

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2022-23

What are programme specifications?

Programme specifications focus on single programmes of study (or courses), and outline the intended knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes of a student completing that course. A programme specification also gives details of teaching and assessment methods as well as linking the course to the framework for HE qualifications and any subsequent professional qualification and career path. The University of Manchester has programme specifications for the programmes of study that it offers.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of study
MA	Masters of Arts in Criminology	12 months	Full-time
		24 months	Part-time
PgDip (Exit award only)	Postgraduate Diploma in Criminology	9 months	Full-time
		24 months	Part-time

School	School of Social Sciences
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Awarding Institution	The University of Manchester
Programme Accreditation	none
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	Criminology
Level of Programme with the FHEQ	Masters Further information on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications can be found at: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf
Degree Regulations	https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/policy-guidance/degree-regulations/regulation-documents/pgt-degree-regulations/

2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The MA programme aims to:

01.	Develop students' intellectual, critical and analytic skills in the academic areas of criminology and criminal justice.
02.	Produce graduates who have a thorough understanding of the key theoretical and political positions and concepts within criminology and criminal justice and the ability to use this knowledge in sophisticated ways in the critical assessment and development of public policy and interventions.
03.	Provide students with the opportunity to explore, through a range of optional courses, particular areas of study that are either professionally relevant or of academic interest.
04.	Provide students quantitative and qualitative research method skills in a way that is consistent with the demands of the discipline and the professional market.
05.	Develop in students an appreciation for interdisciplinary studies as the only way to confront the complexity of our object of study, an interest in the applied dimension of scientific knowledge and the awareness of the ethical implications of the scientific criminological project.
06.	Enhance students' transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communication; the capacity for independent learning; the ability to reflect on the ethical and ideological components of their work; and the capacity for working cooperatively with others to produce professional outputs in a timely fashion.
07.	Develop criminological knowledge and research skills for the writing of a Masters'-level dissertation.

3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

Students on the MA programme complete 180 credits for the programme – 120 credits comprised of taught course units (each of 15 credits value), and an independent research element of the programme worth 60 credits (one Masters'-level dissertation).

Postgraduate Diploma students forego the independent research element.

A. Knowledge & Understanding

At the end of the programme, students will have:	
A1.	demonstrated a critical awareness of the functioning and goals of the different institutions and agencies that comprise the criminal justice field in the English criminal justice system, the existing research on "what works" and the interrelationship between different forms of social control;

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A2.	demonstrated a conceptual grasp of the different theoretical perspectives on crime, deviance and criminal justice, as well as specific areas of criminological research (e.g., interpersonal violence), and the capacity to critically evaluate theoretical developments in these areas;
A3.	developed an appreciation for the ethical and ideological dimensions of crime control and criminological research and the links between crime control and public policy;
A4.	recognised the methodological problems involved in the design and conduct of research and will have demonstrated knowledge of the main measurement strategies and data sources relevant to criminology and criminal justice studies;
A5.	understood the assumptions and practical implications built into criminal justice and criminological positions and how they affect policy formation and research methodologies;
A6.	demonstrated a critical awareness of research issues and methodologies related to the fields of criminology and/or criminal justice, combined with a knowledge of corresponding skills in undertaking a piece of research commensurate with Masters'-level study.



Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)
Computer laboratory sessions
Workshop, with theoretical and practical components
Small group work, including tutorials and small group projects
Student presentations and group discussions
Exposure to original literature, as opposed to standard text books, including classic texts and contemporary innovations
Formative feedback
Dissertation supervision



Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)
Written and practical examinations
Assessed coursework
Tutor and self- and peer-evaluation of (non-assessed) oral presentations or small projects
Dissertation

B. Intellectual Skills

Students will be able to:	
B1.	formulate original questions about crime and criminal justice issues;

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B2.	plan a research project from beginning to end, including the consideration of practical aspects (e.g., applying for funding, interviewer training, budgeting, time management, etc);
B3.	choose and develop the appropriate methodological solutions and analytical techniques to answer specific research questions;
B4.	synthesise and critically assess information in a systematic, analytic and comprehensive way and clearly communicate findings and conclusions;
B5.	interpret and analyse data with appropriate software and within a relevant theoretical framework;
B6.	critically evaluate and analyse current criminological and criminal justice debates and policies using relevant theories, concepts and facts;
B7	plan, conduct and produce a piece of original and independent research.



Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)
Computer laboratory sessions, with practical exercises using real data
Workshop, with theoretical and practical components
Small group work, student presentations and group discussions
Directed reading
Exposure to original literature, as opposed to standard text books, including classic texts and contemporary innovations
Formative feedback on non-assessed work
Dissertation supervision



Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)
Written and practical examinations
Assessed coursework (including essays which demand critical analysis)
Tutor and self- and peer-evaluation of (non-assessed) oral presentations or small projects
Dissertation

C. Practical Skills

Students will be able to:	
C1.	identify relevant theoretical frameworks and research to propose and formulate policies and solutions to existing problems in the criminal justice system and in the area of crime prevention; researching legal and policy information from a number of paper and electronic sources;
C2.	develop arguments in a logical coherent manner;
C3.	recognise implementation problems and other real-life difficulties derived from their economic, political and behavioural context in the operation of criminal justice programmes;
C4.	access, use and correctly cite, acknowledge and reference diverse information sources;
C5.	independently research a relevant topic in criminology or criminal justice including framing a problem, posing an argument, analysing salient factors, and raising relevant implications.



Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)
Computer laboratory sessions
Workshop
Formative feedback
Directed reading and instruction in the use of retrieval of principal electronic databases
Provision of assessed coursework guidelines
Dissertation supervision



Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)
Written and practical examinations
Assessed coursework (including essays that demand critical analysis)
Dissertation

D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

Students will be able to:	
D1.	develop creative solutions to complex problems with limited resources;
D2.	use information technology and other learning resources (libraries, searchable databases, "grey literature", etc) for self-improvement;
D3.	work and communicate effectively with others in small group settings with minimal supervision or direction from staff;
D4.	evaluate their own and other colleagues' work;

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D5.	write clear proposals and reports, avoiding unnecessary use of technical jargon, and make effective oral presentations with the proper technology;
D6.	recognise the ethical implications of professional practice;
D7.	complete an independent project of individual design within a set timescale.



Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)
Student presentations and non-assessed coursework
Formative feedback
Dissertation supervision



Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)
Formative coursework
Summative coursework
Dissertation



4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

MA CRIMINOLOGY FULL-TIME

Students on the full-time time MA Criminology programme must take course units to a total value of 120 credits. You should choose course units to a total value of 60 in semester one, and course units to the total value of another 60 credits in semester two. In semester one, you will take three core course units and select an optional course unit. In semester two, you will take one core course unit and select three optional course units.

FULL-TIME COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70561 Criminal Justice Research and Policy SOCY60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy & Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
You must select one 15 credit optional unit in semester one, and three 15 credit optional units in semester two.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM 70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM 71361 Qualitative Research Methods	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM 70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World to the UK SOCY 60412 Research Strategy and Project Management UCIL60312 Creating a Sustainable World: Interdisciplinary Applications of the Sustainable Development Goals

***LEVEL 6 modules (taught with UG). Students are only permitted to enrol on 30 credits across the programme

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MA CRIMINOLOGY PART-TIME

Students on the part-time MA Criminology programme must take course units to a total value of 120 credits over the two years of study. You should divide these credits evenly over the two years – 60 credits each year.

The 120 credits are made up of 4 core course units that have to be taken across the two years of the programme with a total value of 60 credits. In year one you must select a total of 45 credits with the remaining 15 credits taken in year two. The remaining 60 credits must be selected from the optional lists.

The optional units change from year to year. Below is the list of optional course units available for the 2022-2023 academic year. There may be some changes for the 2023-2024 academic year (when your second year will commence), so this list is only meant to be indicative of options that will be available to you.

YEAR ONE COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
<p>You must select three 15 credit core units. We recommend that in year one you choose two core units from semester one and take the core unit, CRIM 70452 Evaluating Policy & Practice, in semester two.</p>	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<p><u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70561 Criminal Justice Research and Policy SOCY60401 Research Design I</p>	<p><u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy & Practice</p>
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
<p>You must select one 15 credit optional course unit in semester two.</p>	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<p>There are no optional course units in semester one.</p>	<p><u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM 70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World to the UK SOCY 60412 Research Strategy and Project Management UCIL60312 Creating a Sustainable World: Interdisciplinary Applications of the Sustainable Development Goals</p>

*****LEVEL 6 modules (taught with UG). Students are only permitted to enrol on 30 credits across the programme**

YEAR TWO COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
You must select the remaining core course unit(s) – the one(s) you did not select in year one.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70561 Criminal Justice Research and Policy SOCY60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy and Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
You must select three 15 credit optional course units.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM71361 Qualitative Research Methods	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM 70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World to the UK SOCY 60412 Research Strategy and Project Management UCIL60312 Creating a Sustainable World: Interdisciplinary Applications of the Sustainable Development Goals

