Programme Specification 2025-26

1.	Programme title	MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	1 Middlesex University London
3b	Language of study	English

4a	Valid intake dates and mode of study	

Mode of Study	Cohort	Delivery Location	Duration
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Hendon	1 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Hendon	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Hendon	2 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Hendon	2 Years

4c	Delivery method	On Campus/Blended Learning

5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body (if applicable)
N/A

6.	Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)	N/A

7. Final qualification(s) available
Target Award Title(s)
MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology
Exit Award Title(s)
PGCert Criminology with Forensic Psychology
PGDip Criminology with Forensic Psychology

8. Academic year effective from	2025-26

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants must have a minimum of a 2:2 undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related discipline, or an equivalent qualification.

Applicants with other qualifications and/or substantial work experience in the field of criminology will also be considered under the Recognition of Prior Learning scheme. Past learning or experience will be mapped against existing programme modules and academic credit may be awarded towards the programme of study.

Overseas applicants should be competent in English and have achieved as a minimum IELTS. Overall, 6.5 with a minimum 6.0 in each component. We normally require Grade C GCSE or an equivalent qualification. Applicants with a disability can enter the programme. The programme team have experience of adapting teaching provision to accommodate a range of disabilities and learning difficulties and welcome applications.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

Provide high quality teaching and learning relevant to the needs of students preparing to enter, or already employed within the overlapping fields of criminology, forensic psychology and applied practice.

Develop students' critical awareness of the variety of criminological and forensic psychology theories and explanations regarding the aetiology and origins of offending, with an appreciation for the way systems often intertwine with power and privilege and can marginalize certain groups of people

Advance students' capability to analyse, interpret and evaluate research evidence produced within the interconnected fields of criminology and forensic psychology and apply results in a critically informed way to policy and practice

Develop an up-to-date, in-depth knowledge and understanding of forensic psychology professional practice within different criminal justice, justice system and health treatment settings.

Equip students with the skills and ability to design and conduct original research or a systematic workplace-based case study

11. Programme learning outcomes

Programme - Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have a knowledge and understanding of:

1. Contemporary theories, concepts and debates at the forefront of the overlapping disciplines of criminology and forensic psychology relevant to understandings of specific forms of crime and offending, justice system responses and behavioural and health treatment interventions

2. The major criminal justice institutions in which dimensions of human psychology intersect and on which law and justice system responses are based (e.g. policing and security, the courts, prisons and punishment)

3.	The importance of critical thinking and how incorporating social justice, diversity and inclusion knowledge into understandings of human behaviour helps to develop of more nuanced and empathetic understandings of the world around us
4.	The application of results from evidence-based research relating to the delivery of offender behaviour change programmes aimed at preventing recidivism and the ways in which they are evaluated and systematically reviewed
5.	Forensic psychology professional practice and the form it takes within different criminal justice, justice system and health treatment settings
6.	Different mixed-method research methodologies, the contexts in which to apply them and the practical, ethical and moral underpinnings of conducting empirical research

Programme - Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

7.	Locate module topics and debates within the wider context and awareness of societal problems that impact people, so that the current challenges and opportunities -locally, nationally and globally – are being engaged within in current, meaningful and solution-focused ways
8.	Demonstrate 'psychological literacy' and capability to use disciplinary knowledge, theoretical understanding, principles, and insight to respond to opportunities and challenges that exist within the overlapping area of criminology and psychology
9.	Critically assess and apply theoretical perspectives to specific areas of research, policy, and practice in the overlapping fields of criminal and forensic psychology
10.	Critically assess recent research and scholarship from a range of disciplines relevant to the overlapping fields of criminology and forensic psychology.
11.	Analyse and interpret quantitative and textual data to deduce significant findings
12.	Retrieve, synthesise and evaluate a wide range of information resources and evidence and formulate structured arguments and conclusions based on evidence.
13.	Design and conduct an original empirical research project or a systematic workplace case study that is informed by wide and current understandings in criminology and forensic psychology
14.	Produce a substantial piece of written work to a high academic standard and communicate clearly to a specialist audience.

