



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Programme Specification 2021–2022

Criminology and
Criminal Justice *and*
Psychology Law

MSc
PGDip
PGCert
Individual modules

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised 2 December 2021

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London [website](#). Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the ‘ask a question’ button in the [student portal](#). Otherwise, the *Contact Us* link at the bottom of every webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Criminal Justice and Criminology, and Psychology Law programmes:

Module: Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Study session: There are two study sessions in a year, each lasting 20 weeks. Sessions begin in October and April. Each session is followed by an assessment submission window.

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The quality committee of the member institution providing academic direction, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support. Where there are changes which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the Programme Specification 2021–2022

This programme is offered for the first time in October 2021.

December 2021: The minimum periods of registration have been clarified.

Programme titles and qualifications

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The award certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the award. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for these awards is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass.

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the [Programme Regulations](#), under Scheme of Award

Programme titles

- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Psychology Law

Qualifications

- Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Postgraduate Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Psychology Law
- Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology Law

Intermediate qualifications

Students may not normally receive an intermediate qualification if continuing to a higher qualification, even if they are registered on the intermediate qualifications.

Exit qualification

- Postgraduate Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology Law

An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification, as noted above, for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules/courses (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study, if the student leaves the programme. Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study of the same award with the University of London.

Individual modules available for study on a stand-alone basis

There is also provision for individual modules of the programme to be studied on a stand-alone basis.

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Award titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Science – MSc

Postgraduate Diploma – PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate – PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

The awards are placed at the following Levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

MSc Level 7

PGDip Level 7

PGCert Level 7

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group

See the [QAA website](#) for information about quality assurance.

Not applicable

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

University of London

Academic direction

Royal Holloway, University of London

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Web supported learning with an online Module Leader.

Programme structures

The programme has two registration points in the year: October and April. There are two study sessions in a year, also beginning in October and April, each lasting 20 weeks. Each session is followed by an assessment submission window.

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Students have an online induction session available through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) prior to the start of their study session. This includes orientation of their learning environment and guidance on the structure and learning expectations for the module.

The MSc is a 180 UK credit degree programme. For the MSc, you must complete

- Five compulsory modules (150 credits total); and
- One compulsory Project module (30 credits)

The PGDip is a 120 UK credit degree programme. For the PGDip, you must complete four modules (each worth 30 credits).

The PGCert is a 60 UK credit degree programme. For the PGDip, you must complete two modules (each worth 30 credits).

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum*	Maximum
MSc	Two years	Five years
PGDip	One year	Five years
PGCert	Six months	Five years

*The minimum period of registration is subject to module availability and modules will be launched on a rolling basis from April 2022 onwards.

Students registering on the MSc, PGDip or PGCert for the first time in April 2022 will be able to complete in a minimum of two and a half years, one and a half years and one year respectively.

In making a decision as to how many modules to register for in a given session, it is important to take account of on-going work and/or personal commitments.

Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and the [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).

Where credits are assigned to modules of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

The MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice and MSc Psychology Law both comprise a total of 180 UK credits (90 ECTS credits) at FHEQ Level 7. Each module comprises 30 UK credits (15 ECTS credits).

Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of prior learning is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place elsewhere, before entry onto this programme of study.

Where the prior learning covered a similar syllabus to a module/course studied elsewhere, credit will be awarded as if you took the Criminology and Criminal Justice or Psychology Law module.

See the [General Regulations](#) (Section 3) and Programme Regulations (Section 3) for more rules relating to prior learning.

For this programme the University of London may recognise your prior learning and award you credit towards your qualification.

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the [website](#).

Entry route 1 – Direct Entry route

To qualify to register for Direct Entry to the MSc, PGDip or PGCert, applicants will need a bachelor's degree which is considered at least comparable to a UK second class honours degree or a postgraduate qualification from an institution acceptable to the University.

Directly related professional work experience and/or directly related professional qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Entry route 2 – Performance Based Admissions route

If applicants do not meet the requirements for Direct Entry they can apply for the MSc via the Performance based admissions (PBA) route. To qualify for entrance via the PBA route, applicants will need a bachelor's degree or aegrotat (certificate) from an institution acceptable to the University.

Students on the PBA route may transfer to the MSc on successful completion of one module (30 credits).

Full details of the PBA route can be found in Section 6 of the Programme Regulations.

Entrance to the individual modules

To qualify to register for a stand-alone individual module, applicants will need a bachelor's degree or aegrotat (certificate) from an institution acceptable to the University.

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under [Entry Requirements](#).

Applicants who have not met any of the above must have passed, within the past three years, a test of proficiency in English language, from an organisation acceptable to the University. This standard must be reached before registering for the MSc.

Further information on English language proficiency tests can be found on our [website](#).

Computer specification and internet access

Students will require regular access to a computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems. A webcam may be required in the event that online timed assessments (if offered) are proctored, and in such a case, it is a student's responsibility to ensure that they have a webcam.

For students to get the most from their studies, their computers should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser (the latest version of Firefox, Chrome or Internet Explorer). This must accept cookies and have JavaScript enabled

and the following applications installed:

- a word processor that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx)
- a PDF reader
- Microsoft Excel

Students with specific access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see the [Inclusive Practice Policy](#).

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see the [website](#).

