Programme Specification for MA Applied Criminology

This document applies to Academic Year 2026/27 onwards

Table 1 Programme Specification for MA Applied Criminology

1.	**Awarding institution/body**	University of Worcester
2.	**Teaching institution**	University of Worcester
3.	**Programme accredited by**	NA
4.	**Final award or awards**	Master of Arts Post Graduate Diploma Post Graduate Certificate
5.	**Programme title**	Applied Criminology
6.	**Pathways available**	N/A
7.	**Mode and/or site of delivery**	Standard Taught Programme (taught in person) and Work Based learning
8.	**Mode of attendance and duration**	1 Year Full time; advised 2-3 years Part-Time.
9.	**UCAS Code**	N/A
10.	**Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement**	This programme of study meets the QAA descriptor at Masters level (QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2020) the descriptor for a higher education qualification at Level 7 OfS sector recognised standards and QAA Criminology Benchmark Statement 2022
11.	**Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision**	Approved June 2024 September 2024 – annual amendments August 2026 – central updates to DBS and Assessment sections

12. Educational aims of the programme

This MA Applied Criminology course is unique in its approach as it has a strong applied focus (i.e., research in an applied setting and practice-based learning through placements) and seeks to provide a forward-looking curriculum, which reflects the specific features of criminology and the criminal justice sector. This course equips students with a deep understanding of the criminal justice system and its partnered agencies, as well as practical knowledge of the organisational and structural aspects of the wider sector. It will be particularly useful for those seeking professional development and higher responsibility roles in: probation, prisons, rehabilitation, policing, youth justice, violence reduction, social justice and third sector services. The course aims to engage students in a range of contemporary issues and debates about the challenges facing and the workings of the criminal justice sector through professional work placements, as well as the theoretical lens in the classroom. It has been designed to attract both experienced practitioners seeking to apply academic knowledge to and critically analyse /assess the context in which they work, and recent graduates aiming to pursue a career in the criminal justice system. We aspire to deliver an integrated course that educates graduates to be autonomous professionals practising creatively and in the best interests of service users within the criminal justice sector. The course will foster students to become critically reflective practitioners who are committed to their ongoing development in order to respond to the current and future challenges within the sector.

This programme aims to:

1. Develop reflective and research literate students, who utilise contemporary knowledge, theory, research and evidence in an original and creative way to meet the needs of individuals within the criminal justice sector.
2. Enable students to promote an effective interprofessional, collaborative approach in practice settings (both with service users/clients and other professionals) and have a comprehensive understanding of both the responsibilities and limitations of roles within the criminal justice sector.

3. Provide a comprehensive overview and understanding of contemporary debates in criminology and criminal justice applied settings including those around lived experience, diversity and inequality.
4. Provide students with an advanced understanding of the ways in which quantitative and qualitative primary research methodologies may be used to study crime and criminal justice in applied settings.
5. Enable students to understand the emergence of social problems (including crime) and the responses of welfare and criminal justice institutions, including analysis of the theoretical, political and economic underpinnings of these responses.
6. Develop students who are able to creatively identify and apply strategies for building professional resilience.
7. Enhance students' transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communication; the capacity for independent learning; the ability to reflect on the ethical and ideological components of their practical work and learning in the classroom.
8. Enhance students' employability by emphasising qualities such as independence and accountability, leadership, problem solving, creativity and sophisticated communication skills, as well as to challenging and advancing practice.