12. Teaching/learning methods
Students gain knowledge and understanding through interactive and participatory taught classroom sessions in which research-informed teaching is foregrounded, student-led seminars, individual tutorials, forensic psychology practice-based practical exercises, classroom role play exercises that develop students' client-facing interpersonal skills, specialist guest lectures, field visits relevant to the intersecting disciplines of criminology and forensic psychology, such as to the criminal courts where criminal justice proceedings are observed and dimensions of psychological understandings and assessments are necessary and to the prisons where students learn about the psychiatric and psychological etc.), as

well as through directed independent study. Learning is supported by the provision of handbooks, reading lists and web-based materials.

Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours
FT 8 hours per week on-campus

PT 4 hours (average)

Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate)

FT 42 hours per week
PT 21 hours (average)

Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate).
FT / PT 29 timetabled hours for seminar sessions (12 x 2 hours) + 5 hours individual supervision = Total 29 timetabled hours)
Independent hours: 523
Placement hours: 48

13. Employability

13a Development of graduate competencies

13b Employability development

A range of graduate competencies are developed throughout the programme which positions students well for the workplace and professional employment settings they go onto. Students are taught to locate their criminology and psychology study within its wider interdisciplinary context, integrating understandings from criminal justice, law, the social sciences, policing, health sciences and policy studies etc. and are encouraged to articulate the results from research, policy and practice. With this, students are able to demonstrate their contribution to creating genuine impact and ideas for social change and is evidence they are operating with a strategic entrepreneurial mindset, leadership and innovation and independent learning.

Different modules on the programme develop students' professional skills relevant to real world workplace settings, ethical practice and professional integrity. The independent research dissertation project or the placement or work-based experience students undertake, develops their competencies in leading research initiatives, or a professional projects and evidences planning and organizational skills. It enables them to demonstrate exercising authority in shaping the direction of academic work, they influence they make with relevant stakeholders building effective communication, insight, and expertise.

Small group and team work in class sessions builds students confidence and interpersonal and collaboration skills that are critical in workplace and employment environments. It facilitates knowledge exchange, applies critical thinking and advanced problem-solving skills within teams, respectfully challenging peers to ensure creative, positive outcomes.

The core 'Research Strategies in the Social Sciences' module builds students capabilities and technological agility, through the experience and competence gained with using computer-

assisted data analysis tools such as SPSS and NVIVO. Other modules, such as 'Terrorism and Violent Extremism', 'Cyber Safety, Security and Practice', AI, Ethics and Digital Society' etc. also incorporate knowledge and awareness and use of cutting-edge tools and platforms to enhance research, innovation, and professional practice. Students are able to demonstrate they are adapting to and are competent in the world of rapid and changing technological landscapes, including the emergence of generative AI, understanding and utilising new technologies or techniques that are transformative to the field and ensuring that technological solutions are applied ethically and effectively.

Employability development is embedded throughout the programme via the content and purpose of specific modules e.g. Forensic Psychology and Psychological Interventions, Criminal Justice, Courts and Prisons, Policing and Investigative Psychology etc. and within the law, policy and professional practice considerations students are having to engage with across modules.

A range of modules embed real world workplace tasks and activities e.g. the interpretation of individual risk assessments used in prison and probation settings that grant certain privileges or restrictions, the allocation of specific offending behavior programmes, establish attendance monitoring and frequency in probation. The core 30 credit Forensic Psychology and Psychological Interventions is utilizing role play activities.

Employability is embedded within the programme through the development of specific applied research skills, policy analysis techniques and through engagement with external stakeholders and professional practice. Applied research methods are taught in the research methods module and further advanced through the dissertation research project, developing students' 'doing research' and independent research project competencies. Students are being trained in the use of computer-assisted data analysis tools such as SPSS and NVIVO that are transferrable to workplace settings. The placement and work-based experience modules are located within processes of reflective practice and curriculums are designed with justice system sector assessments related to real life and real employment-oriented scenarios and professional practice.

