

Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

School of Social, Political and Global Studies

Programme Specification: Postgraduate

Information: the programme specification is the definitive document summarising the structure and content of your degree programme. It has been reviewed and updated to clarify to potential and current students what they can expect from the study of the subject over the course of your programme.

This programme specification applies to students starting the programme from September 2021 onwards.

Name of Programme: MA, PG Dip, PG Cert in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Mode of Study: Full-Time / Part-Time /

FHEQ Level: 7

Duration: 1 Year (full time) / 2 or more Years (part time)

1. Aims of the Programme?

a. Philosophy of the programme

Criminology is a fascinating, complex and practical discipline which has significance for a wide range of criminal justice, security, social and policy fields. Matters of crime, harm and justice permeate our societies, from societal responses to wrongdoing, illegality and harm to the structure of criminal justice institutions, the conduct of criminal justice agents, or citizens' experiences of the justice system. The *Masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice* at Keele University allows students to rigorously engage with these and related issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. The Criminology and Criminal Justice programme at Keele comprises 4 teaching blocks plus a supervised dissertation taught by research-active specialists from subject specific and allied disciplines.

The programme is both theoretical and empirical in its focus on the study of contemporary developments in criminology and criminal justice, comprising blocks addressing theory, methods, institutional organisation and practices pertinent to criminal justice. The central focus of the programme is on 1) recent developments in criminological theory, 2) current trends in criminal justice, both national and transnational/international, 3) methodological approaches and skills for researching in fields of crime, criminal justice and governance, 4) the impact of public policy on crime and criminal justice thinking and practice. The programme was designed with graduate students – both recent graduates and post-experience graduates or professionals of advanced standing – in mind. Its focus is on the study of *contemporary* developments in criminology and in governance studies, on the study of *contemporary* trends in criminal justice and governance, and on the *advanced* study of developments in a number of fields within the broader criminological domain.

We offer two pathways for the Masters in Criminology & Criminal Justice which cater for different career options: **Pathway One** offers the student opportunities to complete the core modules and dissertation. This option is particularly attractive to those requiring the general award in order to pursue a broad range of careers in crime and criminal justice and associated sectors.

Pathway Two is a research methods intensive pathway. This option is particularly attractive to emergent researchers who wish to pursue an intensive programme of study in crime and criminal justice. You **must take** this pathway to be eligible for (i) applying for PhD funding under the ESRC +3 studentship award, and you may wish to take this programme if you (ii) aim to pursue careers in research or policy.

2. Intended learning outcomes

Here we outline what students on the programme will know, understand, and be able to do by the end of the degree.

- a. Subject knowledge and understanding
- b. Subject specific skills
- c. Key or transferable skills (including employability skills).
- d. Keele graduate attributes

a. Subject knowledge and understanding

This programme will equip students to seek a career in criminal justice or related sector or industry or to further postgraduate research (e.g. a PhD), by equipping students with a higher-level qualification and providing comprehensive research training. These including

- Introducing and developing students' understanding of recent and contemporary theorising in criminology and governance studies.
- Showing students how recent and contemporary theorising in criminology and governance studies will support endeavours to describe, analyse and interpret contemporary developments in criminal justice, transnational justice, international justice, and governance more broadly
- Enabling students to think through methodological problems and to choose appropriate methods for the study of crime, criminal justice, and governance.
- Enabling students to critically assess research in a number of fields within criminology, criminal justice, and governance studies more broadly.
- Equipping and enhancing students' competences in designing and completing a research project and understanding the significance of research processes and findings to criminology.

b. Subject specific skills/key or transferable skills

Students who complete the degree and graduate with an MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice will:

- Have a systematic understanding of key issues in recent and contemporary theorising in criminology, criminal justice, and governance studies more broadly, and possess a critical awareness of current problems in the field that is informed by contemporary research.
- Possess a comprehensive knowledge of methodological techniques applicable to their own research and be able to apply these techniques to both theoretical and substantive problems.
- Have the necessary conceptual understanding to be able to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the field of criminology, criminal justice, and governance studies more broadly.
- Evaluate methodological approaches to research problems, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.