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

Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes and which module/code they relate to

Knowledge and Understanding			
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	**Module Code/s**	**Award**
1	Demonstrate in-depth understanding and critical evaluation of current criminological knowledge and scholarship at the forefront of the discipline.	CRMN4703 CRMN4706	PG Cert, PG Dip, MA
2	Critically reflect on contemporary criminal justice practice using advanced scholarship in the discipline	CRMN4701	PG Dip MA
3	Discuss innovative and advanced research methods to demonstrate the ability to utilise them in practice and in different contexts; synthesising the results accordingly	CRMN4700 CRMN4702	PG Dip, MA
4	Critically reflect on how criminology and criminal justice concerns related to diversity and intersectionality connect to and interact with wider social issues in contemporary society, from the perspective of those with lived experiences	CRMN4706 CRMN4707 CRMN4701	PG Cert, PG Dip, MA
5	Highlight a range of theoretical and philosophical approaches to criminal justice and current application of penal policies and practices in particular contexts	CRMN4703 CRMN4701 CRMN4705	PG Cert, PG Dip, MA

Table 3 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**	**Award**
6	Analyse current crime issues and trends alongside issues of policy, crime control and punishment within a local and international context.	CRMN4704 CRMN4705 CRMN4703	PG Cert PG Dip MA

Cognitive and Intellectual skills			
7	Critically evaluate and employ a range of theoretical and methodological professional standards to current evidence-based criminal justice practice.	CRMN4701	PG Dip MA
8	Independently design and conduct a piece of empirical research in criminology (known as the 'dissertation'), and communicate this to professional standards	CRMN4700	MA
9	Develop and present ideas, arguments and research findings through various means of communication to different audiences	All Modules	PG Cert PG Dip MA
10	Demonstrate autonomy and self-direction in tackling problems, promoting individual and shared decision making in a range of contexts	CRMN4701	PG Dip MA

Table 4 learning 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**	**Award**
11	To critically reflect on how criminology and criminal justice concerns connect to, and interact with, wider social issues in contemporary society and in an international context	CRMN4703 CRMN4705 CRMN4706	PG Cert, PG Dip, MA
12	Demonstrate an awareness of future career opportunities and challenges through professional development planning during placements.	CRMN4701	PG Dip, MA
13	Demonstrate critical understanding and application of professional standards relevant to the discipline of criminology (e.g., ethical and professional codes of conduct).	CRMN4706 CRMN4707	PG Cert PG Dip, MA

Table 5 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**	**Award**
14	Consider ethical issues that may occur in criminological research design and practice and the ability to propose solutions to overcome these concerns to different audiences	CRMN4700 CRMN4701 CRMN4702 CRMN4703	PG Cert PG Dip MA
15	Demonstrate autonomous learning and project planning skills	CRMN4700	MA
16	Demonstrate high standards of digital information literacy for research being able to identify, retrieve, critically appraise and synthesise relevant sources	All Modules	PG Cert PG Dip MA
17	Critically evaluate and synthesise use of self, personal and professional boundaries and reflective practice	CRMN4701	PG Dip MA

Learning, teaching and assessment

Learning and assessment strategies to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to graduate at postgraduate level is paramount. As such, this course has been designed to be as inclusive as possible to remove the need for alternative assessment. Alongside this, all involved in the delivery of learning, teaching and assessment on this course recognise the emotive nature of much of criminology, and the challenges and impact of engaging with potentially distressing content. Students will be supported throughout their postgraduate learning journey and signposted to necessary support if the content should be triggering.

Criminology attracts students from diverse academic and social backgrounds; their learning and skills development needs vary accordingly. To reflect this, a transformative pedagogical approach underpins the curriculum design, combining a constructivist and critical pedagogy. In-depth knowledge will be constructed through active engagement in enquiry-based learning, independent research, and the development of solutions to complex problems. The curriculum is designed to encourage students to critically consider challenges working within the criminal justice system, and to build professional resilience. A critical understanding of theory and practice will develop students' appreciation of multiple perspectives, and a sense of critical consciousness and professional identity. The curriculum engages students in the development of practical skills and self-reflection leading to professional transformation. Through a mix of taught modules and application during work placements, the programme aims to develop students who are compassionate and ethical, who can work autonomously and collaboratively to deliver high quality, person-centred, and flexible approaches within a criminal justice sector. Students undertaking this course are expected to engage professionally in the theoretical and practice-based learning, demonstrating high levels of personal motivation, emotional resilience, and academic performance.

