

Programme Specification

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Please check the Programme Directory for the most up to date version:

[UG Programme Directory](#)

[PG Programme Directory](#)

Section 1 – regulatory details				
1.1	Awarding body	Wrexham University		
1.2	Teaching institution	Wrexham University		
1.3	Final award and programme title (Welsh and English)	BA (Anrh) Troseddeg a Chyfiawnder Troseddol BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice		
1.4	Exit awards and titles	BA Criminology and Criminal Justice Diploma HE Criminology and Criminal Justice Certificate of HE Criminology and Criminal Justice		
1.5	Credit requirements	- Students successfully completing 360 credits may be awarded a BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice - Students successfully completing 300 credits at Level 6 may be awarded a Bachelor’s degree (Ordinary) Criminology and Criminal Justice - Students successfully completing 240 credits at Level 5 may be awarded a Diploma of Higher Education Criminology and Criminal Justice - Students successfully completing 120 credits at Level 4 may be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education Criminology and Criminal Justice		
1.6	Intake points	September		
1.7	Mode of study	Full & part time		
1.8	Length of delivery	3 years full time 6 years part time		
1.9	Location of delivery	Plas Coch Campus		
1.10	Mode of delivery	Full time	In person	
		Part time	In person	
1.11	Language of delivery	English		
1.12	Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences (FSLS)		
1.13	Subject area	Criminal Justice		
1.14	HECoS Code	100483 100484 100485		
1.15	Suitable for applicants requiring a Student Visa?	Full time	In person	Yes
		Part time	In person	No

Section 1 – regulatory details		
1.16	Is DBS check required on entry?	No DBS is required for enrolment onto these programmes, however in line with the Universities Disciplinary procedure for students, all students are required to disclose a criminal record acquired either before or during the student's enrolment with the University.
1.17	Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation	None
1.18	Welsh Medium Provision	The programmes will be delivered through the medium of English. Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.
1.19	External reference points	QAA Subject Benchmark Statements Criminology 2019 QAA Characteristics Statements Higher Education Credit Framework (2014) CQFW (2003; 2015)
1.20	Derogation to Academic Regulations	None
1.21	Foundation Year route	N/A
1.22	Placement / Work based learning	Work based learning will be facilitated through a specific work-based learning module.
1.23	Length and level of the placement	Level 5 50 hours
1.24	Collaborative arrangement	None

Section 2 – programme details	
2.1 Aims of the programme	
The broader aims of the programmes are: - To develop a critical appreciation of the socio-political and contested nature of 'crime'; how a range of behaviours become criminalised and how 'justice' may be defined. - To develop a critical appreciation of the practices and principles underpinning approaches to prevent, investigate and respond to a wide range of contemporary crimes. - To develop a critical appreciation of the impact of social diversity and inequality in a comprehensive range of criminal justice contexts and process. - To enable students to critically assess and make a contribution to the research base informing criminology and criminal justice knowledge and practice. - To develop students' appreciation of the standards and professional discipline required to pursue a career in the criminal justice arena.	

2.2 Programme structure and diagram, including delivery schedule

Full-time Programme Structure					
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)
4	POL401	Study Skills in Higher Education	20	Core	1
4	SOC465	Signal Crimes and Criminals	20	Core	1
4	SOC479	Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice	20	Core	1
4	SOC467	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	20	Option	2
4	SOC478	Drugs, Alcohol and Crime	20	Option	2
4	SOC477	Crime, Society and Social Policy	20	Option	2
4	SOC480	Attachment, Trauma and Crime	20	Option	2
5	SOC573	Social Difference and Inequality	20	Core	1
5	SOC574	Criminology	20	Core	1
5	SOC575	Criminal Law	20	Option	1
5	SOC576	Work Based Learning (Criminal Justice)	20	Option	1 and 2
5	SOC572	Crime and Criminal Behaviour	20	Core	2
5	SOC542	Research Methods	20	Core	2
5	SOC571	Working in Custodial and Community Settings with People Who Have Offended	20	Option	2
6	SOC661	Control, Justice and Punishment	20	Core	1
6	SOC673	Dissertation	20	Core	1 and 2
6	SOC660	Youth Justice	20	Optional	1
6	SOC664	Constructing Guilt and Innocence	20	Option	2
6	SOC670	Multi-Agency Working to Manage Risk and Dangerousness	20	Option	2
6	SOC672	Terrorism	20	Option	2
6	POL605	Policing Contemporary Communities	20	Option	2