*****LEVEL 6 modules** (taught with UG). Students are only permitted to enrol on 30 credits across the programme

IMPORTANT: At this stage, you should only select course units for year one of the programmes. You will make your selection of course units for year two of the programme in September 2023.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA CRIMINOLOGY FULL-TIME

Students on the full-time time Postgraduate Diploma Criminology programme must take course units to a total value of 120 credits. You should choose course units to a total value of 60 in semester one, and course units to the total value of another 60 credits in semester two. In semester one you will take three core course units and select an optional course unit. In semester two you will take one core course unit and select three optional course units.

FULL-TIME COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70561 Criminal Justice Research and Policy SOCY60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy & Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
You must select one 15 credits optional unit in semester one, and three 15 credits optional units in semester two.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM71361 Qualitative Research Methods	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM 70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World to the UK SOCY 60412 Research Strategy and Project Management UCIL60312 Creating a Sustainable World: Interdisciplinary Applications of the Sustainable Development Goals

*****LEVEL 6 modules (taught with UG). Students are only permitted to enrol on 30 credits across the programme**

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA CRIMINOLOGY PART-TIME

Students on the part-time Postgraduate Diploma Criminology programme must take course units to a total value of 120 credits over the two years of study. You should divide these credits evenly over the two years – 60 credits each year.

The 120 credits are made up of 4 core course units that have to be taken across the two years of the programme with a total value of 60 credits. In year one you must select a total of 45 credits with the remaining 15 credits taken in year two. The remaining 60 credits must be selected from the optional lists.

The optional units change from year to year. Below is the list of optional course units available for the 2022-2023 academic year. There may be some changes for the 2023-2024 academic year (when your second year will commence), so this list is only meant to be indicative of options that will be available to you.

YEAR ONE COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
You must select three core units. We recommend that you choose 2 core units from semester one and take the core unit, CRIM70452 Evaluating Policy and Practice, in semester two.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70561 Criminal Justice Research and Policy SOCY60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy & Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
You must select one 15 credit optional unit in semester two.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
There are no optional course units in semester one, year one.	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM 70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World to the UK SOCY 60412 Research Strategy and Project Management UCIL60312 Creating a Sustainable World: Interdisciplinary Applications of the Sustainable Development Goals

***LEVEL 6 modules (taught with UG). Students are only permitted to enrol on 30 credits across the programme

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YEAR TWO COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
You must select one core unit – the one you did not select in year one.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70561 Criminal Justice Research and Policy SOCY60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy and Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
You must select three 15 credit optional units.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM71361 Qualitative Research Methods	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM 70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World to the UK SOCY 60412 Research Strategy and Project Management UCIL60312 Creating a Sustainable World: Interdisciplinary Applications of the Sustainable Development Goals

*****LEVEL 6 modules (taught with UG). Students are only permitted to enrol on 30 credits across the programme**

IMPORTANT: At this stage, you should only select course units for year one of the programmes. You will make your selection of course units for year two of the programme in September 2023.

5. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

(in order to deliver the intended learning outcomes)

A. Student Induction

Information regarding induction activities and registration processes is available to prospective students electronically (via a “registration webpage”) around eight weeks before the start of the first semester. The information can also be sent to students by post as a “pre-registration pack”.

Before the delivery of the programme’s taught course units commences, students undergo a one-week period of **induction**. In the week of induction, students attend an orientation lecture by those responsible for the delivery of the programme in which the expectations and aims of the programme are explained. Also in this first week, students attend introductory sessions to the University’s **library and computer facilities**.

Students receive a copy of the **programme handbook**, in which all aspects of the programme are comprehensively outlined, during their first week in the School. In the orientation lecture, the importance of the programme handbook (as a point of reference throughout their time on the programme) is underlined to students. The programme handbook is also made available electronically on Blackboard.

B. Student Support

Each student is assigned an academic adviser within the first few weeks of semester one. **Academic advisers** are expected to deal with pastoral matters, and are key to the School’s student support structure, with students able to develop a Personal Development Plan with their adviser. All members of School academic staff publish and display their weekly “office hours”, and during which times students are able to see their academic adviser without appointment. Students are required to see academic advisers at certain intervals, and times are arranged for this purpose. Meetings between academic adviser and students can take place outside of the adviser’s office hours, but in such instances the student would need to have arranged this with the academic adviser beforehand. Additionally, an adviser would endeavour to arrange a meeting with his/her advisee if the advisee’s work and attendance gave cause for concern.