Teaching

Students are taught through a combination of interactive workshops, lectures, seminars, and practical activities. 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, and practical sessions are focused on developing subject specific skills and applied individual and group project work. Teaching and learning are student-centred, reflecting the philosophy of knowledge construction whereby students are active participants in their learning experience, and learn with and from each other. Practice based learning across the curriculum provides direct experience of working with individuals associated with the criminal justice sector and within professional teams. Students are encouraged by placement providers to consider and apply professional standards relevant to the discipline of criminology (e.g., ethical and professional codes of conduct). Service users and professionals are integral to teaching and learning, contributing to development, delivery and evaluation of teaching sessions. Due to the nature of attending an internship alongside taught content, this Masters is considered to being intensive.

There is an emphasis on self-directed autonomous learning with students applying learning outcomes and content to their own areas of interest or practice which is evidenced through a variety of module assessments. When undertaking the dissertation module, students will consider a topic related to their placements or area of interest, and work independently, under supervision, to plan and collect data for their project, which will culminate in an independently written primary research project, which is consistent with the form and standard found in criminology journals. Individual tutorials will be used for supervision of the dissertation.

A mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support (i.e., Student Services, Library Services, and Personal Academic Tutors) enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help them to flourish and be successful.

Contact time

The programme comprises seven taught modules with teaching and learning activities running across three semesters, and a dissertation. Full time students (starting in September) complete all seven taught modules across two semesters, plus the dissertation within a third semester in one academic year (12 months). In addition to this, students will also be engaged in independent learning (assessment preparation for taught modules and dissertation planning/supervision sessions). In total, it is expected that a full-time student will be spending 37 hours per week engaged in study and placement. Part time students select which modules and how many they want to complete in each year, with their dissertation in the final year.

Alongside the taught component of this course, students will be required to engage with a placement that is 72 days (576 hours) in length. Broken down, this equates to students attending placement twice a week across all three semesters (36 weeks). Students will be supported by their placement provider and placement module leader at the university via tutorials and check-ins/ diary inputs. During the interview process, students will be matched with a placement provider based on their interests. The expectation is that students will engage with the same placement throughout the year. For those students who are utilising their current job as their placement, they will continue to adhere to their contractual agreement but with an expectation that they will fulfil the 576 hours.

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, full time students are expected to undertake around 12 hours of personal self-study per week. Part time students are expected to undertake around 6 hours of personal self-study per module per 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. Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff

Students will be taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes staff from a variety of Criminology backgrounds including green criminology, organised crime, terrorism, youth justice, rehabilitation, management of offenders, and policing in England and Wales. Where appropriate, guest speakers, criminal justice professional colleagues and associate lecturers contribute to the delivery of teaching sessions. Members of the University of Worcester service user and care group (IMPACT), who undertake 'expert by experience' roles will regularly contribute to teaching and learning on this course.

Teaching is informed by the teaching teams research portfolios, consultancy and previous professional practice (i.e., domestic abuse, addiction, homelessness, and victimisation, hate crime, detective etc.), and six lecturers on the course have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

14. Assessment Strategy

Assessment is integral to student learning and is aligned with the overall aims and learning outcomes of the course. Student achievement is assessed using a diverse range of authentic assessment tasks. A whole team approach ensures that assessment tasks progressively build student skills, with opportunities for formative assessment and constructive feedback, which aims to 'scaffold' student learning, both within modules and across modules (i.e., the course team communicate to ensure no repetition of assessment but that there is transferable knowledge between modules). A careful and balanced approach to assessment has been made to ensure that the student assessment load is appropriate for a heavily applied course with a placement. The assessment strategy is developed to nurture reflective and reflexive research/ practice students who are confidently expert in adapting and evaluating theoretical concepts and models of

criminology. Subsequent to thorough assessment of learning and development, the student should be able to apply their knowledge and skills effectively, incorporating creative problem-solving approaches within a wide range of professional contexts.

