

The University of Manchester
Programme Specification for MRes in Criminology

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2022-2023

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
MRes	Master of Research in Criminology	12 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/

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2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The MRes programme aims to:

01.	Meet national and regional demands for new research and policy-oriented competencies in criminology or socio-legal studies;
02.	Provide advanced, systematic and critical knowledge of research methods and theoretical arguments in criminology or socio-legal studies which are at the forefront of the subject area in the context of a vibrant research context;
03.	Offer a programme integrating a grounding in research methodology with the understanding of the implications for policy;
04.	Offer students the opportunity for developing their understanding of the key theoretical and epistemological debates within the subject area and to assist them to engage in theoretical debates at an advanced postgraduate level;
05.	Provide formal, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary training for students in research methodology and transferable employment-related skills;
06.	Prepare students for PhD level research careers in academic life or as professionals in government and voluntary agencies;
07.	Contribute to the national need for skilled social science researchers in criminological, socio-legal and related matters;
08.	Train students to appreciate the relationship between research on the one hand and the implementation and operation of policy and practice in the implementation of justice;
09.	Provide graduates with the tools for further research/study in criminology and/or socio-legal studies.

3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

Students on the MRes 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).

A. Knowledge & Understanding

At the end of the programme, students will have:	
A1.	demonstrated a critical awareness of conceptual and epistemological issues relating to theory formation and research design;

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A2.	shown a conceptual grasp of the different theoretical perspectives on crime, deviance, criminal justice and the relationship between law and society, as well as specific areas of criminological and socio-legal 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 criminological and socio-legal research and the links between these bodies of research 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 socio-legal studies;
A5.	demonstrated an understanding of analytical strategies and techniques for quantitative and qualitative data;
A6.	demonstrated a critical awareness of research issues and methodologies related to the fields of criminology and/or socio-legal studies, 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 the original literature, as opposed to standard textbooks, 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 the original literature, as opposed to standard textbooks, 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 that 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;

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C2.	develop arguments in a logically 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 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 which 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;
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.

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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

MRES CRIMINOLOGY FULL-TIME

Students on the full-time time MRes Criminology programme must take course units to a total value of 120 credits: 60 credits in each semester.

The 120 credits are made up of 5 core course units (75 credits) and 3 optional course units (45 credits).

You will be automatically enrolled in the 75 credits core course units. You must select 45 credits for semester two from the *semester two optional course unit list*.

FULL-TIME COURSE UNIT REQUIREMENT

CORE COURSE UNITS	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM71361 Qualitative Research Methods SOCY60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy & Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
You must select two 15 credit optional course units in semester two.	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
There are no optional course units in semester one.	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World in the UK SOCY60412 Research Strategy & Project Management SOST70172 Qualitative Evaluation of Policies, Interventions and Experiments (QEPIE) 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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MRES CRIMINOLOGY PART-TIME

Students on the part-time MRes 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 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

You should complete 60 credits – 30 credits per semester:

- 3 core units (45 credits) must be selected. You must select **two core units** for semester one (30 credits) and you will be automatically enrolled in **CRIM70452 Evaluating Policy and Practice** for semester two (15 credits).
- 1 optional course unit (15 credits) in semester 2.

CORE COURSE UNITS	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM71361 Qualitative Research Methods SOCY 60401 Research Design I	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70542 Evaluating Policy & Practice
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
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*** CRIM70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World in the UK SOCY60412 Research Strategy & Project Management SOST70172 Qualitative Evaluation of Policies, Interventions and Experiments (QEPIE) 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

You should complete 60 credits – 30 credits per semester:

- 2 core units (30 credits of core course unit that you did not select in year one); and
- 2 optional course units (30 credits)

CORE COURSE UNITS	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM70501 Advanced Theoretical Criminology CRIM70821 Data Analysis with R and RStudio CRIM71361 Qualitative Research Methods SOCY60401 Research Design I	There are no core course units in semester two, year two.
OPTIONAL COURSE UNITS	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
There are no optional course units in semester one, year two.	<u>15 Credit Course Units</u> CRIM60142 Crime Mapping: Intro to GIS and Spatial Analysis*** CRIM70552 Understanding Violence CRIM70572 Drugs, Markets, Policies and Consumption CRIM72212 Prisons: Exploring the Carceral World in the UK SOCY60412 Research Strategy & Project Management SOST70172 Qualitative Evaluation of Policies, Interventions and Experiments (QEPIE) 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.

Please note that optional course units are subject to change each academic year. This list above is only meant to be indicative of options that may be available to you.

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”, during which times students are able to see their academic adviser without an appointment. Students are required to see academic advisers at certain intervals, and times are arranged for this purpose. Meetings between academic advisers 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 the 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.

MRes 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 MRes, e.g. providing a reference. A timetable of significant events in the dissertation process (e.g. 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, e.g. 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).

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/degreeregulations/>

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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