

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for PGCert/ PGDip/MA Public Protection

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	Public Protection
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	N/A
5. Final qualification	MA PG Diploma PG Certificate
6. Academic year	2009/2010
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Blended Learning

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants should be experienced practitioners within a Criminal Justice Agency operating at a level where they are engaging with serious and dangerous offenders. It is not essential that students are currently employed, but they must have engaged with this client group. They will normally hold a first degree of at least 2.2 standard and/or a professional qualification or have substantial relevant experience. Applicants that fulfil this criteria will be interviewed prior to acceptance on to the programme.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

The MA Public Protection aims to provide students with an critical understanding of criminological theories and effective practice in relation to the origins of offending and the management of offenders in the community; it engages with the need to progress beyond silo thinking so that agencies work effectively together to protect the public.

By the end of this programme, the successful student will have gained an critical understanding of ;

- The main theories of crime, effective practice with offenders, and the management of offenders in the community from a sociological and risk management perspective and the methodological insights gained from each theoretical position.
- The central concerns of managerial hierarchies and their impact on decision making
- Alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime and offender behaviour

- Key issues and debates in relation to crime, offender behaviour and the management of offenders in the community
- Key issues and debates in relation to risk evaluation
- The opportunity to write an in-depth study of a selected area which aims to make a contribution to research, as appropriate for Master's level.
- The link between research, theory and practice

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

core areas:

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

1. The major theoretical paradigms of contemporary criminological and management theory.
2. Alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime, offender behaviour and crime management
3. Key issues and debates in relation to crime, offender behaviour and crime management
4. The major institutions and processes involved in the criminal justice system
5. The techniques and issues associated with comparative analysis of crime and offender behaviour

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through lectures that introduce the various topics to the student and guide future study; workshops where students can share their learning experiences and engage in meaningful debate; individual tutorials where students can seek personal advice and guidance; e-learning through discussion and debate; and personal study as directed by the module leader. Learning is supported by the provision of handbooks, reading lists, formative exercises and web-based materials.

Assessment

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

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

1. Apply theoretical perspectives to specific areas of crime, offender management and offender behaviour
2. Critically assess recent research and scholarship relating to crime, offender management and offender behaviour
3. Understand the factors that influence criminological and/or offender management research, policy and practice
4. Develop their own strategies for undertaking criminological and/or offender management research

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills with the presentation of ideas through written formats. They receive formative feedback on their skills through set exercises 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.

C. Practical skills

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

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn academic skills through written formats. They receive formative feedback on their skills through individual tutorials which will lead to the summative

1. Formulate and present structured arguments and justify conclusions drawn
2. Manage their own time and resources
3. Draw on a range of learning resources and materials
4. Engage in debate and discussion
5. Apply research methods to the study of offenders, crime and offender management

exercises. 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

12. Programme structure

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

full-time

Accreditation of in house training and PDP **30 credits**
Or
Internship in an appropriate setting as agreed with the programme leader
HSS4031 **30 credits**
Or
Work Based Learning in an appropriate organisation as agreed with the
programme leader HSS4030 **30 credits**

2 x Core modules @ 15 credits total: 30 credits

- Public Protection and Multi-Agency Practice **15 credits**
 &
- Public Protection **15 credits**
 OR
- Risk Management **15 credits**

PG Cert = 60 credits

1 x Core module @ 15 credits total: 15 credits

- Criminological Theory 15 credits

1 x Option module @ 15 credits total: 15 credits

- Risk Management 15 credits
- Public Protection 15 credits
- Policing 15 credits
- Organisational Management 15 credits
- Working with Young Offenders 15 credits

Research Methods 30 credits

PG Dip = 120 Credits

Dissertation 60 credits

MA = 180 credits

Part-time		
Accreditation of in house training and PDP		30 credits
Or		
Internship in an appropriate setting as agreed with the programme leader		
HSS4031	30 credits	
Or		
Work Based Learning in an appropriate organisation as agreed with the programme leader		
HSS4030	30 credits	
PG Cert = 60 credits		
2 x Core modules @ 15 credits	total:	30 credits
• Risk management		15 credits
Or		
• Public Protection		15 credits
&		
• Public Protection and Multi-Agency Practice		15 credits
PG Cert = 60 credits		
1 x Core module @ 15 credits	total:	15 credits
• Contemporary Criminology Theory		15 credits
1 x Option module @ 15 credits	total:	15 credits
• Public Protection		15 credits
• Risk Management		15 credits
• Policing		15 credits
• Organisational Management		15 credits
• Youth and Adult Justice		15 credits
End of yr 1		
Research Methods		30 credits
PG Dip = 120 credits		
Dissertation		60 credits
End of yr 2		
MA Public Protection = 180 Credits		

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION
REQUIREMENTS

Students must take all of the following:

CRM4380
CRM4375 or PRS4318
CRM4355
WBS4835
CRM4830

Students must also choose at least 1 from the following:

PRS4318
CRM4375
CRM4365
CRM4360
CRM4370

12.3 Non-compensatable modules

Module level

Module code

Level 4

CRM4380, CRM4375 or PRS4318 (if taken as core), CRM4355, WBS4830, CRM4830

13. Curriculum map

See page 25

14. Information about assessment regulations

Details about assessment regulations can be found in the current University Regulations booklet. Details can also be found on the University website.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Not applicable.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Entry onto this programme will be via pre-accreditation of professional learning. Students may also undertake an internship or piece of work based learning in an appropriate setting, with the agreement of the programme leader.

Various agencies within the Criminal Justice System and in particular the Probation and Prison Services are seeking to raise the skills of their staff by 'professionalising' their roles through academic study.

Within criminal justice agencies it is acknowledged that candidates seeking promotion will be required to provide evidence of self development and the award of a post graduate qualification is a preferred choice. Furthermore potential students recognise that a degree obtained at this level provides evidence of managerial expertise that will be beneficial, should they be seeking another career.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

This programme places great emphasis on independently learning through a combination of learning environments. It acknowledges that practitioners are often unable to attend traditional weekly lectures and that pure distance learning does not provide sufficient support for many students. This programme will use a 'blended learning' environment that supports and encourages the student. An initial lecture will

introduce the student to the topic, identifying the key debates and guide them toward relevant literature. This will then be supported by 'e learning' forums where additional articles, conferences and debates will be presented. Students will be placed in a small networking group and will be expected to critically debate an article posted on OASISPlus. They will be encouraged to attend workshops so that they can engage in debate around specific subjects pertinent to this programme and promote networking opportunities with peers. Personal tutorials will be available to students by appointment. Conferencing opportunities and appropriate society meetings (professional and academic) will be advertised through OASISPlus. Student progress will be assessed by formative exercises that test the students understanding of the key issues. Form this knowledge the student will then complete a summative essay that critically examines various aspects of the topic in question.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	L370 (Criminology) – 80% L560 (Probation/After care) – 20%
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Middlesex University quality assurance mechanisms: QAAS Review of Academic Provision May 2002. RAE 2002 - Grade 4. High quality and number of publications, and research project funding achieved/obtained each year. Steady application and enrolment numbers each year, and good student progression and achievement.

20. Reference points Self Assessment Document for Sociology and Allied Disciplines HEFC 1995 Middlesex University Mission Statement Middlesex University Regulations 2008/2009 University and School Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy QAA Qualification Descriptors

21. Other information Students will be allocated a personal academic tutor as a point of first contact for any enquiries on programme matters.
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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.