An inclusive student-centred approach to assessment is adopted where possible, allowing for flexibility and student choice, either in the assessment focus or in the assessment method. All assessments will be graded against a marking rubric based on the University Generic Level 7 Descriptors. Students will receive a mixture of feedback and feedforward from all markers to guide their academic development and practical skills. Each student will be required to contribute to their individual learning and the collective learning of their peer group as required by tutorials, seminars, and presentations. Formative assessments will be set and inform the summative assessment culminating in a robust assessment pattern to demonstrate the acquired advanced learning and development on completion of each module. Each module of the Masters programme will include elements of written assessment, and forms of individual and collective presentation to enhance creative approaches to showcase the student's transferable knowledge and skills. Each item of assessed work will provide the opportunity to demonstrate the sophisticated and critical understanding and knowledge at this advanced level of study as required by the QAA descriptors for Masters engagement of study. Each module must be passed to achieve the overall qualification and all modules are graded.

Assessment methods include:

1 x Dissertation (conducted in an applied setting and primary in nature)
1 x Research analysis portfolio (analysis of current live data)
1 x Conference Presentation (verbal presentation to a live audience)
1 x Essay
1 x Diary Journal (capturing skills developed and learned throughout placement hours)
1 x Case Formulation Practical (assessed practical skills with client (actor))
1 x Presentation
1 x Report/ Podcast
1 x Case Review (on a previous police case, highlighting shortcomings in practice across multiple organisations)
1 x Narrative Synthesis (conducted after listening to those with lived experiences)
1 x Problem Scenario

15. Programme structures and requirements

Table 6 award map for each level of the course

		Status Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)			
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credits** (Number)	**PG Cert**	**PG Dip**	**MA/MSc/ MBA**
CRMN4700	Applied Criminology Dissertation	60	NA	NA	M
CRMN4701	Professional Criminology Practice	30	NA	M	M
CRMN4702	Applied Research Methods in Criminology	15	NA	M	M
CRMN4703	Risk Management	15	M	M	M
CRMN4704	Current topics in Crime	15	M	M	M
CRMN4705	Complex Criminal Investigation	15	M	M	M
CRMN4706	Lived Experience, Equality and Diversity	15	M	M	M
CRMN4707	Leadership and Interpersonal Skills in Criminology	15	NA	M	M
	Total Credits	180	60	120	180

PG Certificate To be awarded the PG Cert Criminology, students must successfully complete 60 credits at Level 7, to include CRMN4703, CRMN4704, CRMN4705 and CRMN4706.
PG Diploma To be awarded the PG Dip Applied Criminology, students must successfully complete the PG Certificate plus CRMN4702, CRMN4701 and CRMN4707 to a total minimum of 120 credits at Level 7.
Masters (MA) To be awarded the Masters, students must complete a total of 180 credits at Level 7 including 60 credits from the dissertation.

The PG Diploma and Masters will only be awarded if the professional criminology practice module (CRMN4701) is completed. A requirement of this module is that the placement is completed; 72 days. The placement days will be scheduled for a Monday and Tuesday each week. If the placement module is not completed, the student can exit with a PGCert.

The programme is taught across two-day blocks on a Wednesday and Thursday, each 15-credit module being four days in total, and the 30-credit module being eight days in total. Full time students complete all eight taught modules across two semesters, four modules per semester, plus the dissertation within a third semester in one academic year. Part time students select which modules and how many they want to complete in each year, with their dissertation in the final year. In the final semester when students will normally be undertaking the dissertation, they will have less classroom contact time to do more independent study. Individual supervision will be provided on a one-to-one basis of a total of 8 hours. It is expected that a full-time student will be spending 37 hours per week engaged in study which will, in a normal week, include a combination of taught sessions and independent study.

16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

This award is located at Level 7 of the OfS sector recognised standards.