Guest speakers working in different criminal justice agencies (i.e. H.M. Inspectorate of Prisons) and in forensic psychology roles in different settings will be utilized. Assessment exercises that assist reflective, critical thinking on the operation of forensic psychology within different criminal justice institutions and health settings will be designed into curricula.

13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)

N/A

13d Future careers / progression

A wide range of career options are available to graduates of this course. The programme equips students for employment in posts working directly with adults and young people who are receiving rehabilitative, educational, pro-social and relational skills-building support in prison settings or within community-based probation settings. A multitude of voluntary and third sector organisations deliver support services for crime victims, victims' families, those experiencing different forms of trauma and coping issues, such as refugee and asylum seeker groups, those with adverse childhood experiences etc. There are many important administrative posts in prisons working on sentenced prisoners' rehabilitation plans, prisoner health and well-being support, such as mental health, drugs and alcohol problems etc., roles within various charitable organisations and therapeutic projects applying psychological treatment and cognitive-thinking techniques to prevent recidivism. Students are also equipped for office-based positions engaging in research, data analysis, and programme

evaluation offered by research organisations, the charitable and voluntary sector, in Ministry of Justice Departments such as the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), policing organisations, and the UK government's high-level crime fighting agency the National Crime Agency (NCA). local and international policing organisations (INTERPOL), Metropolitan and UK police in specialised back office roles, the Office for National Statistics ONS), Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) positions, forensic mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment agencies, among others.

The programme also enables students to build applied theoretical, research and practice skills that assist promotion within their organization. International students return to countries of origin able to progress within their organisations and the opportunity to continue studies at PhD level is also an option.

14. Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is
assessed by:
• Range of written assignments
• Project and portfolio work
• Empirical research or analysis of data
• Case studies
• Observation

Students' skills are assessed by
• Individual seminar and recorded presentations
• Range of written assignments
• Project and portfolio work
.• Empirical research or analysis of data
• Case studies
• Observation

15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)

This degree combines core modules in criminology and forensic psychology with optional modules on topics including drugs, trans-national crime and conflict, policing, terrorism and the major institutions of criminal justice. The programme is delivered within the Criminology and Sociology Department in the School of Law, with the forensic psychology component taught by colleagues with specialisms in criminological psychology.

The course is of special interest to those without a first degree in psychology but with a particular interest in psychological perspectives on crime and criminal justice. All staff delivering modules on the course are engaged in research that informs their teaching on the programme.

Students have the opportunity to study modules on criminology programmes with our European partner universities supported by Erasmus funding.

Students studying this master's degree at Middlesex will benefit from expert guest lectures. In past years observational visits to the criminal courts have assisted with developing knowledge of psycho-legal court room decision-making and a visit to an adult prison has

built an understanding of imprisoned populations and the psycho-social intervention programmes operating within prisons. In 2020-21 such field visits will not be possible, but module teaching will incorporate specialist guest lectures delivered by experts working in these fields, together with the areas such as offender management, gangs, policing, prisoner care and welfare, and forensic psychology.

Students on the MSc are encouraged to participate in the Common Studies Programme in Critical Criminology, to be held either online or face-to-face. This is an opportunity to build links with postgraduate criminologists studying in universities across Europe including Athens, Barcelona, Ghent, Hamburg, Rotterdam, and also at John Jay College in New York.

You will be taught by experts from both Psychology and Criminology who have a wealth of specialist knowledge and research experience between them, including Dr Elena Martellozzo, who offers regular expert advice about online child safety to the Metropolitan Police.

Other research interests within the team include the criminal courts and justice administration; the treatment of mentally disordered offenders; drug policy and practice; violence towards sex workers; collective protest and social movements; organised crime and corruption; and penal abolitionism.

Structure is indicative for Part-time routes.

Students must take all of the compulsory modules and choose following programme requirements from the optional modules.

Non-compensatable modules are noted below.

