

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Criminology
2	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>Our MA Criminology degree is open to graduates from all subjects. Our 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 Certificate stage consist of three taught modules; • The Diploma stage consists of six taught modules; • Those proceeding to the Master's stage will be required to complete an extended research project to be determined individually. • It is possible to complete your studies at any of the Certificate, Diploma or Master's stages. <p>If you study full-time you will complete all these stages in one year. If you study part-time you would normally complete the diploma and masters stages over two years.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>Our postgraduate course offers a contemporary and critical exploration of criminological issues. By studying for an MA in Criminology at Birmingham City University, you will be introduced to a number of contemporary criminological theories and you will be able to relate theory to practice in specialised areas of crime, offending and victimisation. Throughout your time studying, you will explore criminology from both a theoretical and applied perspective. You will therefore develop key practical skills that have utility in a range of careers within criminal justice. We adopt an international focus within our teaching and learning, touching upon often marginalised issues within Criminology, which often adopts a Western perspective. On completion of the course, you will be able to address complex issues systematically and creatively.</p> <p>In order to provide an engaging and flexible educational experience to a 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</p>

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.

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.

The academic staff who teach on this course are highly research active, 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.

Previous students have gone on to further postgraduate study, with a number of them now employed as academics at a range of 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.

Choosing a Professional Placement

The purpose of the Professional Placement is to improve your employability skills which will, through the placement experience, allow you to evidence your professional skills, attitudes and behaviours at the point of entry to the postgraduate job market. Furthermore, by completing the Professional Placement, you will be able to develop and enhance your understanding of the professional work environment, relevant to your chosen field of study, and reflect critically on your own professional skills development within the workplace.

You will be responsible for finding and securing your own placement. The University, however, will draw on its extensive network of local, regional and national employers to support you in finding a suitable placement to complement your chosen area of study. You will also benefit from support sessions delivered by Careers+ as well as advice and guidance from your School.

You will be able to start your Professional Placement at the end of the standard Master's course, once you have successfully completed the competitive recruitment process and passed at least 120 credits of the 180 credits required for the final award. The length of a standard full-time Master's course 'with Professional Placement' will, therefore, be extended to 18-months and will consist of 240 credits, 60 of which will be awarded following completion of the placement.

Why Choose Us?

- The course has strong links with various research centres within the department. They are renowned for their international reputations, with a range of specialist areas including homicide, hate crime and gender-based violence.
- We have a strong relationship with the British Society of Criminology. We hosted the 2018 British Society of Criminology Annual Conference at our City Centre Campus. Many of our teaching team are members of the British Society of Criminology.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course will help you develop and understand the principles and practice of research and allow you to form judgements on different research tools. • The course team has valuable links with the regional criminal justice system and leading non-Government organisations, including therapeutic prison HMP Grendon, where the University holds an annual debate. • Birmingham City University has launched the UK's first Centre for Brexit Studies, researching all aspects of the UK's vote to leave the EU, including the impact it has on hate crime and national security in the UK. <p>* This programme is also available as an extended degree with a 6-month professional placement.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	MA Criminology	7	180
	MA Criminology with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma in 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	12 months	PT0982
	Part time	City Centre	24 months	PT0983
	Full time with 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 Aims
	<p>This course aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a postgraduate programme in Criminology of the highest standard that is informed by contemporary, critical and international research. • Offer a detailed and critical overview of contemporary debates in Criminology and frame these within contemporary criminological thought. • Provide you with the opportunity to engage in an optional module, which will allow you to focus in and develop your understanding of a chosen, specialised area. • Interrogate the social processes that influence the relationship between individuals, groups and institutions. • Contextualise crime, victimisation and offending within a framework that appreciates issues of equality, diversity and inclusion. • Provide an understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods in ways that are consistent with discipline expectations and that meet the expectations of the professional market. • Develop your intellectual, critical and analytical skills in the academic discipline of Criminology. • Enhance and develop your transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communications, the capacity for independent learning, project management, the ability to reflect on the ethical components of your work and the capacity to work cooperatively with others.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 180/240 credits on the MA, you will be able to:</i>
1	Critically evaluate key topics and theories in criminology, contextualized in their history, culture social and political context.
2	Understand and evaluate applied criminological research methods
3	Situate a range of contemporary issues in the discipline of criminology within their political and historical contexts and critically evaluate their position within criminology
4	Effectively synthesise and critically evaluate the role, aims and effectiveness of various agencies within the Criminal Justice System
5	Analyse the complex moral, legal, ethical, practical and theoretical arguments in criminology
6	Utilise advanced, postgraduate level written and verbal communication skills
7	Identify and employ appropriate research methodologies for dealing with complex problems
8	Work independently using your own initiative and effective time management.
9	Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.
10	Identify relevant work skills you have developed through engaging in a professional placement*.
	*This learning outcome is only applicable to the MA in Criminology with Professional Placement.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits / the Postgraduate Certificate, you will be able to:</i>
1	Critically evaluate key topics and theories in criminology, contextualized in their history, culture social and political context.
2	Understand and evaluate applied criminological research methods
3	Situate a range of contemporary issues in the discipline of criminology within their political and historical contexts and critically evaluate their position within criminology
	<i>Upon completion of 120 credits / the Postgraduate Diploma, you will be able to:</i>
4	Effectively synthesise and critically evaluate the role, aims and effectiveness of various agencies within the Criminal Justice System
5	Analyse the complex moral, legal, ethical, practical, and theoretical arguments in criminology

