Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MA Criminology and Criminal Justice
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	1 Year (full time) / 2 or more Years (part time)
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £8,900 Part-time fee for 2023/24 is £4,900 per year* **International students:** Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £17,700

How this information might change: *Please read the important information at* <u>http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/</u>. *This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <u>http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/</u>

2. Overview of the Programme

Keele University pioneered the teaching of criminology at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels in the United Kingdom - and first offered an MA in Criminology in the late 1960s. Keele continues to offer a postgraduate programme that is long established but also challenging and cutting edge, taught by active criminological researchers.

Criminology is a fascinating, complex and practical discipline which has significance for a wide range of criminal justice, security, social and legal 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 taught by research-active specialists from subject specific and related disciplines.

The programme is simultaneously 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, and 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 - 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 MA Criminology and Criminal Justice which cater for different career options:

Pathway One offers the student opportunities to complete the compulsory Criminology modules and dissertation, as well as ESRC recognised training in qualitative and quantitative research methods. This option is particularly attractive to those requiring the general award in order to pursue careers in crime and criminal justice.

Pathway Two is a research methods intensive pathway for students who intend to apply for PhD funding under the ESRC +3 studentship award, or who aim to pursue a research career. This comprises both compulsory and elective modules, plus dissertation. This option is particularly attractive to emergent researchers who wish to pursue an intensive programme of study in crime and criminal justice.

3. Aims of the programme

Criminology draws on a wide range of human and social science disciplines. The subject's theoretical and methodological development reflects the rapid social changes of contemporary society and is responsive to the increasing cross-fertilisation of ideas and methods between the human and social sciences. In its modern form, Criminology is characterised by robust debates over how to conceptualise and explain its subject matter and how to put its theories into operation in conducting research informed debates over crime control policy; the scope of human rights; the links between criminal and social justice; and the expanding knowledge bases of crime prevention, security and justice.

The broad aims of the programme are to enable students to critically and reflexively think, talk, and write about crime, crime control, their broader socio-economic context and the ways in which they are represented in a theoretically informed, rigorous and systematic way, drawing on the intellectual traditions and scholarly methods of the social sciences in general and Criminology in particular.

The principles, theories and research covered on this MA aim to help us - as individuals and society - to better understand the causes and effects of crime, offending and penal sanctions, generating the insight needed to inform social policy development and criminal justice practice. In particular, student who make full use of the opportunities offered by this programme will be able to:

- Understand, critically evaluate and apply a range of theories about the nature, measurement and causes of crime.
- Acquire and demonstrate a critical understanding and analysis of the nature and development of a variety of formal and informal responses to crime, including policing and the operation of the criminal justice and penal systems.
- Demonstration a rigorous and theoretically informed appreciation of the theoretical and empirical reality of crime and crime control in their historical, social, political, and economic contexts.
- Acquire and demonstrate familiarity with the main quantitative and qualitative methods of social scientific research used in the collection, analysis and application of criminological data.
- Develop the ability to conduct and report on their own research using relevant criminological concepts, suitable and ethically robust methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship in the social sciences.
- Develop and enhance methodological and technical expertise in handling different kinds of data - including large data sets ('big data'), open data and internet data - and manage sensitive ethical issues arising from empirical research
- Obtain the knowledge, skills, capabilities and personal qualities necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become informed and active citizens with a critically analytical and theoretically informed interest in studying crime and ways of controlling it.

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

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 include:

- 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.

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.

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/

5. How is the programme 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).

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. The research methods block in semester 2 will be further subdivided into two 15 credit modules - one which covers quantitative research methods and one which covers qualitative methods. 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 involving tutors delivering core materials to students in a formal setting.
- Tutorials 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.
- Extensive supporting resources shared with students via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

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 which 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 sub-divided 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.

6. 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.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

Please note that this programme does not follow a traditional format of semester long modules with weekly classes. Instead each module is delivered by a combination of one intensive 3 day block of face to face sessions on campus, supported by online pre and post 3-day block activities, exercises and readings shared with students via the module KLE space. For CRI-40027 the 3 day block is scheduled in early October of semester 1, for CRI-40029 the 3 day block is scheduled in late November of Semester 1. The GRT research methods modules outlined below take place in the first half of semester 2, and the 3 day on campus block for

CRI-40030 takes place just before the Easter vacation. The dissertation module (CRI-40031) involves some sessions scheduled in the 3 day blocks plus a stand-alone workshop day in early semester 2. Students complete their dissertation over the Summer and submit it in late September (full time and part time students have slightly different submission dates in late September).

We offer two pathways which cater for different career options:

a. **Pathway One** offers the compulsory 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. In this pathway, students take 120 credits comprising 90 credits from compulsory criminology taught modules and 30 credits of research methods modules.

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

Semester 1	
Module Block 1 (CRI-40027) *Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice* (30 Credits)	Module Block 2 (CRI-40029) *Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justic*e (30 Credits)
Semester 2	
Module Block 3 (30 credits) made up of 2x 15-credit modules: GRT-40020 *Quantitative Research and Data Analysis* PLUS GRT-40021 *Qualitative Research Methods*	Module Block 4 (CRI-40030) *Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (30 credits)
Dissertation (CRI-40031) (SEM2-3) (60 Credits)	

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

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

Semester 1	
Module Block 1 (CRI-40027) *Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice* (30 Credits)	Module Block 2 (30 credits) made up of 2x 15 credit modules**:** GRT-40023 - Approaches to Research Design and Process GRT-40028 - Researcher Skills

Semester 2	
Module Block 3 (30 credits) made up of 2x 15 credit modules: GRT-40020 *Quantitative Research and Data Analysis* PLUS GRT-40021 *Qualitative Research Methods*	Module Block 4 (CRI-40030) *Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (30 credits)
Dissertation (CRI-40031) (SEM2-3) (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 required taught modules are successfully completed. Full time students will take the taught elements during semesters 1 and 2, and complete a Dissertation over the Summer months and submit it in late September before the commencement of the next academic year.

