

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology



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| 1. Programme title | MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied 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, TKSW |

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; 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 internship 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
2. The implication of these approaches for probation and youth justice
3. The history of criminal justice relating to young offenders and the factors that have shaped transformations in youth justice
4. The history or ideas, the cultural context and the social and political theories that have shaped youth justice
5. Critically assess contemporary issues in criminal justice practice
6. The relationship between Criminology and its cognate disciplines in relation to youth justice
7. Advanced research methods, design and data analysis relating to youth justice

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

3. of theory and or/practice
4. Communicate conclusions clearly to specialist as well as non-specialist audiences
5. Develop their own strategies for
6. undertaking criminological research
7. 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 their 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

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

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

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied 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:

CRM4710 Applied Criminology: Theory and Research

CRM4770 Community Safety and Public Protection

CRM4760 Youth Offending and Disorder

CRM4790 Dissertation (60 Credits) OR CRM4795 Dissertation (30 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. There is an opportunity for students to undertake a work experience internship as part of this programme. Students undertaking this option may choose a 30 or 60 credit module. This equates to 25 or 50 days in the agency (respectively).

For students who are in relevant employment there is an opportunity to undertake work based learning as part of this programme. Students undertaking this option may choose a 30 credits or 60 credit module.

Students completing the MA must undertake a dissertation module as part of the 180 required credits. Students undertaking 60 credits of internship/work based learning take the 30-credit dissertation module. Students undertaking 30 credits of internship/work based learning can take the 30 or 60 credit dissertation and if necessary select 1 further taught module to gain the 180 credits necessary for the MA. Students can take a further taught module in addition to the three core modules plus the 60 credit dissertation module to gain the MA. This module will either be one in criminology or one agreed with the programme leader.

12.2 Levels and modules**Level 4**

| COMPULSORY | OPTIONAL | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>CRM4710 Applied Criminology: Theory and Research</p> <p>CRM4760 Youth Offending and Disorder</p> <p>CRM4770 Community Safety and Public Protection</p> <p>Either CRM4790 Dissertation Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology (60 credits)</p> <p>or</p> <p>CRM4795 Dissertation (30 credits)</p> | <p>Students must also choose sufficient credits from the following to achieve 180 credits:</p> <p>Internships/WBE modules: LAW4640, LAW4642, LAW4644, LAW4646</p> <p>Other level 7criminology modules:</p> <p>CRM4750 Crime, Conflict and Control,</p> <p>CRM4730 Global Criminology,</p> <p>CRM4720 Critical Issues in Criminal Justice</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)

All Level 7

**CRM4710, CRM4760, CRM4770,
CRM4795, CRM4790**

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)

The Employability Service and Department of Criminology and Sociology have built up a wide range of placement opportunities for criminology students in, for example, prisons, the home office, local authorities and research institutions.

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, probation services and research after graduating.

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 system)

L372

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Criminology Benchmark Statement
2007

20. Reference Points

The following references points were used in designing programme:

Middlesex University Mission Statement

The Learning Framework Programme Design Guide (2006)

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008)

University and School of Law Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policies and Strategies.

QAA Qualification 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.