The Framework for HE Qualifications The course has been developed following the Descriptor for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters degree (UK Quality Code Part A: Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, February 2020) ensuring that programme qualifications adequately represent the standard of achievement required for Masters programme. The programme Learning Outcomes are mapped onto the FHEQ descriptors to ensure alignment with the descriptors that are within the Course Handbook. In addition, the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Criminology has been considered when ensuring quality of this course.

The course has been designed with reference to Masters Degree Characteristics that specify the characteristics in relation to purpose, content, structure and delivery, teaching, learning and assessment approaches, including the relationship between transferable skills, employability beyond graduation from the Masters programme.

17. Support for students

As part of the University's commitment to inclusion and diversity of staff and students, this course fully implements the University's Inclusion Toolkit, to fully support students' individual learner journeys and the course learning outcomes have been closely designed alongside the graduate attributes. Therefore, the course will:

- Be designed inclusively
- Be taught inclusively
- Be assessed inclusively
- Create inclusive environments

To achieve this, the course and curriculum has been developed to be inclusive for all. The curriculum ensures where possible that diverse perspectives on content are represented. Assessments are also designed to be inclusive, with clear criteria and rationale for specific types of assessment. Where appropriate, a choice of assessment methods is offered to meet the needs of students. Feedback is positive and constructive, developing confidence and engagement for students of different backgrounds. Within individual modules, expectations of students are made clear and explicit with sensitivity to the needs and circumstances of students as well as providing inclusive learning materials that are accessible to all. Overall, the criminology course and the School of Health and Wellbeing embed inclusive values, encouraging staff and students to develop and practice intercultural competence. Finally, we believe the practice of inclusion in the course is a continuing and evolving element, therefore the course team regularly review this, particularly in light of student outcomes, to ensure all students have the same experiences and opportunities to be successful in their degree.

Before starting the course, applicants are offered the opportunity to visit the University and experience the styles of learning and teaching to help them prepare for university life. Upon joining the course, an initial one-week induction programme is provided for all new entrants, which is designed and delivered in conjunction with students to promote the ethos of academic partnership under which the course operates. Activities include general University information as well as a subject-specific study session, a social session, and an informal session where new students can meet their Personal Academic Tutor. Library and information staff are available to provide support during induction and throughout the course.

Students will be allocated a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) who will work with them to support their academic development, learning and progression. Our aim is to guide students transition from higher education through to an employment setting. Therefore, we aim to ensure that students have the same PAT throughout their time studying with us, although this may be subject to change if there are changes within the course team. Students will be supported to develop as they become self-reflective learners, recognise the knowledge and skills achieved, identify gaps in knowledge and think about how to address these gaps. The defining questions about this journey are therefore ‘Where have you been?’ ‘Where are you going?’ and ‘How will you get there?’

In addition to supporting academic development, PATs are able to advise and guide students on any issues or problems arising whilst they are at the University and signpost them to the broader range of services provided by the University. PATs also aim to help students make the most of the learning resources and other forms of learning support available to them, including the University wide student services. Students with additional needs may also wish to take advantage of the Disability and Dyslexia Service within Student Services, which provides specialist support on a one-to-one basis to any student requiring such services. Please see links, below:

https://www2.worc.ac.uk/firstpoint/
https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/home.aspx
https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/

A Course Handbook is available and is updated annually. An initial ‘welcome 2-day block’ programme is provided for all new entrants, which is designed and delivered in conjunction with students to promote the ethos of academic partnership under which the course operates. A general postgraduate general criminology online information page contains many resources to support skills development.

Finally, the course will emphasise to students the essential nature and value of gaining extra skills, knowledge, and experience alongside the course. Therefore, students will be given the opportunity to be involved in opportunities such as acting as peer mentors, developing their personal resilience, further methods of data analysis and relevant

transferable skills. Students will be encouraged to tailor the extra-curricular skills they gain and add them to their own personalised learning journey which develops as their own personal aspirations do with regards to their careers and future selves.

