

# Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MA Criminology with Forensic Psychology



<b>1. Programme title</b>	MSC Criminology with Forensic Psychology
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>4. Programme accredited by</b>	N /A
<b>5. Final qualification</b>	MSC/PG Cert/PG Dip
<b>6. Academic year</b>	2014/15
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	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 MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology aims to provide students with an advanced understanding of psycho-criminological theories regarding the origins of offending. By the end of this programme, the successful student will have gained an advanced understanding of ;

- The main theories of crime and crime control both from a sociological and psychological perspective and the methodological insights gained from each theoretical position.
- The central concerns of forensic psychology to explain crime and offender behaviour
- Alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime and offender behaviour
- Key issues and debates in relation to crime and offender behaviour

- The major institutions and processes involved in the criminal justice system
- 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.

## **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 disciplines of Criminology and Psychology
2. Advanced research methods for evaluating crime, conflict and control, including new directions in data analysis relating to crime and offender behaviour
3. Advanced knowledge approaches to crime and offender behaviour
4. Advanced analyses of policy choices and professional practice models at national and international level

### **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**

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 MSC Criminology with Forensic Psychology 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

PSY4017 Criminology with Forensic Psychological Studies.

CRM4785 Dissertation in Criminology with Forensic Psychology (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
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>CRM4700 Theory and Research in Criminology</p> <p>PSY4017 Criminology with Forensic Psychological Studies</p> <p>CRM4785 Dissertation in Criminology with Forensic Psychology 15000 words (60 Credits)</p>	<p>CRM4722 Criminal Justice, Courts and Prisons</p> <p>CRM4730 Global Criminology</p> <p>And EITHER but not BOTH from</p> <p>CRM4760 Youth Offending and Disorder</p> <p>CRM4770 Community Safety and Public Protection</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

<b>levels)</b>	
<b>All Level 7</b>	<b>CRM4700, PSY4017, CRM4785</b>
<b>13. Curriculum map</b>	
See Curriculum Map attached	
<b>14. Information about assessment regulations</b>	
The Department of Criminology and Sociology adheres to the Middlesex University Guide and Regulations on all assessment regulations.	
<b>15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)</b>	
N/A	
<b>16. Future careers (if applicable)</b>	
<p>The programme is designed for those who want to expand their knowledge and understanding of criminological psychology, offender management and institutions of criminal justice. There are a wide range of career options for graduates of the MSc. Criminology with Forensic Psychology. Previous students have gone on to work in prisons, in the probation service, in hostels accommodating people with mental health problems, in alcohol misuse services, with the UK Border Agency and with specialist drugs agencies, including prison-based drugs services. Some have also chosen to continue their studies to PhD level.</p>	
<b>17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)</b>	
<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 MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology. 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>	

<b>18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)</b>	L371
<b>19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)</b>	Criminology Benchmark Statement 2007
<b>20. Reference Points</b>	
<p>Self-Assessment Document for Sociology and Allied Disciplines HEFC 1995  Middlesex University Mission Statement  The Learning Framework Programme Design Guide  (2006) Middlesex University Guide and Regulations  The Framework for Higher Education Qualification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2008.  University and School of Law Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy QAA Qualification Descriptors</p>	
<b>21. Other information</b>	
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.