

Programme Specification for FdA in Criminology

This document applies to Academic Year 2025/26 onwards

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMET)
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award or awards	FdA
5.	Programme title	Foundation Degree Criminology
6.	Pathways available and/or Linked Honours Degree progression route/s	Level 6 of BA Criminology at UW See Section 20 for further information
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	On Campus Delivery at Birmingham Metropolitan College (Matthew Boulton Campus)
8.	Mode of attendance and duration	Full time. FT over 2 years
9.	UCAS Code	L31F
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	Subject Benchmark Statement - Criminology (gaa.ac.uk) (March 2022) QAA Characteristic Statement: Foundation Degree (QAA, 2020)
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	Approved July 2024

12. Educational aims of the programme

Criminology is a multidisciplinary field that encompasses various philosophical underpinnings and theories to understand the nature, causes, and consequences of criminal behaviour. It seeks to analyse the social, psychological, and environmental factors that contribute to crime and formulate effective strategies to prevent and control it.

The FdA Criminology (Levels 4 and 5) is a two-year full-time modular programme. It is designed to qualify and develop competent, confident, and capable students, who are well resourced for continuing their education and engaging the workplace. Attainment of the award enables students to progress and gain an Honours Degree through completion of Level 6 of the BA (Hons) Criminology.

The aims of the course are to:

- a. Introduce the philosophical underpinnings of classical, positivist, and critical criminological theories.
- b. Examine way in which criminological theories have shaped a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding crime.
- c. Encourage students to apply criminological theories to contemporary criminological investigations.
- d. Analyse the social, psychological, biological, and environmental factors that contribute to crime and formulate effective strategies to prevent and control it.
- e. Examine classical criminology and the concept of free will and rational choice in explaining criminal behaviour.
- f. Examine positivist criminology which will examine criminal behaviour as a result of individual characteristics biological factors, and social influences.
- g. Examine critical criminology in highlighting the role of power, inequality, and social structures as drivers of crime.
- h. Select and conduct different types of research methods and methodology relevant to their investigative research.
- i. Critically assess the role and function of the social justice institutions
- j. Further develop your employability through securing relevant work experience.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Table 1 *knowledge and understanding outcomes for modules/codes.*

Knowledge and Understanding		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Examine how crime, social harm, deviance and victimisation are socially and legally constructed	CRMF2002
2.	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Social and Criminal justice system in England and Wales.	CRMF2002
3.	Apply and interpret legal frameworks when solving crime, harm, deviance and victimisation problem scenarios	CRMF1005
4.	Analyse the relationship between media coverage of crime and police response.	CRMF2004
5.	Explain the function of and evaluate the effectiveness of the role of the police in the UK.	CRMF2005

Table 2 *cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s*

Cognitive and Intellectual skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
6.	Evaluate and apply a range of criminological theories to given case studies	CRMF2002
7.	Apply and evaluate research methods, methodology and theory via application to criminological case studies, communicating information clearly and concisely.	CRMF2001

Table 3 *skills and capabilities related to employability outcomes for module code/s.*

Skills and capabilities related to employability		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
8.	Demonstrate effective oral communication skills through individual presentations which evaluate the Criminal Justice System.	CRFM2002 CRMF2003
9.	Demonstrate competence in written communication skills through evaluation of approaches to and examples of social justice in the UK.	CRFM1003
10.	Critically reflect on current employability skills set in relation to professional requirements, identifying areas for personal development	CRMF2003
11	Apply technical and practical skills in a work-based setting which demonstrate a range of requisite professional skills.	CRMF1002 CRMF2003

Table 4 *transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s*

Transferable/key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
12.	Acquire time management and organisational skills throughout in preparation for professional employment.	CRMF2003
13.	Confident demonstration of public speaking/address including appropriate voice projection, non-verbal communication and responding to audience Q&As.	CRMF2002
14.	Demonstrate proficiency in the choice and use of digital technologies to create, communicate and collaborate online.	All CRMF Modules
15.	Demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team in both academic and work-based settings.	CRMF2001 CRMF2003

Learning, teaching and assessment.

Teaching

Students are taught through a combination of interactive workshops, lectures, seminars, practical activities etc. Interactive workshops take a variety of formats and are intended to enable the application of learning through discussion and small group activities. Seminars enable the discussion and development of understanding of topics covered in lectures. They are focused on developing subject specific skills and applied individual and group project work.

BMet places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent learning capabilities that will equip students for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services is available. BMet also offer a personal tutoring system, which enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help students to flourish and be successful. In addition, meetings with personal tutors at BMet are scheduled within the academic year and ongoing through the duration of the course.