18. Admissions

Admissions policy

The programme has been designed to attract both experienced practitioners seeking to apply academic knowledge to and critically analyse /assess the context in which they work, and recent graduates aiming to pursue a career in the criminal justice system.

Entry requirements

Students will normally be required to have a first degree gained at a 2:1 or above (or equivalent) in a similar subject discipline e.g., Criminology, Law, Psychology, Sociology or policing OR Any first degree gained at 2:2 or above with a relevant professional qualification and experience, including but not exclusively, Social Work, Police, Probation, Health and Education OR Significant experience of working within a criminal justice sector (i.e., substance use, youth support, courts etc.)

Those with significant experience of working within the criminal justice area (worked within a relevant field for 1 year or more), but without a first degree or professional qualification, will need to evidence through Recognition of Prior Learning procedures how their knowledge and experience demonstrates their potential to meet the programme requirements, which includes meeting the academic requirements of the programme, the ability to communicate effectively and an appropriate understanding of the criminal justice system in the UK.

Overseas applicants whose first language is not English, will need a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 for the level 7 course. For further information on other acceptable qualifications, please see the following link:

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

A satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for the relevant workforce may be required, depending on the student's chosen module or placement-related options and the requirements of the placement setting.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111.

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

Admissions procedures

Potential students should apply directly via Registry Services (Admissions) at the University of Worcester; the admission process is based on the assessment of the required information on the course application form. All applicants will be required to attend an interview in person. Applicants will need to evidence through Recognition of Prior Learning procedures how their knowledge and experience demonstrates their potential to meet the programme requirements, which includes meeting the academic requirements of the programme, the ability to communicate effectively and an appropriate understanding of criminology and the criminal justice sector. The course team will provide further guidance if required.

Students will be offered the opportunity to attend an information day about the course in April, followed by a scheduled in person interview in June, if they meet the entry requirements.

Admissions/selection criteria
Students are offered a place based upon their performance at interview, provided they meet the entry criteria and a successful application process. Any offer of a place is conditional upon the applicant providing a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and receiving Occupational Health clearance.

Admissions Interview Process
Selection decisions are made by the interview panel members based on set criteria following the interview process. The interview panel includes academic staff and, in some cases, partner organisations. The interview panel discuss each applicant and a scoring sheet is completed.

The areas assessed are:

• Communication Skills
• Qualities: Application to Profession
• Professional Values & Person-Centred Approach
• Personal Motivation for the Programme

Successful applicants are offered a place, conditional upon meeting academic requirements, satisfactory occupational health and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements. Unsuccessful candidates are given written feedback against individual performance and interview outcome. In some instances, potential students may be advised to reapply and to gain life experience or confidence in their communication skills.

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 the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are 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 is required to submit assessment items by 3pm on the due date and in accordance with the published process described in the module outline.
- A student may request an automatic extension of up to seven days up to six times in an academic year (depending on the number of credits studied) as described in the Delayed Assessment Procedures.
- A student who submits work late will not have work marked unless they have an approved claim of exceptional 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 (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.

- A student who fails 60 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.
- 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.

This course is subject to the University's fitness to practice procedures

Requirements for Awards

Table 7 requirements for awards

Award	Requirement
PG Cert	Passed a minimum of 60 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map
PG Dip	Passed a minimum of 120 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map
Masters (MA/MSc/MBA/MTL)	Passed a minimum of 180 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map

PG Cert and PG Dip awards are unclassified. The awards of Masters may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Classification of Masters

The classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification.

Method 1

a) Candidates will be awarded a Distinction where they have attained an average of A- or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.
b) Candidates will be awarded a Merit where they have attained an average of C+ or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.