Part-time Programme Structure						
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)	Year of Study (PT only)
4	POL401	Study Skills in Higher Education	20	Core	Sem 1	Y1
4	SOC479	Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice	20	Core	Sem 1	Y1
4	SOC465	Signal Crimes and Criminals	20	Core	Sem 1	Y2
4	SOC478	Drugs, Alcohol and Crime	20	Optional	Sem 2	Y1 or Y2
4	SOC477	Crime, Society and Social Policy	20	Optional	Sem 2	Y1 or Y2
4	SOC480	Attachment, Trauma and Crime	20	Optional	Sem 2	Y1 or Y2
4	SOC467	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	20	Optional	Sem 2	Y1 or Y2
5	SOC573	Social Difference and Inequality	20	Core	Sem 1	Y3

Part-time Programme Structure						
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/ Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)	Year of Study (PT only)
5	SOC574	Criminology	20	Core	Sem 1	Y3
5	SOC571	Crime and Criminal Behaviour	20	Core	Sem 2	Y3
5	SOC575	Criminal Law	20	Option	Sem 1	Y4
5	SOC576	Work based Learning (Criminal Justice)	20	Option	Sem 1	Y4
5	SOC542	Research Methods	20	Core	Sem 2	Y4
5	SOC571	Working in Custodial and Community Settings with People Who Have Offended	20	Option	Sem 2	Y4
6	SOC661	Control, Justice and Punishment	20	Core	Sem 1	Y5
6	SOC660	Youth Justice	20	Option	Sem 1	Y5
6	SOC664	Constructing Guilt and Innocence	20	Option	Sem 2	Y5 or Y6
6	SOC670	Multi-Agency Working to Manage Risk and Dangerousness	20	Option	Sem 2	Y5 or Y6
6	SOC672	Terrorism	20	Option	Sem 2	Y5 or Y6
6	POL605	Policing Contemporary Communities	20	Option	Sem 2	Y5 or Y6
6	SOC673	Dissertation	40	Core	Sem 1 and 2	Y6