Placement/Work Based Learning:

Work-Based Learning is a defining feature of Foundation Degrees and there is a significant focus on acquiring learning through work-based activities throughout the programme. This ensures that theoretical learning is applied to current professional practice, and students develop a professional resource network. Students are expected to secure and complete work placements across the duration of the course. This will consist of two WBL placements, one in L4 and one in level L5, of a minimum of 200 hours for each placement. Guidance on finding and securing appropriate placements will be given by the module and personal tutor.

Contact time.

In a typical week students will have around 12 contact hours of teaching. Typically contact time will be structured around:

- 12 hours of lectures and seminars.
- 1 hour tutorial per week.

During the programme across both years, you will be expected to complete the equivalent of 1 day per week in placement which is a minimum of 200 hours WBL/placement at both level 4 and at level 5.

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 13 hours of personal self-study in a typical week. Typically, this will involve completing online activities, reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library and online, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for examinations.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities at BMet, including The Hive and library resources at the University of Worcester, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff

Students will be taught by a teaching team at BMet whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes senior lecturers with industry experience including working in the prison service and in the law sector.

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments.

Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessments which are graded and count towards the overall module grade. Assessment methods include written examinations and a range of coursework assessments such as essays, reports, portfolios and presentations.

The summative assessment pattern for each year of the course is:

Year 1 Modules 1001–1005 Level 4

Case Study
Controlled Assessment (Pre-Released Examination)
Portfolio
Reflective Journal
Essay
Individual Presentation with Written Summary
Individual Report
Unseen MCQ Examination

Year 2 Modules 2001–2005 Level 5

Research Project
Individual Presentation
Individual Report
Individual Presentation
Reflective Journal
Controlled Assessment (Pre-Released Examination)
Investigative Article

14. Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy provides opportunities to critically analyse and evaluate evidence and current approaches in Criminology and the Criminal Justice System. Assessments will aid in developing and enhancing students' professional competence by providing opportunities to demonstrate skills, knowledge, values and confidence. Each assessment has specific marking criteria contained in the relevant module guide, which is given to students at the beginning of the module. These are based on the generic assessment criteria contained within the Undergraduate Grade Descriptors. A grid showing **assessment methods and weightings** mapped to modules at each level is included in the assessment section of the Course handbook.

The emphasis on formative assessment gives more opportunities to provide feedback and this will take a variety of forms; each of the modules have a formative assessment strategy. Information showing summative assessment methods and weightings mapped to modules at each level, together with an assessment calendar of submission dates, is included in the course handbook.

All module assessments will undergo the same standardisation and moderation and standardisation process that is current within the School of Health and Wellbeing and UW; (<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/aqu/documents/AssessmentPolicy.pdf>). This will ensure all summative assessments will be standardised before marking commences with course team and moderated post marking to ensure the equity, consistency and accuracy of the grades are appropriate for the work submitted. A sample of this work will be externally examined alongside all other UW Criminology modules.

The course is fully compliant with UW regulations for assessment, mitigation, appeals and complaints.

15. Programme structures and requirements

The FdA Criminology is a two-year full-time modular programme comprising:

- Year 1: 5 modules at level 4
- Year 2: 5 modules at level 5

Each module of 15 credits comprises 150 hours of study, including teaching days, work based learning and self-directed learning. Each module of 30 credits comprises 300 hours of study, including teaching days, work based learning and self-directed learning.

Award Map

Course Title: FdA Criminology				
LEVEL 4				
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)	Prerequisites (Code of Module required)
CRMF1001	Approaches in Criminology and Criminal Justice	30	M	None
CRMF1002	Skills for academic and career success (including WBL placement)	30	M	None
CRMF1003	Approaches to Social Justice	30	M	None
CRMF1004	Investigative skills for research	15	M	None
CRMF1005	Criminal Law and Policy	15	M	None

Requirements at Level 4: Students must take all mandatory modules and must successfully complete 120 credits in total.

LEVEL 5				
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)	Prerequisites (Code of Module required)
CRMF2001	Research Methods and Methodology in Criminology	30	M	None
CRMF2002	Probation, Penology and Rehabilitation in England and Wales	30	M	None
CRMF2003	Criminology Placement	30	M	None
CRMF2004	Criminology and Media	15	M	None
CRMF2005	Policing Approaches in England and Wales	15	M	None

Requirements at Level 5: Students must take all mandatory modules and must successfully complete 120 credits in total.

