

## Programme Specification 2025-26

<b>1.</b>	<b>Programme title</b>	MSc Cybercrime and Digital Investigations
<b>2.</b>	<b>Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3a</b>	<b>Teaching institution</b>	1 Middlesex University London, 2 Middlesex University Dubai
<b>3b</b>	<b>Language of study</b>	English

<b>4a</b>	<b>Valid intake dates and mode of study</b>
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<b>Mode of Study</b>	<b>Cohort</b>	<b>Delivery Location</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Hendon	1 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Hendon	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Hendon	2 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Hendon	2 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Dubai	1 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Dubai	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Dubai	2 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Dubai	2 Years

<b>4c</b>	<b>Delivery method</b>	On Campus/Blended Learning
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<b>5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body (if applicable)</b>
N/A

<b>6.</b>	<b>Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)</b>	N/A
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<b>7. Final qualification(s) available</b>
<b>Target Award Title(s)</b>
MSc Cybercrime and Digital Investigations
<b>Exit Award Title(s)</b>
PGCert Cybercrime and Digital Investigations
PGDip Cybercrime and Digital Investigations

<b>8. Academic year effective from</b>	2025-26
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<b>9. Criteria for admission to the programme</b>
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Applicants must have a minimum of a 2:2 undergraduate honours degree in social sciences or above in an appropriate subject, or an equivalent qualification.

Applicants with other qualifications and/or substantial work experience in the field of criminology will also be considered under the Recognition of Prior Learning scheme. Past learning or experience will be mapped against existing programme modules within the programme and academic credit may be awarded towards the programme of study. Overseas applicants should be competent in English and have achieved as a minimum IELTS. Overall, 6.5 with a minimum 6.0 in each component. We normally require Grade C GCSE or an equivalent qualification. Applicants with a disability can enter the programme. The programme team have experience of adapting teaching provision to accommodate a range of disabilities and learning difficulties and welcome applications.

<b>10. Aims of the programme</b>
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The programme aims to:

Provide students with an understanding of the criminological and research context of cybercrime, contemporary debates surrounding the causes of cybercrime, cybersecurity and cyber safety, digital investigations and the methods and motivations of cyber criminals.

Equip students with a solid foundation in research design, ethical principles, and theoretical approaches by developing essential quantitative and qualitative research skills for conducting research projects.

Equip students with an understanding of computing skills and capabilities that will help to respond to online threats to personal information as well as to organisational environments.

Develop students theoretical and practical experience and knowledge on effectively carrying out digital investigations and risk assessments for emerging technologies in financial products and services.

Prepare students seeking a specialist role in a community or support service environment, such as victim support services, the police force, security governance, private charities and organisations, child protection, offender services, as well as corporate environments where there is a need to prevent and respond to cybercrime and issues related to online safety.

Prepare students to carry out digital investigations and research using a range of digital methods and investigatory software.

<b>11. Programme learning outcomes</b>
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<p><b>Programme - Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have a knowledge and understanding of:</p>
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1. Current theoretical and enforcement debates in cybercrime and the applicability of cybercrime research to criminological theory, practice, and policy.
2. Contemporary methods in researching cybercrime.
3. Range of tools and techniques to carry out a digital investigation.
4. How technology facilitates and is used to respond to crime.
5. Legal and professional issues related to computer-related crime, digital evidence, and digital forensic investigations.
6. Challenges and opportunities presented by technologies for cyber analysts.
7. Investigative guidelines, and ethical practices and legislation.
<b>Programme - Skills</b>
On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:
8. Use relevant tools and techniques to carry out digital investigations.
9. Investigate, collect, and analyse and present relevant digital evidence from computing devices.
10. Advise on managing compliance in corporate environments and implementing tools and techniques for detecting, investigating, and preventing financial crime.
11. Evaluate new sources of research knowledge and information and those used in previous research.
12. Effectively develop and design a research proposal.
13. Use learning resources effectively in relation to researching cybercrime.
14. Criticise and engage in reasoned debate about relevant ethical digital investigation issues.
15. Plan and carry out an independent project, policy evaluation or work-based development project.

<b>12. Teaching/learning methods</b>
Students learn skills through
Attending lectures
Participatory seminars/seminars
Small group discussions/presentations
Group and individual exercises
Workshop and laboratory exercises
Use of interactive creative online platforms
Independent learning

Directed reading

Formative assessments

Guest lectures

Fieldworks

Students gain knowledge and understanding through interactive and participatory taught classroom sessions in which research-informed teaching is foregrounded also by guest lecturers, student-led seminars, individual tutorials, digital investigations (practice-based practical exercises) that helps students to develop interpersonal skills. Learning is supported by the provision of handbooks, reading lists and web-based materials.

1Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours

FT 8 hours per week

PT 4 hours per week

Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate)

FT 42 hours per week

PT 21 hours per week

Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate).