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes										
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	Dip HE (L5)	Ordinary (L6)	Honours (L6)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
1	Identify and access scholarly texts and understand the fundamental principles underpinning academic scholarship.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
2	Compare and contrast criminological perspectives on crime and criminal behaviour.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
3	Critically understand the broader socio-political context which influences the governance of crime and criminal justice, and crime control processes.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
4	Critically understand the research base informing an issue of contemporary criminological concern.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
5	Explain the nature of signal crimes and key incidents that have influenced and informed the practice of criminal justice.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
6	Explain the relationship between crime, victimisation and social divisions such as age, gender, sexuality, social class, race, language, ethnicity and religious faith.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
7	Critically evaluate the processes that influence how individuals become caught up and criminalised by the criminal justice process.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
8	Identify and apply research strategies to develop further understanding of criminological phenomenon.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
9	Compare and contrast definitions of crime, map the criminal justice process and identify the social and historical development of the main institutions involved in crime control.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
10	Evaluate different sources of information about crime and victimisation, both quantitative and qualitative, and how they are produced - including their location in particular ideological and methodological frameworks.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes										
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	Dip HE (L5)	Ordinary (L6)	Honours (L6)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
11	Critically assess the development, role, organisation and governance of efforts to reduce and prevent crime, deviance and harm, and to ensure personal and public safety in relation to a range of offending behaviours or offender groups.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
12	Apply approaches to data collection and analysis in criminological research.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
13	Assess the criminal justice related experiences of specific service user groups.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
14	Develop an in-depth understanding of the foundations, nature, scope and specifics of criminal justice practice in a range of contexts.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
15	Critically assess representations of crime and deviance, and responses to them, in political and official accounts; the mass media, new media, and in public opinion.	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
16	Critically appreciate how ethical principles are translated into defensible research practices.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
17	Carry out fundamental academic research.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
18	Identify the existence of competing priorities and identify the basis that exist for resolving moral/ ethical dilemmas where they arise.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
19	Integrate complex ideas and empirical findings, extrapolating and applying higher level knowledge within criminology.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
20	Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
21	Synthesise information from a number of sources.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
22	Problem solve.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
23	Critically reason, analyse and interpret data and ideas.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
24	Apply acquired knowledge to solving hypothetical or actual problems.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes										
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	Dip HE (L5)	Ordinary (L6)	Honours (L6)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
25	Analyse, evaluate and interpret academic texts.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
26	Extract and present key ideas and significant content from complex material.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
27	Critically analyse a situation, a condition or a problem.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
28	Present information in a clear fashion.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
29	Work as an independent learner.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
30	Identify and retrieve up-to-date information, using text and electronic sources.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
31	Read and discuss materials which are written in subject specific technical language.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
32	Present arguments in a way which are comprehensible to a range of audiences.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
33	Prepare and develop arguments and use evidence to support an argument in a formal written document.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
34	Present information in a structured and cogent manner.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
35	Identify the essence of a problem and provide a defensible analysis and solution.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
36	Apply and revise knowledge with reference to particular contexts and priorities.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
37	Plan, undertake and present an independent project.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
38	Use the English (Or Welsh) language and subject specific terminology with care and accuracy.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
39	Prepare written documents, on-line communication and effective oral Presentations.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
40	Address obstacles to role performance as a student and identify/negotiate solutions to ensure targets are met.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
41	Make a personal and reasoned judgement based on an informed understanding of standard arguments in a subject specific area	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes										
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	Dip HE (L5)	Ordinary (L6)	Honours (L6)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
42	Demonstrate written, verbal, presentation, IT, and team working skills.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	
43	Act as an accountable ethical professional.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	
44	Retrieve, assess and critically evaluate information from a wide range of legal, academic and 'grey' sources.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
45	Retrieve, assess and critically evaluate information from a wide range of academic sources.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
46	Retrieve and evaluate the merits of information from a range of sources including legal sources, government papers, academic journals and electronic databases.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	
47	Work within a framework where there are competing priorities and values and manage the tensions to advocate for a particular understanding over others.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	
48	Show advanced skills around time management and independent learning.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
49	Evidence advanced skills around time management and independent learning.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
50	Developed skills round time management and independent learning.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	
51	Work to tight deadlines to produce work of the required standard, overcoming barriers in the learning process.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	
52	Work independently as an autonomous professional.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
53	Critically reflect on and develop own performance- seeking advice and guidance where that is prudent.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
54	Function usefully as a member of a group.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	
55	Act with honesty and Integrity at all times.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	

Note: K- Knowledge and understanding; I-Intellectual Skills; S-Subject Skills; P-Practical, professional and employability skills

2.4 Learning and teaching strategy

The learning and teaching strategy used in this programme is grounded in the University's commitment to Universal Design for Learning (UDL), the key principle of which holds that students are motivated to participate in higher education when they are exposed to flexible ways of learning by staff that engage them in different ways using innovative and creative approaches. Accordingly, this programme embraces an Active Learning Framework (ALF) which supports accessible, flexible learning that creates a sense of belonging for students. In relation to all online learning, the learning material is designed with reference to the work of the Quality Assurance Agency and its [Expectations for Learning and Teaching](#) and its [Guidance on Assessing with Integrity in Digital Delivery](#).

There is a focus on future employability in the criminal justice system. Importance is attached to students developing Key Skills for Employability and the University's Strategy for Supporting Student Learning and Achievement (SSSLA). That strategy is directly aligned to the University's Vision and Strategy, focussing upon the domain 'Teaching that inspires', where learning is informed by and is relevant to the applied world of work, and students are able to leave the University as skilled, knowledgeable and entrepreneurial citizens able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Cognisant of the standards laid down in the University's 'Academic Quality Handbook', every module at postgraduate and undergraduate level is associated with a module handbook, providing full details of the aims and learning outcomes relevant to the module and how teaching will be delivered. The module handbook also provides information on the assessment vehicle, hand in dates, tutor support arrangements and a reading list.

Students studying the BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice at Wrexham University have access to multiple learning opportunities on every module, including face to face or online classes (with core and guest lecturers), seminars, access to recorded lectures, lecture notes and handouts; and directions to relevant essential and additional reading. Because class sizes are typically small (around 40 students or fewer) an interactive approach to learning can be managed and staff typically engage student with key issue by drawing on case studies and their practice experiences in the criminal justice field. Lectures are organised around lecture inputs, quizzes, recorded video content, larger and small group discussions and debates.