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.

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 7	150	30	30	0	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice	CRI-40027	30	Semester 1
Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice	CRI-40030	30	Semester 2
Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	GRT-40020	15	Semester 2
Qualitative Research Methods	GRT-40021	15	Semester 2
Dissertation	CRI-40031	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice	CRI-40029	30	Semester 1
Approaches to Research Design and Process	GRT-40023	15	Semester 1
Researcher Skills	GRT-40028	15	Semester 1

Level 7 Module Rules

There are two pathways through this programme - pathway 1 and pathway 2

Joint compulsory modules on both pathways (150 Credits) - students on both pathways must take CRI-40027 (30 Credits); GRT-40020 (15 Credits); GRT-40021 (15 Credits); CRI-40030 (30 Credits) and CRI-40031 (60 Credits) - these modules (150 Credits in total) are compulsory for **both** pathways.

Pathway 1 (30 Credit addition to joint compulsory modules) - In addition to these compulsory modules for both pathways, student taking pathway 1 must also take CRI-40029 (30 Credits) in semester 1. This module is **not** available to students on pathway 2. For students on pathway 1 the 150 Credits from joint compulsory modules plus the 30 Credits from CRI-40029 deliver the required 180 Credits for the programme.

Pathway 2 (30 Credit addition to joint compulsory modules) - In addition to the joint compulsory modules outlined above, students taking pathway 2 must also take GRT-40023 (15 Credits) and GRT-40028 (15 Credits) in semester 1. These modules are **not** available to students on pathway 1. For students on pathway 2 the 150 Credits from joint compulsory modules plus the 30 Credits delivered jointly by GRT-40023 and GRT-40028 deliver the required 180 Credits.

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Students will possess comprehensive knowledge of recent and current theorising in criminology and governance studies more broadly.	All modules
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.	All modules
Students will have comprehensive knowledge of recent developments in national, transnational and international criminal justice and governance more broadly	All modules
Students will be able to recognise social science methods and be able to critically apply them in the field.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods Dissertation
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	All modules
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	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
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 Qualitative Research Methods Dissertation
Students will understand the principles of literature collection and analysis and be able to complete a literature survey.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods 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 Qualitative Research Methods Advanced Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice 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
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
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
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
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
Students will be able to show autonomy and originality in solving theoretical and substantive problems in the field.	All modules
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
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

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
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
Students will be able to design and complete a research project and understand the importance of research process in the social sciences.	Dissertation
Students will know the principles of literature collection and analysis and be able to complete a literature survey.	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
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
Students will be able to evaluate methodological approaches to research problems, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.	Quantitative Research and Data Analysis Qualitative Research Methods 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
Students will be able to demonstrate independent learning ability.	All modules

8. Final and intermediate awards

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.

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.

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflect the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as students progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular

attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things students did not understand and help students to improve performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on the programme:

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: assessment (4000 word equivalent)

GRT-40028 Researcher Skills: assessment (4000 word equivalent).

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.

The Criminology and Criminal Justice programme is assessed by summative assessment essays (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.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess achievement of learning outcomes. Students will also be assessed formatively to enable them to monitor their own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how students can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within 15 working days of submission (unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible - students will be notified in such circumstances), and more informally in the course of seminar discussions and one-to-one discussions with staff.

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for students on the programme is provided by module block tutors and the programme director. Students will also be allocated an individual 'personal' academic mentor (for part-time MA students this will be their dissertation supervisor). All members of staff working on the programme offer weekly office hours and are also available via e-mail and MS Teams to discuss issues with students remotely. 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 the Keele Learning Environment (KLE).

Preparatory reading and material is available in advance, including supporting lecture materials, power-point presentations, reading lists, and tutorial hand-outs to ensure that students have learning resources available to them outside of the block teaching timetable. The virtual group working functions of the KLE and MS Teams can also be employed to ensure that students are able to communicate with tutors / supervisors when they are not physically at University.

All staff teaching on the programme offer weekly office hours where students can meet staff on a one to one basis. For students who do not live locally, in the periods between taught blocks student are able to arrange meetings remotely with staff via Microsoft Teams.

As a contingency in the Covid period or related potential civil emergency situations, we are also able to utilise MS Teams and our online KLE presence to facilitate emergency distance learning delivery if/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 (Keele Postgraduate Association - KPA) Services.

14. Learning Resources

The MA Criminology and Criminal Justice is taught in teaching rooms equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

The extensive collection of criminological materials relevant to Postgraduate study held in the University Library. The MA Criminology at Keele first ran in 1968, and Library resources for students on this programme have been built up throughout this extended period of delivering criminology at this level. These materials include books, journals and government publications, including a significant and growing number that are available in electronic format online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.

The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, digitised readings electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.

Modules all have a topic specific list of readings to support sessions as well as general and further reading and related resources available via the KLE.

Students registered for programmes at Keele have access to the full Office365 suite of programmes and apps and can install office programmes on their personal PC/Laptop.

15. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

16. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

17. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (2022): https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/criminology
c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 18 April 2023

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2022/23	MARY CORCORAN	09 August 2022	