6	Utilise advanced, postgraduate level written and verbal communication skills
	<i>Upon completion of 180 credits / the Masters Degree, you will be able to:</i>
7	Identify and employ appropriate research methodologies for dealing with complex problems
8	Work independently using your own initiative and effective time management.
9	Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review, or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.
	<i>Upon completion of 240 credits / the Masters Degree with Professional Placements, you will be able to:</i>
10	Identify relevant work skills you have developed through engaging in a professional placement.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p><i>Teaching and Learning Strategy</i> Whilst enrolled on this course you will engage with a range of teaching and learning strategies. The teaching and learning arrangements may vary across modules, depending on the subject matter being addressed and mode of assessment. Some of the teaching and learning activities that you may engage with include:</p> <p>Lectures Seminars Group Discussions Independent Learning (including reading and researching) Online Activities (including quizzes, group discussion forums, online videos)</p> <p><i>Assessment strategy</i> Whilst we do not assess you with exams, you will be required to complete a range of coursework assessments (e.g., essays, professional reports, research proposals, pre-recorded video presentations) and in-person assessments (e.g., face-to-face individual and/or group poster presentations, individual and/or group PowerPoint presentations, debates). We offer opportunities throughout the academic year to receive formative feedback on assessments that enable students to develop their assessments throughout the academic year.</p> <p>Feedback is therefore provided informally throughout modules. Individual feedback is also provided when assessments are returned to students. The focus of feedback is to help students develop their academic skills.</p>

15	Course Requirements																						
15a	Level 7: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 160 credits):</i>																						
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	<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>																						
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	<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>																						
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15b Structure Diagram
Level 7

MA Criminology (Full time)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	Contemporary Criminological Thought (20 credits)	Research Methods (20 credits)	Key Criminological Issues (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	Prisons, Probation and Policing (20 credits)	Optional Module Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence Understanding Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Inside-Out Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism (20 credits)	Reimagining Crime Online: Critical Perspectives (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	Criminology Dissertation (60 credits)		

MA Criminology (Part time)			
Year 1	Semester 1	Contemporary Criminological Thought (20 credits)	Key Criminological Issues (20 credits)
	Semester 2	Prisons, Probation and Policing (20 credits)	Optional Module Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence Understanding Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Inside-Out Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism (20 credits)
Year 2	Semester 1	Research Methods (20 credits)	

	Semester 2	Reimagining Crime Online: Critical Perspectives (20 credits)
	Summer	Dissertation (60 Credits)

MA Criminology (Full time Professional Placement)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	Contemporary Criminological Thought (20 credits)	Research Methods (20 credits)	Key Criminological Issues (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	Prisons, Probation and Policing (CRI) (20 credits)	Optional Module Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence Understanding Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Inside-Out Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism (20 credits)	Reimagining Crime Online: Critical Perspectives (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	Criminology Dissertation (60 credits)		
Professional Placement	Professional Placement (20 weeks) (60 credits)		

16 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.

Delete years where applicable.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	162
Directed Learning	528
Private Study	1,110
Total Hours	1,800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	0%
In-Person	25%