Available Pathways
Not Applicable

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4634	Compulsory	Criminal Justice, Courts and Prisons 2025-26	30 at Level 7
CRM4624	Compulsory	Policing and Investigate Psychology 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4632	Compulsory	Forensic Psychology and Psychological Interventions 2025-26	30 at Level 7
CRM4633	Compulsory	Global Criminology: From Theory to Practice 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4629	Compulsory	Research Strategies in Social Sciences 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT Optional Modules

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4618	Optional	Drugs and Crime 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4635	Optional	Cyber Safety, Security and Practice 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4806	Optional	Climate Justice 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4637	Optional	AI, Ethics, and Digital Society 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4802	Optional	Intersectionality in Practice 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4636	Optional	Terrorism and Violent Extremism – Transformations and Responses 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4630	Optional	Text Mining and Analysis 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4623	Optional	Short Term Placement 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT Dissertation Option

Semester 2

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4617	Optional	Dissertation 2025-26	60 at Level 7
CRM4631	Optional	Work Based Project 2025-26	60 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 September Start PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4629	Compulsory	Research Strategies in Social Sciences 2026-	15 at Level 7

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
		27	
CRM4633	Compulsory	Global Criminology: From Theory to Practice 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4632	Compulsory	Forensic Psychology and Psychological Interventions 2026-27	30 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 September Start PT Level 7 September Start PT Optional Module Selection

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4637	Optional	AI, Ethics, and Digital Society 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4806	Optional	Climate Justice 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4635	Optional	Cyber Safety, Security and Practice 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4618	Optional	Drugs and Crime 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4802	Optional	Intersectionality in Practice 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4636	Optional	Terrorism and Violent Extremism – Transformations and Responses 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4630	Optional	Text Mining and Analysis 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4623	Optional	Short Term Placement 2026-27	15 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 September Start PT Dissertation Options

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
CRM4617	Optional	Dissertation 2026-27	60 at Level 7
CRM4631	Optional	Work Based Project 2026-27	60 at Level 7

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

16. Programme-specific support for learning
A wide range of academic and learning support services are available to students on the MSc. Criminology with Forensic Psychology. An introduction to the library, on-line resource collections and the on-line learning blackboard are provided at induction. Academic skills and writing workshops are held at different points throughout the programme covering the use of the library catalogues, searching databases and developing good practice in academic writing. Ongoing advice, information and support is available from the Learner Enhancement Team (LET). Students are encouraged to take full advantage of these university-level support schemes and facilities during their studies. The library holds copies and electronic versions of core texts and recommended reading on the MSc Criminology with Forensic Psychology. Material not in stock but required for individual research/dissertations can be obtained via the British Library on completion of a request form. The UK Libraries Plus Scheme also provides access to local participating libraries. Students can apply to join this scheme at the library enquiries desk. Additional workshops are organised within Criminology and Sociology to develop students' computer aided data analysis skills.

17. HECos code(s)	100387: Forensic Psychology
17. HECos code(s)	100484: Criminology

18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	

19. University Regulations
This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: Policies	Middlesex University

20. Reference points

21. Other information *(if applicable)*

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

22b. Mapping by level of study and module

Module Title Level 7	Module Code by Level of study	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Forensic Psychology & Psychological Interventions	CRM4632	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Global Criminology: From Theory to Practice	CRM4633	x		x		x	x		x	x		x			
Research Strategies in Social Sciences	CRM4629		x	x		x	x				x	x			
Criminal Justice, Courts and Prisons	CRM4634	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x			
Policing and Investigative Psychology	CRM4624	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			
Dissertation *Or Work-based Experience below*	CRM4617		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Work-based Experience	CRM4631		x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Option modules															
Terrorism and Violent Extremism	CRM4636	x		x		x	x			x					
Drugs and Crime	CRM4618			x		x	x			x					
Text Mining and Analysis	CRM4630					x	x			x					
AI, Ethics and Digital Society	CRM4637			x		x	x			x					
Intersectionality in Practice	SSC4802			x			x			x					
Climate Justice	SSC4806			x		x	x			x					
Cyber Safety, Security and Practice	CRM4635			x		x	x		x	x					
Short Semester placement	CRM4623			x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	