

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)	MA Criminology and Criminal Justice MA Troseddeg a Chyfiawnder Troseddol
1.4	Exit awards and titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology and Criminal Justice
1.5	Credit requirements	Students successfully completing 180 level 7 credits may be awarded a MA Criminology and Criminal Justice. Students successfully completing 120 Level 7 credits may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma Criminology and Criminal Justice. Students successfully completing 60 Level 7 credits may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate Criminology and Criminal Justice.
1.6	Intake points	September
1.7	Mode of study	Full & part time
1.8	Length of delivery	1 year full time 2 years part time
1.9	Location of delivery	Plas Coch Campus
1.10	Language of delivery	English
1.11	Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences (FSLs)
1.12	Subject area	Criminal Justice
1.13	HECoS Code	100485 100486
1.14	Suitable for applicants requiring a Student Visa?	No
1.15	Is DBS check required on entry?	All applicants successful in being offered a place on the programmes will be subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance undertaken by Wrexham University.
1.16	Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation	None
1.17	Welsh Medium Provision	The programmes will be delivered through the medium of English. Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.
1.18	External reference points	QAA Subject Benchmark Statements Criminology 2019 QAA Characteristics Statements Higher Education Credit Framework (2014)

Section 1 – regulatory details		
		CQFW (2003; 2015)
1.19	Derogation to Academic Regulations	N/A
1.20	Foundation Year route	N/A
1.21	Placement / Work based learning	N/A
1.22	Length and level of the placement	N/A
1.23	Collaborative arrangement	N/A

Section 2 – programme details

2.1 Aims of the programme	
- To provide an advanced level programme for students wanting to critically analyse criminological theory and explore contemporary criminal justice issues. - To engage students in critically assessing and synthesising research in relation to key areas of criminal justice policy and practice. - To develop students' abilities to interrogate and undertake criminological research.	

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)
7	SOC735	Contemporary Crime and Justice	30	Core	1
7	SOC720	Advanced Research Methods	30	Core	1
7	SOC716	Attachment Theory and Crime	30	Option	2
7	SOC734	Negotiated Learning	30	Option	2
7	SOC718	The Terrorist Risk and its Consequences	30	Option	2
7	SOC736	Penal Power, Policy and Practice: Critical Perspectives on Imprisonment	30	Option	2
7	SOC732	Postgraduate Research Project	60	Core	3

Part-time Programme Structure						
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/ Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)	Year of Study (PT only)
7	SOC720	Advanced Research Methods	30	Core	Year 1 Trimester 1	Year 1
7	SOC735	Contemporary Crime and Justice	30	Core	Year 1 Trimester 2	Year 1
7	SOC716	Attachment Theory and Crime	30	Option	Year 1 Trimester 3 and Year 2 Trimester 1	Year 1 and year 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)
7	SOC734	Negotiated Learning	30	Option	Year 1 Trimester 3 and Year 2 Trimester 1	Year 1 and Year 2
7	SOC718	The Terrorist Risk and its Consequences	30	Option	Year 1 Trimester 3 and Year 2 Trimester 1	Year 1 and Year 2
7	SOC736	Penal Power, Policy and Practice: Critical Perspectives on Imprisonment	30	Option	Year 1 Trimester 3 and Year 2 Trimester 1	Year 1 and Year 2
7	SOC732	Postgraduate Research Project	60	Core	Year 2 Trimester 2 and 3	Year 2

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes									
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	PG Cert (L7)	PG Dip (L7)	Masters (L7)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
1	Critically appreciate how a crime or a group of offenders are constructed and represented as a contemporary criminological concern.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
2	Critically examine the research base informing criminology and criminal justice processes and practices	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
3	Critically assess the legal, social and criminal justice response to a crime or a group of offenders	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
4	Critically appreciate the historical, context dependent and constructed nature of a range of 'crimes' or offending groups	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
5	Critically understand research paradigms that can frame criminological knowledge and approaches to criminological research	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
6	Critically assess the nature, consistencies, contradictions and conflicts that are associated with contemporary criminal justice policy and practice towards a range of 'crimes' or offending groups	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
7	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of criminological research and a critical awareness of a specific criminal justice issue.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
8	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the recent trends that have shaped an area of criminological concern.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
9	Critically apply an appropriate research strategy and method to develop new knowledge about crime, victimisation or responding to crime and deviance.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
10	Critically assess complex phenomena	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes									
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	PG Cert (L7)	PG Dip (L7)	Masters (L7)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
11	Analyse and assess the merits of competing theories and explanations.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
12	Analyse and interpret values and practices.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
13	Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative data.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
14	Apply critical thinking skills to criminological theories and social problems.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
15	Locate, retrieve, manage and analyse secondary data and evidence	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
16	Make ethical judgements about methods and published research	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
17	Evaluating evidence of diverse kinds and draw defensible conclusions	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
18	Design research appropriately in relation to a specific problem, know how to gather, retrieve and synthesise information, including comparative data.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
19	Assess the ethical issues arising research situations.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
20	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
21	Critically analyse and assess data methodically.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	
22	Evaluate the relevance of criminological work on crime.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	
23	Apply theoretical constructs to social problems.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes									
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	PG Cert (L7)	PG Dip (L7)	Masters (L7)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
24	Select and apply appropriate strategies for addressing specific criminological problems	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	
25	Take account of the complexity and diversity of the ways in which crime is constituted, represented and dealt with	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
26	Evaluate the relevance of criminological work on diverse forms of crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance at a national and international level.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
27	Undertake and present scholarly work.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
28	Understand the nature of a contentious issue in the criminal justice system and critically investigate that issue.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
29	Critically analyse, assess methodologically and communicate information and empirical research findings about crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
30	Critically evaluate ethical research constructs.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
31	Present the philosophical and methodological background of one's own research and the research of others.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
32	Communicate professionally with others in online contexts	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	
33	Demonstrate the ability to retrieve information from a wide range of sources including government papers, academic journals and electronic databases.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	
34	Organise and manage home/work/study commitments so as to achieve realistic goals and complete required tasks	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	
35	Read written instructions and seek feedback and assistance when engaging with written texts	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes									
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	PG Cert (L7)	PG Dip (L7)	Masters (L7)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
36	Develop and demonstrate key written, verbal, presentation, information technology (handling), interpretation and problem solving skills	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	
37	Demonstrate reliability by consistently complete tasks on time, delivering quality work and making minimal mistakes	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	
38	Develop time management and workload management skills	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	
39	Show initiative in identifying an area for research and then take the necessary actions when required to see through a research plan.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	
40	Analyse and present data in a clear manner to others.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	
41	Produce a professional written research report, on time, following required guidelines to a high standard.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	

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.

The programme is taught primarily online through recorded content that replicates synchronous learning experiences. Students are thereafter involved in a range of online activities, quizzes, debates and discussions. Face to Face or video mediated appointments can be made with tutoring staff to discuss module content and assignments.

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@Glyndŵr" 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	030
3.2	Cost centre	GACJ
3.3	Course type (HESA)	N/A
3.4	Fee model	Standard full time PGT

Section 3 – Programme set up (office use only)		
3.5	Are any modules taught over either multiple periods or across the HESA year (defined as running 1st August - 31st July)	Yes
3.6	Student funding model	Self-Funded
3.7	Does the Suitability for Practice Procedure apply to the programme?	No
3.8	Programme Leader	Karen Washington-Dyer
3.9	Date of Approval	May 2021
3.10	Date and type of Revision	June 2026 – AM2 to replace the module SOC733 “Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Current Policy, Practice and Research” with SOC736 “Penal Power, Policy and Practice: Critical Perspectives on Imprisonment.”