FT / PT 29 timetabled hours for seminar sessions (12 x 2 hours) + 5 hours individual supervision = Total 29 timetabled hours)

Independent hours: 523

Placement hours: 48

### **13. Employability**

#### **13a Development of graduate competencies**

#### **13b Employability development**

A range of graduate competencies are developed throughout the programme which positions students well for the workplace and professional employment settings they go on. Students are taught to locate their cybercrime and digital investigations study within its wider interdisciplinary context, integrating understandings from criminology, cybercrime related theory, cyber security and safety with computer science digital investigations, financial crime and emerging technologies, and are encouraged to articulate the results from research, policy and practice.

With this, students are able to demonstrate their contribution to creating genuine impact and ideas for social change and evidence they are operating with a strategic entrepreneurial mindset, leadership and innovation and independent learning. Different modules on the programme develop students' professional skills relevant to real world workplace settings, ethical practice and professional integrity. The independent research dissertation project or the work-based experience modules students undertake develops their competencies in leading research initiatives, or professional projects and evidence planning and organizational skills. It enables them to demonstrate exercising authority in shaping the direction of academic work, they influence they make with relevant stakeholders building effective communication, insight, and expertise. Small group and team work in class sessions builds students confidence and interpersonal and collaboration skills that are critical in workplace and employment environments. It facilitates knowledge exchange, applies critical thinking and advanced problem-solving skills within teams, respectfully challenging peers to ensure creative, positive outcomes. The core 'Research Strategies in the Social Sciences' module builds students capabilities and technological agility, through the experience and competence gained with using computer-assisted data analysis tools. Other modules, such as 'Terrorism and Violent Extremism', 'Cyber Safety, Security and Practice', AI, Ethics and Digital Society' etc. also incorporate knowledge and awareness and use of cutting-edge tools and platforms to enhance research, innovation, and professional practice. Students are able to demonstrate they are adapting to and are competent in the world of rapid and changing technological landscapes, including the emergence of generative AI, understanding and utilising new technologies or techniques that are transformative to the field and ensuring that technological solutions are applied ethically and effectively.

**13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)**

N/A

**13d Future careers / progression**

This programme aims at forming social science graduates who have the skills needed to respond to cybercrime, e-security challenges and rapid changes in technological landscapes from issues relating to transnational crime, intellectual property, sexual offences, vulnerable victims, privacy legislation and law. Potential career paths include policy development, corporate security, e-investigation, social media safety, anti-money laundering (investigatory and other roles in the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Ombudsman etc.), safeguarding, designing, and implementing data security and information strategies, analytics, business continuity and others. Several major auditing firms also have graduate entry programmes that specifically identify criminology as a base qualification for applicants. Those already in the industry view their masters-level studies as a means of facilitating career progression within their organisations. Several students have continued their studies at doctoral level. Staff in the department will work alongside the employability office to facilitate your future career decisions. Some of our recent graduates have entered careers as Analysts, System Engineers, Risk and Compliance roles and work for the National Audit Office, BAE Systems and NHS.

The programme also enables students to build applied theoretical, research and practice skills that assist promotion within their organization. International students return to countries of origin able to progress within their organisations and the opportunity to continue studies at PhD

**14. Assessment methods**

Students' knowledge, understanding and skills are assessed by:

Technical investigation report  
 Risk assessment report for a business  
 Essays  
 Contribution towards discussion boards  
 Project and portfolio work  
 Empirical research and analysis  
 Research outputs

**15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)**

Structure is indicative for Part-time routes.

Students must take all of the compulsory modules and choose following programme requirements from the optional modules.

Non-compensatable modules are noted below.

**Available Pathways**

Not Applicable

**Year 1**

Sept start (University calendar Semester 1)

Jan start (University calendar Semester 2)

The availability of specific optional modules is subject to achieving appropriate student numbers. Modules with less than 12 students enrolled are unlikely to run.

**Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits at FHEQ Level</b>
CRM4638	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Cybercrime and Society 2025-26	30 at Level 7
CRM4629	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Research Strategies in Social Sciences 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CST4240	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Financial Crime Risks from Emerging Technologies 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4635	Compulsory	Cyber Safety, Security and Practice 2025-26	15 at Level 7

CST4622	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Crypto-Assets and Digital Investigations 2025-26	30 at Level 7
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### Year 1 Level 7 September Start FT and PT FT Optional Modules

1 x 15 credit option from list below

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4630	Optional	Text Mining and Analysis 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4636	Optional	Terrorism and Violent Extremism – Transformations and Responses 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4624	Optional	Policing and Investigate Psychology 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4637	Optional	AI, Ethics, and Digital Society 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4618	Optional	Drugs and Crime 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4623	Optional	Short Term Placement 2025-26	15 at Level 7

### Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Dissertation Option

Jan Start: Taught part of these modules take place in semester two, independent study continues into semester three. Submission of work falls at the end of semester three.