- Show originality in their application of knowledge to theoretical and substantive problems in the study of contemporary criminology, criminal justice, and governance studies more broadly.
- Have a practical understanding of the relationship between methodology and theory and understand how this knowledge is used to create and interpret research.
- Display autonomy and originality in solving theoretical and substantive problems in the field of criminology, criminal justice, and governance studies more broadly.
- Show autonomy in planning and executing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.
- Work with complex theoretical and substantive issues systematically and make reasonable judgments in the absence of complete data.
- Possess the employability skills of initiative, personal responsibility, and the ability to make rational decisions in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Be able to demonstrate the ability to learn and work independently and to continue their own professional development once the course is completed.

c. Keele Graduate Attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to further develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesising information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, appropriate standards in research practice, principles of ethical research practice and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Whilst you will undoubtedly have already developed these skills and abilities to varying degrees, such existing capabilities can always be deepened and enriched. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to develop further as a well-rounded postgraduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in during and after your studies at Keele. Please refer to the programme webpages for a statement of how you can achieve the Keele Graduate Attributes through full engagement in the programme and other educational opportunities at Keele. Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

3. How the programme is taught

The MA programme itself comprises a combination of taught face to face learning Blocks over two semesters, plus supervised work towards completing a dissertation. Depending on the pathway the student takes, they will take a combination of 'short' Blocks comprising intensive 3-days face to face teaching and longer blocks delivered over 2 half days per week over 6 weeks (see pathways below).

a. Learning and teaching methods

The MA programme comprises four 30 credit block taught modules, (two in each semester), and a 60 credit dissertation to be completed and submitted after completion of the four blocks. Direct contact with students in each 30 credit module/block will be organised around a range of approaches, and each module will utilise a combination of the following:

- Lectures involve tutors delivering core materials to students in a formal setting.
- Tutorials are organised around lecture materials, set readings, and other materials and involve discussions between tutors and students.
- Supervision based on one-to-one discussions between tutors and students related to individual research essays, projects, or dissertations.

b. Enabling Learners to Achieve the Stated Learning Outcomes:

Prior to each block, we prepare students for each of the taught module blocks by providing them with selected, appropriate and relevant course materials, and by setting them specific tasks; and 2) build on students' knowledge, understanding, skills and experience in order to mobilise these during the teaching sessions proper.

- In advance of each contact block, students will engage in structured/guided individual preparation via the use of KLE based 'study packs' of key readings and related online resources linked to preparatory exercises and points for consideration/discussion
- 3 days of intensive face-to-face contact between staff and students. Each day will be subdivided into four 90 minute thematically linked sessions and several members of staff will contribute to each day. Breaking each day into four discrete sessions involving several members of staff is intended to maintain student interest and engagement in what otherwise could be a very long day. This form of team delivery, linked to the principle that every module/block has a designated module leader, also ensures that the viability of any block on this programme is not dependent on the availability of one or two members of staff.
- Each 3-day block is followed by the equivalent of four days of structured tasks, formative activities and small group and individual student/student and student/staff interactions via KLE
- As well as the modules, the programme provides a one-day, practical, and highly interactive dissertation workshop which all full time students, and all part-time year 1 students will be required to attend. Part-time year 2 students (i.e. students who are working on their dissertation topic) will be invited to attend a 'refresher' day at the start of their second year of study, which will revisit the themes explored in the interactive dissertation workshop.

d. Teaching staff

Students will be taught by qualified academic experts in criminology and criminal justice, with some modules also benefitting from teaching from colleagues with sociological and political science backgrounds. Teaching staff combine academic credentials with a record of research, engagement and practice in various criminal justice spheres. Many have strong links to wider criminal justice professions (youth justice, prisons, probation, policing) and stakeholder sectors such as policy- and third sectors.

4. Programme Structure (Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate).

We offer two pathways for the M. Crim which cater for different career options:

- a. **Pathway One** offers the core taught modules and dissertation. This option is particularly attractive to those requiring the general award in order to pursue careers in crime and criminal justice and related sectors. In this pathway, students take 120 credits comprising 90 credits from core criminology taught modules and 30 credits of research methods modules.

Pathway One: all students must take **90 credits of taught core modules, plus 30 credits of research methods modules:**

Semester 1

<p style="text-align: center;">Module Block 1 Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice (30 Credits)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module Block 2 Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice (30 Credits)</p>
<p>Semester 2</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Module Block 3 (30 credits) made up of 2x15 credit modules: GRT-40020 Quantitative Research and Data Analysis PLUS GRT-40021 Qualitative Research Methods:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module Block 4 Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice (30 credits)</p>
<p>Dissertation (60 Credits)</p>	

- b. **Pathway Two** is a research methods intensive pathway. This option is particularly attractive to emergent researchers who wish to pursue an intensive programme of study in crime and criminal justice. You **must take** this pathway to be eligible for (i) applying for PhD funding under the ESRC +3 studentship award, and you may wish to take this programme if you (ii) aim to pursue careers in research or policy. In this pathway, students will take up to 60 credits of core modules and 60 credits of elective modules in research training, plus dissertation.

