensic Psychology.

An introduction to the library, on-line resource collections and the on-line learning blackboard are provided at induction.

An academic skills and writing workshop is held at week 4 of your programme, covering use of the library catalogues, searching databases and developing good practice in academic writing. Ongoing advice, information and support are available from the Learner Enhancement Team (LET) and students are encouraged to take full advantage of these university-level support schemes and facilities during their studies.

The library holds copies of core texts and most of the recommended reading on MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology. Material not in stock but required for individual research/dissertations can be obtained via the British Library on completion of a request form. The UK Libraries Plus Scheme also provides access to local participating libraries. Students can apply to join this scheme at the library enquiries desk. Additional workshops can be organised within the Criminology and Sociology Department for students working on computer aided data analysis.

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| 18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system) | L371 |
| 19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s) | Criminology Benchmark Statement 2014 QAA Benchmark Statement for Psychology (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 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

The Department of Criminology at Middlesex University is part of the Common Studies Programme in Critical Criminology along with universities across Europe including Athens, Barcelona, Ghent, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Kent and John Jay College in New York. Students are encouraged to attend this student focused academic exchange. Middlesex University has international partnerships with European universities such as the Vrije University in Amsterdam and Erasmus funded student mobility is possible at this partner institution.

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 MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology

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 | Theories, concepts and debates relating to crime, offender behaviour, and psychological practice. | C1 | Formulate and present structured arguments and justify conclusions drawn based on evidence. |
| A2 | Alternative approaches to researching and analysing policy and practice issues. | C2 | Manage their own time and resources in undertaking a distance education programme. |
| A3 | Policy and professional practice issues connected to criminal offending a psychology. | C3 | Synthesise and evaluate a wide range of information resources and evidence. |
| A4 | Core knowledge domains within criminology and psychology. | C4 | Communicate effectively to a range of target groups in various contexts. |
| A5 | Criminal justice institutions, process and procedure. | C5 | Carry out data analysis using computer aided tools. |
| A6 | Ethical underpinnings of research, policy and practice. | C6 | Design and conduct original research. |
| A7 | The importance of a research evidence base for policy and practice. | | |
| Cognitive skills | | Graduate Skills | |
| B1 | Critically assess and apply theoretical perspectives to research, policy and practice. | D1 | |
| B2 | Critically evaluate research and scholarship from different disciplines. | D2 | |
| B3 | Analyse and interpret quantitative and textual data. | D3 | |
| B4 | Communicate conclusions to targeted audiences. | D4 | |
| B5 | Developing own strategies for undertaking cross-disciplinary research. | D5 | |