16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

The FdA in Criminology, academic knowledge and understanding integrate with, and support the development of, vocational skills and competencies, taking account of the need for appropriate academic rigour. External reference points:

[Subject Benchmark Statement - Criminology \(qaa.ac.uk\) \(March 2022\)](#)

[QAA Characteristic Statement: Foundation Degree \(QAA, 2020\)](#)

This award is located at Level 5 of the [OfS sector recognised standards](#).

17. Support for students

Students are supported by a Personal Academic Tutor, Course Leader, Module Tutors and a placement mentor/supervisor/placement coordinator.

- Induction week at the start of each academic year highlighting module outlines, course handbook and academic expectations.
- Student representatives selected for each group.
- The Learning Resource Centre at BMET has a library available for students to use, internet access, and a pleasant physical learning environment where our team of administrators are available to answer any concerns throughout the year.
- Allocation of an academic tutor who will offer support through their studies at BMet will take place during induction. It is recommended that students meet their Academic Tutor at least once every semester, although students may occasionally need to contact their tutor at other times, particularly if students are experiencing problems.
- Students enrolled on the Foundation Degree Criminology can access the services offered by BMET Student Services and Worcester University student support. Student Services is the central department that provides non-academic support for students. The department includes Careers, Counselling and Mental Health Support, Disability and Dyslexia Service, Student Wellbeing Centre, and Welfare and Financial Advice. Further details are listed in the Course Handbook.
- During placement the student will receive support from the module tutor through 1 to 1 tutorial and a minimum of two placement visits across the year. The students will also be able to access all BMet support services.

18. Admissions

Admissions policy

The FDA in Criminology aims to attract interest from a wide range of applicants from people leaving college, adults wishing to obtain a professional degree or matures students wishing to change their career path; adults who are in the related profession but wish to gain a professional qualification for progression.

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSE's (Grade C/4 or above) that must include Maths and English, and at least 32 UCAS tariff points from a minimum of 1 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications).

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

Students will require a DBS check for WBL placement.

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the University's website: [Criminology FdA - University Of Worcester](#)

Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable Level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Applicants who do not meet the academic entry requirements will be individually assessed for other appropriate qualifications and/or experience and will be required to demonstrate the ability to study at this level, through a meeting with the Admissions Tutor.

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm> ‘

Admissions procedures

1. Applicants will apply to the University of Worcester through UCAS to study the FD at BMET. The application must include a personal statement and academic reference.
2. The University of Worcester will send a letter to successful applicants confirming the offer through UCAS.
3. The student completes the registration via the secure student portal (SOLE). University of Worcester will send a confirmation letter to the student and will enclose a handbook and student card.
4. The student completes enrolment with Birmingham Metropolitan College (Matthew Boulton Campus).

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (L31F)

Admissions/selection criteria

Students will be selected based on their UCAS applications. Applicants will need to demonstrate professional and personal qualities through their UCAS and academic reference, these would include motivation to study the programme, how they will balance their studies and the placement and career aims.

19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's **Taught Courses Regulatory Framework**

Requirements to pass modules.

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- A student is required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- A student who submits course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- A student who submits work later than 7 days (one week) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- A student is entitled to re-sit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression

- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 4 to Level 5 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4. Outstanding Level 4 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student who, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, has failed 90 credits or more (after exhausting all reassessment opportunities) during the academic year, will have their registration with the University terminated.

- If a student has not passed at least 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student is not permitted to progress to the next level and will be required to either complete outstanding reassessment or retake the failed modules the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed modules.

Requirements for Awards

Table 5 requirements for FdA awards

Award	Requirement
Cert HE	To be eligible for the exit award of Certificate in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 120 credits in total including the mandatory modules for level 4 of the award as specified on the award map.
Foundation Degree FdA/FdSc	120 credits at Level 4 and 120 credits at Level 5 as specified on the award map.

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

The Foundation Degree (FdA) in Criminology provides the opportunity for advancement in a variety of legal and crime prevention related careers. Possible career opportunities include:

- Policing
- HM Prison and Probation Services
- Private Security
- Local Authorities
- Academia and Education
- HM Tribunal services

Progression to Linked Honours Degree(s)

The programme is designed for direct entry to level 6 of the BA Criminology Degree at University of Worcester.

Student employability & Links with employers

BMet College has established links with employers through their employer forums, careers links and alumni. The FdA in Criminology provides potential links with employers such as Crown Prosecution Service and Bila Law Academy through both the placement and work-based learning modules. They will develop necessary skills during the placements that will enhance their employability. Learners have the opportunity to develop a broader set of subject knowledge and transferable skills, and as such can work in fields such as: social work, civil service administrator, international aid/development worker, charity officer, psychology, Law, research, advice worker, local government administrator.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.