Pathway Two: all students must take **60 credits of taught core modules, plus 60 credits of research methods modules:**

<p>Semester 1</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Module Block 1 Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice (30 Credits)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module Block 2 (30 credits) made up of 2 x 15 credit modules:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may choose between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GRT-40023 Approaches to Research Design and Process – 15 credits or GRT-40028 Researcher Skills – 15 credits.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You must take ETH-40051 Ethics in Research 15 credits</p>

Semester 2	
Module Block 3 (30 credits) made up of 2 15 credit modules: GRT-40020 Quantitative Research and Data Analysis PLUS GRT-40021 Qualitative Research Methods	Module Block 4 Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice (30 credits)
Dissertation (60 Credits)	

c. Routes

Full-Time Route

To obtain the Master's degree qualification, students must successfully complete taught modules to the value of 120 credits and a dissertation worth 60 credits (180 credits are required in total). Students have the flexibility to choose whether to complete the entire programme in one year as a full time student or to take the part time pathway. Credits cannot be awarded for the dissertation unless all of the four taught modules are successfully completed.

Part-Time Route

In order to complete the programme part-time students will usually complete the taught element of the programme in year 1 and take year 2 to write the dissertation assessment. The programme, however, will give due and appropriate consideration to accepting students who take longer to complete the taught element of the programme (e.g. 2 or even 3 years) before they embark upon their dissertation year.

Students who choose to complete their dissertation during a second year of study will be offered an additional 'refresher day' which will include practical dissertation workshop seminars and face-to-face contact with staff, in addition to continued supervisory support.

Main Award

MA (180 Credits)

In order to complete the Masters programme students must complete the full taught component of the programme and the dissertation or equivalent research project. The Masters is available either full-time over the course of one or part-time over the course of two or more years.

Subject Knowledge

Outcome	Modules	Assessment
Students will possess comprehensive knowledge of recent and current theorising in criminology and governance studies more broadly.	Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice	Formative exercise Essay
Students will possess comprehensive knowledge of how recent and current theorising in criminology, criminal justice and governance studies more broadly describe, analyse and interpret contemporary developments in national, transnational, international criminal justice and governance.	Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice	Formative exercise Case study
Students will have comprehensive knowledge of recent developments in national, transnational and international criminal justice and governance more broadly	Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice	Formative exercise Case study
Students will be able to recognise social science methods and be able to critically apply them in the field.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	Research Proposal / Design
	Qualitative Research Methods	Review / Appraisal
Students will have comprehensive knowledge of empirical research and scholarship in several areas of study in criminology, criminal justice studies, and governance studies more broadly	Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice	Essay
	Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice	Essay

Students will be able to critically evaluate current empirical research and advanced scholarship in several areas of study in criminology, criminal justice studies, and governance studies more broadly	Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Essay
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Subject Specific Skills

Outcome	Module	Assessment
Students will be able to design and complete a research project and understand the importance of research process in the social sciences.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	Research Proposal / Design
	Qualitative Research Methods	Review / Appraisal
	Dissertation	Dissertation
Students will understand the principles of literature collection and analysis and be able to complete a literature survey.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	Research Proposal / Design
	Qualitative Research Methods	Review / Appraisal
	Dissertation	Dissertation
Students will be able to critically evaluate current empirical research and advanced scholarship in the field of criminology, criminal justice and governance studies more broadly	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	Research Proposal / Design
	Qualitative Research Methods	Review / Appraisal
	Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Essay
	Dissertation	Dissertation

Students will be able to evaluate methodological approaches to research problems, develop critiques of them, and generate new hypotheses where appropriate.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods	Research Proposal / Design Review / Appraisal
Students will be able to know how methodology and theory interact and how this knowledge creates and interprets new research.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods	Research Proposal / Design Review / Appraisal
Students will be able to show originality in their application of knowledge to theoretical and substantive problems in the study of contemporary criminology, criminal justice, and governance.	Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice Dissertation	Essay Dissertation
Students will demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the study of criminology, criminal justice and governance	Dissertation	Dissertation
Students will demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights which are at, or are informed by, the forefront of research in the field of criminology, criminal justice and governance	All modules	All assessments
Students will be able to show autonomy and originality in solving theoretical and substantive problems in the field.	All Modules	All Assessments
Students will be able to work with complex theoretical and substantive issues and make reasonable judgments related to these issues on the basis of limited data.	All Modules	All Assessments
Students will be able to communicate research process and research findings to diverse audiences using a variety of written, oral, and visual media.	All Modules	All Assessments

Transferable Skills

Students will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly	All modules	All Assessments
Students will be able to design and complete a research project and understand the importance of research process in the social sciences.	Dissertation	Dissertation
Students will know the principles of literature collection and analysis and be able to complete a literature survey.	Dissertation	Dissertation
Students will know social science methods and be able to think about the application of methods in the field.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods Dissertation	Research Proposal / Design Review / Appraisal Dissertation
Students will possess a comprehensive knowledge of methodological techniques applicable to their own research and be able to apply these techniques to both theoretical and substantive problems.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice Dissertation	Research Proposal / Design Review / Appraisal Essay Dissertation
Students will be able to evaluate methodological approaches to research problems, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.	Researching Crime and Criminal Justice Dissertation	Research Proposal Dissertation
Students will be able to show originality in their application of knowledge to theoretical and substantive problems in the study of contemporary criminology, criminal justice and governance.	Dissertation	Dissertation

Students will be able to demonstrate independent learning ability.	All Modules	All formative assessments All summative assessments
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Other Awards

PG Diploma (120 credits)

Students who want to obtain the PG Diploma route through the programme must complete the taught component of the degree.