Students must have passed 90 taught credits in order to submit their dissertation

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4617	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Dissertation 2025-26	60 at Level 7
CRM4631	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Work Based Project 2025-26	60 at Level 7

### Year 2

## Year 2 Level 7 PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4629	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Research Strategies in Social Sciences 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4638	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Cybercrime and Society 2026-27	30 at Level 7
CST4240	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	FinCrime Risks from Emerging Technologies 2026-27	15 at Level 7

## Year 2 Level 7 PT Level 7 PT Optional Module Selection

Semester 2

1 x 15 credit option from list below

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4637	Optional	AI, Ethics, and Digital Society 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4635	Optional	Cyber Safety, Security and Practice 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4618	Optional	Drugs and Crime 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4636	Optional	Terrorism and Violent Extremism – Transformations and Responses 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4630	Optional	Text Mining and Analysis 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4623	Optional	Short Term Placement 2026-27	15 at Level 7

## Year 2 Level 7 PT Level 7 PT

Semester 3

Students must have passed 90 taught credits in order to submit their dissertation

Jan Start: Taught part of these modules take place in semester two, independent study continues into semester three. Submission of work falls at the end of semester three

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4617	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Dissertation 2026-27	60 at Level 7
CRM4631	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Work Based Project 2026-27	60 at Level 7

\*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

16. Programme-specific support for learning
<p>All academics in the department, including programme leaders provide up to four hours of office hours on a weekly basis which students can make use of without making an appointment. Module specific guidance and support will be offered (ex: CST4622 Crypto Assets and Digital Investigations - computer science dedicated space and software is provided)</p> <p>The Learning Enhancement Team (LET) can provide one-to-one tutorials and workshops for those students needing additional support with literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>Availability of guidance from library staff, including a dedicated Criminology Librarian.</p> <p>E-mail access to academics and support services.</p> <p>Comprehensive information in programme and module handbooks.</p> <p>Facilities and equipment available to assist students with disabilities.</p> <p>Access to careers information and an Employability Service staffed with careers advisers with extensive knowledge of career options in criminology.</p> <p>Middlesex University Library and subject librarian will provide access to specialist learning resources i.e., journals, textbooks, reports etc. For ease of access for students based at Hendon, the library has facilities for inter-library loans and photocopying of any articles required. The library can also provide texts/articles or chapters where possible in electronic format for students. Other articles may be obtained from the British Library in London where a similar provision is provided.</p> <p>MyLearning/Moodle provides additional information and resources to support students. Course materials, links to resources and interactive exercises are provided. Students may undertake a research project at their workplace where relevant and possible. UniHelp, university's central service through which students can access a range of support for the kinds of concerns that might arise throughout their study.</p>

Counselling and Mental Health Team – provides mental wellbeing support and a confidential individual counselling service to help students manage any challenges affecting them emotionally or psychologically that they might face during their study.

Disability and Dyslexia Service – supporting an inclusive teaching and learning environment which caters for all students.

Student Welfare Advice Team – providing information and advice on funding matters and housing.

International Student Advice Team – providing information and advice on visa and immigration concerns, for both international applicants and current international students.

Law Progression and Support Team – providing ongoing student support to ensure students' progress on their programme.

**17. HECos code(s)**

100483: Criminal Justice

**18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)**

Criminology 2022

**19. University Regulations**

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: [Policies | Middlesex University](#)

The MSc Cybercrime and Digital Investigations programme adheres to the University Regulations.

<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/media/middlesex-university/about-us-pdfs/academic-quality/University-Regulations-for-Undergraduate-Taught-Programmes.pdf>

**20. Reference points**

The following reference points were applicable in the design of this programme:

Internal

- Middlesex University Regulations 2024
- Middlesex University Strategy 2031
- 2031 Learning Framework: Defining and Evidencing Graduate Competencies at Postgraduate
- University and School of Law Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy QAA Descriptors

External

- Middlesex University Regulations 2021-2022.
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Criminology, 2022

- Middlesex University, Inclusive Curriculum Paper.
- Principles of Blended Learning, Paper 2022.
- University Learning and Teaching policies and strategies.
- The QAA Quality Code for Higher Education, 2014.
- The QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree, 2020.
- SEEC, Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, 2021.
- Business and Law Assessment Tariff Guidance, November 2021.

## **21. Other information** *(if applicable)*

The Department of Criminology and Sociology at Middlesex University is part of the Common Studies Session in Critical Criminology (CSSCC) alongside universities across Europe (i.e. Athens, University of Porto, University of Ghent, University of Hamburg, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Utrecht University, University of Oslo, University of Kent and John Jay College New York). Criminology Masters students are encouraged to attend this in-person bi-annual conference at one of the partner universities for participation in the exchange of ideas, debate, and international networking opportunities.

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 they take 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.