Outside the classroom, students are encouraged to join the University's 'criminology society' and 'policing society'. Such societies take a lead role in organising educational visits (to places of legal interest) and social events (quizzes, shows etc.) for students enrolled on particular courses. Students are also encouraged to join the departmental Twitter and Facebook accounts run by one of the criminal justice staff that seeks to keep students up to date with criminal justice developments. The Facebook page "Criminology and Criminal Justice at Wrexham Uni" is followed by over 800 students and alumni and provides up to date information to students on matters of criminological and legal concern. It connects current students not only with each other but to students from the past many of whom, are in the present, criminal justice professionals.

Accordingly through the education blend involving face to face and online learning and a focus on online and real work staff 'presence' (social, cognitive and teaching presence), and student interaction in the classroom and beyond, the programme team work with students to create a community of enquiry and a sense of continuous belonging to a distinctive degree programme.

2.5 Assessment strategy

Assessment is carried out in accordance with Wrexham University's Regulations for Initial Modular Undergraduate Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, and Foundation Degrees. The approach adopted is informed by guidance published by the QAA to ensure integrity in distance teaching, learning and assessment practices QAA (2020)¹

Opportunities for formative assessments will feature regularly in order that students can gauge their own benchmarks and plot their own progress. These will include short pieces of writing and on-line exercises. Levels five and six will also include formative assessments but these will be less frequent and more self-directed i.e. students will be expected to be active in identifying their own strengths and limitations.

The range of summative assessments has been designed to encompass rigorous academic requirements and also to accommodate individual differences in preferred learning style. Consequently there is a mix of essays, exams, on-line multiple-choice tests, individual and group presentations and role plays.

Assignments are set in advance and provided to students in module handbooks and marked and returned by module (using the online system Turnitin) with students being given in depth electronic and oral feedback on all assessments within an appropriate timescale determined by University regulations (within 3 weeks). Assessment criteria are published in the student programme handbook issued at the beginning of the academic year and are drawn from published good practice guidelines.

In order to maintain an approach where students can develop their own interests and refer to their own experiences many assignment questions can be answered from different perspectives. However, the design of the assessment task (outlined in further detail in the module specification) will ensure that the learning outcomes will be met, therefore within a cohort of students there may be several approaches to a single question. Each level entails a similar amount of work from students in terms of the number and lengths of assessment tasks, but the content will become increasingly demanding to reflect the developing complexity of material at each stage. The assessment strategy focusses on assessing achievement in meeting the academic learning outcomes of the programme but with a view, to preparing students for the workplace.

¹ <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/assessing-with-integrity-in-digital-delivery.pdf>

2.6 Disclaimer

Throughout quality assurance processes we have ensured that this programme engages with and is aligned to:

- [Academic Regulations](#)
- [The University Skills Framework](#)
- [Welsh Language Policy](#)
- [Equality and Diversity Policy](#)
- [The Student Union offers support for students](#)

Section 3 – Programme set up (office use only)

3.1	Framework	FRAME001_SEP FRAME022_SEP
3.2	Cost centre	GACJ
3.3	Course type (HESA)	N/A
3.4	Fee model	UG: Standard FT/PT (Fee as specified on website)

3.5	Are any modules taught over either multiple periods or across the HESA year (defined as running 1st August - 31st July)	No
3.6	Student funding model	UG: Standard FT/PT (Fee as specified on website)
3.7	Mode of Attendance (Funding)	In person attendance
3.8	Does the Suitability for Practice Procedure apply to the programme?	No
3.9	Programme Leader	Jo Prescott
3.10	Date of Approval	15/05/2021
3.11	Date and type of Revision	October 2022 – SOC481 study skills module replaced with POL401 Oct 23 – Part time delivery schedule confirmed August 2024 - updated Study Skills in Higher Education module code from POL401 to POL408 for implementation from Sept 2024 August 2024 – AM0: SOC664 to be delivered in Sem1 from Sept 2024. Feb 2025 SOC670 replaced with POL609 with effect from Sep 2025. Apr 2026 – AM2: SOC671 replaced with updated version SOC673 including updates to module title, learning outcomes, structure, and alignment with professional frameworks. Aug 2026 – AM1 Change to semester of delivery for SOC664 and SOC673