PG Certificate (60 credits)

Students completing the PG Certificate are required to complete both Semester 1 module blocks of the programme. Again, this option is available on a part-time basis.

Assessment

The programme is summatively assessed by various methods of assessment, including, for the Masters level award, a dissertation.

- *30 credit modules*

CRI-40027 Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice. Essay (5000 words)

CRI-40029 Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice. Essay (5000 words)

CRI-40030 Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Essay (5000 words)

- *15 credit modules:*

GRT-40020 Quantitative Research and Data Analysis. Quantitative research proposal / design (4000 word equivalent)

GRT-40021 Qualitative Research Methods. Methodological review / appraisal of qualitative research (4000 word equivalent)

GRT-40023 Approaches to Research Design and Process – 15 credits (4000 word equivalent)

GRT-40028 Researcher Skills – 15 credits (4000 word equivalent)

ETH-40051 Ethics in Research 15 credits

60 credit module:

CRI-40031 Dissertation: the dissertation allows students to undertake a significant piece of their own research under supervision of a research-active member of staff and make use of their theoretical and practical learning on the programme. The dissertation is 15,000 to 20,000 words in length.

Note: information regarding knowledge and skills relating to the PG Diploma and PG Certificate awards can be derived from the above tables relating to the main award.

Assessment

The Criminology and Criminal Justice programme is assessed by summative assessment (typically 5,000 words) but supported with formative exercises which 1) prepare students for each of the taught module blocks by providing them with selected, appropriate and relevant course materials, and by setting them specific tasks; and 2) build on students' knowledge, understanding, skills and experience in order to mobilise those during the teaching sessions proper.

Admission

Students are accepted onto the programme on the basis of an honours degree at second class (2:2) or higher (or international equivalent).

Students registered at overseas Institutions which are ERASMUS partners or have existing exchange agreements with Keele and who wish to take parts of this programme as an exchange student will be required to satisfy the criteria for qualification for such an exchange agreed by their home institution in consultation with CIED.

Students for whom English is a second language will be required to satisfy the criteria outlined in the first paragraph of this section. However we will also require English language proficiency of at least 6.5 in IELTS test scores (or equivalent).

Student Support

Support for students on the programme is provided by block tutors and the programme director. Students will also be allocated an individual 'personal' tutor (for part-time MA this will be their dissertation supervisor). All members of staff working on the programme are also available to answer e-mail, have office hours. Support structures for students on this programme will be regularly reviewed and where necessary modified to comply with University wide policies on support for PGT students as these policies develop.

All teaching and preparation makes extensive use of KLE: preparatory reading and material is available in advance with minimum content of module handbooks, lecture notes, power-point presentations, reading lists, and tutorial hand-outs to ensure that students have a learning resource available to them outside of the block teaching timetable. The virtual group working functions of the KLE are also employed to ensure that students are able to communicate with tutors / supervisors when they are not physically at University.

From 2020, and due to contingencies created by Covid-19, we will make enhanced use of our online KLE presence (MA programme) to facilitate distance learning delivery when required including synchronous and asynchronous presentations, online discussions and video-conferencing.

Students will also have access to student support services, campus accommodation, and Students' Union Services.

Quality Management

Each module is subject to oversight by the Criminology Programme Board and the Faculty Education Committee (via end of Semester module evaluations, regular reports to the Programme Board by the Programme Director for this programme and related strategies including Student Voice Committee meetings, and the advisory role of our External Examiners.

The Programme is also included in the annual review conducted by the Criminology programme group and scrutinised by the Faculty Education Committee.

Programme Revision History:

Version history	date	Change/notes
Updated	June 2018	Updated Ronnie Lippens to include options for advanced methods modules
Updated	July 29 2019	Updated Mary Corcoran - QA
Updated	July 2 2020	Submitted to FEC by M Corcoran to permit development of Pathway 2.
Updated	April 1 2021	Submitted to QA & SEG to update research module offer in line with changes to MRes provision.
Updated	June 29 2021	Submitted to QA & SEG to align research training modules in line with ESRC NWSSDTP guidelines.
Approved by FEC	July 2021	