Course unit directors and/or the programme director would be expected to try to resolve the specifically-academic issues of a student on the programme whilst a semester’s teaching is ongoing. Feedback on assessed coursework (including a provisional mark) can be collected by students from their academic advisers a week or two prior to the official publication of provisional results, with any issues that arise to be discussed between student and academic adviser.

Appointments can also be made with academic staff by students who are not the academic advisees of the member of staff in question to discuss academic, rather than pastoral, matters (for instance, if a student has a question relating to course unit teaching or material).

For current overseas students, the School – in co-operation with staff from the University’s Language Centre – runs sessions throughout the academic year, specifically designed to improve students’ **English language skills**. All overseas students are able to attend these classes.

Course unit workshops incorporate seminars and tutorials, meaning that students are supported in their academic work in an individual and personalised way. Students are expected and encouraged to participate in various group activities designed to enhance the learning process, and thus are provided with an opportunity to acquire a variety of oral and written communication skills. Course unit directors can set non-assessed essay titles and invite students to submit essays, in an effort to provide detailed and constructive formative feedback to students. Course unit directors can identify students who have academic problems and in such cases, the student concerned would be referred to his/her academic adviser and/or the programme director, as appropriate.

I.T. support is available on the IT Services website. The training materials cover many of the popular IT applications used at the University.

Staff responsible for the delivery of teaching within a course unit (principally course unit directors) are able to provide handouts and supplements to their sessions electronically via the University's online **Blackboard** programme, and most do take advantage of this opportunity.

Examination Feedback sessions are provided for students, just after they have received their semester one provisional results.

Direction and Feedback Sessions are provided for every course unit (one hour per week) when students can go and get advice/feedback on the course unit.

Throughout the delivery of the programme, students will incrementally receive positive **advice on research, writing and the use of sources, and also advice on the rules concerning plagiarism** – among other aspects conducive to producing written work of a high standard. Plagiarism (whether intentional or unintentional) is a particularly important aspect to ensure that students are aware of, as all written work is subjected to the plagiarism detection software *Turnitin* in an effort by the School to rigorously ensure that academic standards are maintained.

MA students are allocated a **dissertation** supervisor for **supervision** of the research element of the programme. This member of staff also usually acts as an advisor for the next step from the MA, e.g. providing a reference. A timetable of significant events in the dissertation process (eg. proposal and approval of title, a notice of final submission) is provided in the programme handbook.

Research Skills: Specialised support is offered in The School of Social Sciences for use of online research tools, eg. the LEXIS/NEXIS databases.

Student representatives are chosen at the beginning of the academic year. The representatives are invited to all relevant School Committee and Board meetings (for unreserved business), and so aid in the decision-making processes which affect the student experience generally.

C. Student Development

The School operates a **Personal Academic Development (PADP) Scheme**, and all students are invited to complete a PADP form twice a year. Meetings with the individual student's Academic Adviser are arranged, at which the completed form can be discussed.

Further information on the University Central Support Services can be found at:

[Student Support | The University of Manchester](#)

6. MECHANISMS FOR PROGRAMME REVISION

Within the School of Social Sciences, programmes are annually monitored through the Teaching and Learning Committee with the annual review of programmes being a regular agenda item.

In addition, student questionnaires are reviewed by the Director of Teaching and Learning.

There are regular Staff Student Committees that feeds back to the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Strategic Management Team.

7. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions criteria of the University and of the School in at least one of the following ways:

- Degree qualification equivalent to a 2i in a relevant discipline (social science, law, criminology, psychology, government, etc)
- AND English language proficiency of IELTS 7 or TOEFL 625.

8. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The minimum pass mark for each course unit is 50% (for Masters' students).
The minimum pass mark for Postgraduate Diploma students for each course unit is 40%.

Full details of assessment and compensation arrangements are outlined in detail in the programme handbook. The School operates standard University degree regulations for the awards of Master, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate.

The University's degree regulations can be found online at:

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlao/map/teachinglearningassessment/teaching/degeregulations/>

Classification Criteria

(as per programme handbook)

70 - 100%	Distinction
60 - 69%	Merit
50 - 59%	Pass (Masters' level)
40 - 49%	Pass (Diploma level)
0 - 39%	Fail

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