Method 2

a) Candidates will be awarded a Distinction, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade A- or higher
b) Candidates will be awarded a Merit, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade C+ or higher

Candidates will be awarded a Pass where they have not fulfilled the rules for Method 1 or Method 2 but are eligible for the award of a Masters.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

This Masters is valuable for prospective and existing careers with employers who provide statutory services, and voluntary/charitable and private services. The critical thinking, assessment, and analytical skills you will develop in criminology, safeguarding and risk management are applicable to a range of practitioner and leadership roles within the criminal justice system. These skills are transferable across a wide range of professional settings in both the public, private, voluntary and community sectors with a range of safeguarding and risk management requirements and foci. The programme will allow students to shape and transform their extant practice and further develop integral skills and knowledge essential for roles within the criminal justice system whether in the public, private or charitable organisations. The programme modules offer extensive teaching and assessment activities allowing students to develop both a broad knowledge and in-depth safeguarding / risk management specialisms. As a student of this programme these specialisms will help them stand out as they progress through their career. The programme will provide students with the ability to tailor learning to their academic interests and future career plans within the parameters of the programme; the opportunity

to learn with other students/ professionals from a variety of backgrounds and employment providers and receive encouragement to develop research that responds to real world and organisational contexts. Students are also assessed on assessment which are fluid to align with their interests.

The personal Academic tutor will be able to discuss students career options and ways to help develop skills in preparation for future career goals. This programme develops postgraduate skills and attributes to assist students to achieve their employment and professional goals, documented in a personal development plan. The programme also provides a platform for existing professionals to develop and expand upon their knowledge and skills. This programme seeks to build on existing links with regional employers to provide career progression opportunities requiring participation in post-graduate study.

Graduate destinations
The current programme comprises of work placements in a range of positions within the Criminal Justice System and related fields (probation, police, youth crime, domestic abuse, sexual offending, offender management etc.). The emphasis on developing professional knowledge and practice has implications for having an impact in service development and provision within communities, in addition to promoting leadership and instigating positive change. These are attributes that should be appreciated by each graduate and should promote opportunity for career progression within their respective discipline and service sector. Career progression may include advancement in management and leadership in the criminal justice sector (i.e., team leaders, governors, managerial responsibility etc.). All students will be encouraged to maintain their professional development through conference and seminar events facilitated by the university, including the possibility of presenting at conferences and networking events. Similarly, students will be invited to participate in the developing CPD programme in the criminology department, and to consider the opportunity of applying to forthcoming Research Degrees studentship awards and study.

Student employability
Undertaking the range of mandatory modules offered on this programme, including the practice-based focus (i.e., placement), provides students with a range of transferable skills. The module specifications are applicable to a variety of work environments dedicated to working adults involved in the criminal justice system, or relevant organisations. The course has been designed to enhance knowledge and understanding of the criminal justice system and the importance of inter-disciplinary and multi-agency working to provide greater protection for individuals who are in contact with the criminal justice system and to ensure improved measures within professional practice. The MA degree can provide a sound progression route for a range of career options and further study as required. Careers advice is provided by UW careers advisors, presentations by other MA graduates, Research degree students and guest speakers.

Links with employers
For those interested in a career in or related to criminology, the course team develop links with local organisations and projects, to support students in gaining employment opportunities after graduation. These local organisations typically offer sessions and opportunities within the career's day, guest speaker sessions within modules and opportunities to host dissertation projects. Examples of organisations that work in partnership with the course team in these ways include:

- Cranston drugs and alcohol service
- West Midlands Police Force
- St Andrews Healthcare
- Safe Together Consultancy
- Foundation to Change
- HMPPS Probation
- HMP Hewell

- Prison Service
- Victim support
- West Mercia Constabulary
- Women's Aid
- Youth Support Service
- Witness Services
- Lucy Faithful Foundation

A graduate employer alumni has been designed to support employability options for students, and it is hoped the placement providers will also encourage applications. This postgraduate course also encourages and enhances opportunities to network and engage at conferences and similar events, so students build on their own professional networks to seek opportunities within the field.

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 they take 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.