

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Criminology
2	BCU Course Code	PT0982
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>Want to study a criminology Master's in Birmingham? Our MA Criminology degree is open to graduates from all subjects.</p> <p>Our MA Criminology course has been designed for both recent graduates and practitioners who wish to develop their understanding of the debates surrounding crime and the criminal justice system. It offers an exciting opportunity to study both theoretical criminology and the more applied aspects of criminology and criminal justice issues.</p> <p>The course has three formal stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diploma stages consist of three taught modules, a proposal module that is delivered through work groups and a practice-based module involving reflection upon work or volunteering experience. • Those proceeding to the Master's stage will be required to complete an extended project to be determined individually. • It is possible to complete your studies at any of the Certificate, Diploma or Master's stages. <p>Full-time students will complete all these stages in one year. Part-time students would normally complete the diploma and masters stages over two years.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>During study, you are asked to reflect upon your experience of crime and the criminal justice system, looking at significant factors involved in crime in contemporary society. These include globalisation, consumerism and political economy, as well as considering more psychological and theoretical drivers of harmful and criminal behaviour and the responses to crime.</p> <p>Previous students have gone on to further postgraduate study, with a number of them now employed as academics at a range of other universities, teaching and researching in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Other graduates from the course occupy both senior and management positions in statutory and non-statutory criminal justice organisations.</p>

	<p>In order to provide an engaging and flexible educational experience to diverse range of students, the course utilises a wide range of learning and teaching methods and technologies. Given the small size of each group of students recruited, the postgraduate status of the course and the experience which many of its recruits have had of the criminal justice system, the course is highly participative. While sessions will provide periods of structured teaching, they will also provide a forum, within which you will take responsibility for your own learning, and share your knowledge and views with other students and staff.</p> <p>The precise nature of sessions and delivery will vary with the year, the cohort of students, and the general and specific experience possessed by individual students. The course team also makes increasing use of the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where teaching staff will upload lecture notes, web links, video courses and extracts from academic sources. Moodle is also used for general announcements and communication with a group of students, many of whom are unlikely to be on campus every day.</p> <p>The course has a strong link with research practice, and will help you develop and understand the principles and practice of research, as well as enabling you to form judgements on the relative merits of, and relationships between, different research tools and methods. You will also develop the capability to design, manage and disseminate a research project to a professional standard.</p>
--	---

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Arts Criminology	7	180
	Master of Arts Criminology with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate Criminology	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Criminology	7	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	Not applicable		

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	1 year	PT0982
	Part Time	City Centre	2 years	PT0983
	Full Time Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months	PT1382

10	Entry Requirements
<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>	

11	Course Learning Outcomes
Knowledge and Critical Understanding of:	
1	The key topics and theories in criminology, contextualized in their history, culture social and political context.
2	Applied Criminological research methods
Intellectual Skills	
3	Analyse the complex moral, legal, ethical, practical and theoretical arguments in criminology
4	Demonstrate critical, reflective competence in research skills and methods through practical activities
5	Demonstrate advanced postgraduate level written and verbal communication skills
Practical, Research and Independent Learning Skills	
6	Identify appropriate methodologies for dealing with complex problems
7	Work independently using own initiative and effective time management.
8	Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.
9	Employ appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods when undertaking criminological research; initiate, design, conduct and report on a quantitative and qualitative based research project under appropriate supervision.
10	Handle research relationships and primary research material (which may be complex and sensitive information) carefully and ethically.
Transferable Skills/Key Skills	
11	Communicate effectively using effective verbal and written skills
12	Computer and technological literacy, and use software applications. Students will accumulate e-technology skills attained from virtual learning platforms; and use online resources to retrieve and organise information effectively
13	Be sensitive to contextual and interpersonal factors and have developed awareness of their own values and those of their cultural and political environment.

12	Course Requirements																																													
12a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 160 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CRI7027</td> <td>Contemporary Criminological Thought</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7028</td> <td>Research Methods</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7025</td> <td>Crime Online and Public Criminology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7033</td> <td>Prisons and Punishment: Local and Global</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7029</td> <td>Researching Crime and Society</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7026</td> <td>Criminology/Security Studies Dissertation</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CRI7034</td> <td>Homicide and Violent Organised Crime</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7032</td> <td>Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7037</td> <td>Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7031</td> <td>Security in the Digital Age</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7035</td> <td>Inside Out</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to qualify for the award of MA Criminology with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLA6001</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	CRI7027	Contemporary Criminological Thought	20	CRI7028	Research Methods	20	CRI7025	Crime Online and Public Criminology	20	CRI7033	Prisons and Punishment: Local and Global	20	CRI7029	Researching Crime and Society	20	CRI7026	Criminology/Security Studies Dissertation	60	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	CRI7034	Homicide and Violent Organised Crime	20	CRI7032	Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence	20	CRI7037	Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism	20	CRI7031	Security in the Digital Age	20	CRI7035	Inside Out	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLA6001	Professional Placement	60
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																												
CRI7027	Contemporary Criminological Thought	20																																												
CRI7028	Research Methods	20																																												
CRI7025	Crime Online and Public Criminology	20																																												
CRI7033	Prisons and Punishment: Local and Global	20																																												
CRI7029	Researching Crime and Society	20																																												
CRI7026	Criminology/Security Studies Dissertation	60																																												
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																												
CRI7034	Homicide and Violent Organised Crime	20																																												
CRI7032	Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence	20																																												
CRI7037	Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism	20																																												
CRI7031	Security in the Digital Age	20																																												
CRI7035	Inside Out	20																																												
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																												
PLA6001	Professional Placement	60																																												

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Full Time

Postgraduate Learner Course (e.g. Two weeks)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	Contemporary Criminological Thought (20 credits)	Research Methods (20 credits)	Crime Online and Public Criminology (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	Prison and Imprisonment: Local and Global (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)	Researching Crime and Society (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	Criminology Dissertation (60 credits)		

Full Time Professional Placement

Postgraduate Learner Course (e.g. Two weeks)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	Contemporary Criminological Thought (20 credits)	Research Methods (20 credits)	Crime Online and Public Criminology (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	Prison and Imprisonment: Local and Global (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)	Researching Crime and Society (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	Criminology Dissertation (60 credits)		
Professional Placement	Professional Placement (60 credits)		

Part Time

Year 1	Semester 1	Contemporary Criminological Theory (20 Credits)	Crime Online & Public Criminology (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	Prison and Imprisonment: Local and Global (20 Credits)	Option Module (20 Credits)
Year 2	Semester 1	Research Methods (20 Credits)	
	Semester 2	Researching Crime and Security (20 Credits)	
	Summer	Dissertation (60 Credits)	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	152
Directed Learning	216
Private Study	1432
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	57%
Exam	0
In-Person	43%