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

Programme aims: Criminology and Criminal Justice

The aims of the Criminology and Criminal Justice programme are:

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- To provide access to a graduate distance learning master's degree programme in Criminology and Criminal Justice for all students with a suitable level of academic ability;
- To provide a programme of study that offers students support through virtual and local learning environments and the flexibility to study at any time and from anywhere around the globe;
- To equip students with advanced critical thinking skills and the ability to identify and solve complex problems in a range of criminal justice and policy environments;
- To provide students with a critical awareness of the philosophical, theoretical and methodological debates that shape the discipline;
- To provide students with an extensive, policy-oriented and vocationally relevant knowledge of crime and responses to crime in a global context;
- To equip students with a systematic and comprehensive understanding of quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches used in the social sciences;
- To prepare students with diverse aspirations for professional careers in the fields of criminology and criminal justice;
- To produce graduates with advanced theoretical and methodological knowledge and the ability to identify and manage the opportunities and risks facing supply chains.

Programme aims: Psychology Law

The aims of the Psychology Law programme are:

- To provide access to a graduate distance learning master's degree programme in Psychology Law for all students with a suitable level of academic ability;
- To provide a programme of study that offers students support through virtual and local learning environments and the flexibility to study at any time and from anywhere around the globe;
- To equip students with advanced critical thinking skills and the ability to identify and solve complex problems in a range of psychology law and policy environments;
- To provide students with a critical awareness of the philosophical, theoretical and methodological debates that shape the discipline;
- To provide students with an extensive, policy-oriented and vocationally relevant knowledge of psychology law and criminal justice;
- To equip students with a systematic and comprehensive understanding of quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches used in the social sciences;
- To prepare students with diverse aspirations for professional careers in the fields of psychology law and criminal justice;
- To produce graduates with advanced theoretical and methodological knowledge and the ability to identify and manage the opportunities and risks facing supply chains.

Learning outcomes: MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

A student is expected to

A Knowledge, understanding and cognitive skills

- Critically evaluate literature related to specialised areas of the criminal justice system and generate new scientifically informed research questions;
- Apply specific qualitative and quantitative methodologies to generate new knowledge informing our understanding of criminology and psychology law;
- Apply a range of qualitative and quantitative decision supporting methods in order to evaluate and solve complex problems, and make informed evidence-based decisions;
- Systematically analyse and evaluate social scientific research to inform our understanding of crime and offending;
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of criminological approaches to understanding key perspectives and debates in criminology within a global context;
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the causes of crime and offending in the criminal justice context;
- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena within the criminal justice system.

B Practical, professional and key skills

- Plan and carry out independent and original research/project work in one of the subject areas and present work in a coherent and professional manner;
- Communicate ideas effectively and succinctly;
- Demonstrate advanced descriptive, predictive and prescriptive analytical skills used in decision making processes within the legal system;
- Approach problems logically and systematically;
- Critically evaluate the quality of applied criminological research;
- Work to deadlines;
- Solve problems in a self-directed and original fashion, plan and implement tasks autonomously.

Learning outcomes: PGDip Criminology and Criminal Justice

A student is expected to

A Knowledge, understanding and cognitive skills

- Apply a range of qualitative and quantitative decision supporting methods in order to evaluate and solve complex problems, and make informed evidence-based decisions;

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- Systematically analyse and evaluate social scientific research to inform our understanding of crime and offending;
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of criminological approaches to understanding key perspectives and debates in criminology within a global context;
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the causes of crime and offending in the criminal justice context;
- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena within the criminal justice system.

B Practical, professional and key skills

- Demonstrate advanced descriptive, predictive and prescriptive analytical skills used in decision making processes within the legal system;
- Approach problems logically and systematically;
- Critically evaluate the quality of applied criminological research;
- Work to deadlines;
- Solve problems in a self-directed and original fashion, plan and implement tasks autonomously.

Learning outcomes: PGCert Criminology and Criminal Justice

A student is expected to

A Knowledge, understanding and cognitive skills

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the causes of crime and offending in the criminal justice context;
- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena within the criminal justice system.

B Practical, professional and key skills

- Critically evaluate the quality of applied criminological research;
- Work to deadlines;
- Solve problems in a self-directed and original fashion, plan and implement tasks autonomously.

Learning outcomes: MSc Psychology Law

A student is expected to

A Knowledge, understanding and cognitive skills

- Critically evaluate literature related to specialised areas of the criminal justice system and generate new scientifically informed research questions;

- Apply specific qualitative and quantitative methodologies to generate new knowledge informing our understanding of criminology and psychology law;
- Apply a range of qualitative and quantitative decision supporting methods in order to evaluate and solve complex problems, and make informed evidence-based decisions;
- Systematically analyse and evaluate social scientific research informing our understanding of the participation of crime and offending;
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of criminological and psychological approaches to the assessment and management of young people in the criminal justice system;
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the causes of crime and offending in the criminal justice context;
- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena within the criminal justice system.

B Practical, professional and key skills

- Plan and carry out independent, and original research/project work in one of the subject areas and present work in a coherent and professional manner;
- Communicate ideas effectively and succinctly;
- Demonstrate advanced descriptive, predictive and prescriptive analytical skills used in decision making processes within the legal system;
- Approach problems logically and systematically.

Learning outcomes: PGDip Psychology Law

A student is expected to

A Knowledge, understanding and cognitive skills

- Apply a range of qualitative and quantitative decision supporting methods in order to evaluate and solve complex problems, and make informed evidence-based decisions;
- Systematically analyse and evaluate social scientific research informing our understanding of crime and offending;
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of criminological and psychological approaches to the assessment and management of young people in the criminal justice system;
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the causes of crime and offending in the criminal justice context;
- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena within the criminal justice system.

B Practical, professional and key skills

- Demonstrate advanced descriptive, predictive and prescriptive analytical skills used in decision making processes within the legal system;
- Approach problems logically and systematically.

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 takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content and the learning, teaching and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module syllabuses.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The core principles of the Standard Academic Model, which incorporates the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme, are outlined below.

Principle 1: Access and opportunity

Our programmes are designed to maximise access and opportunity for learners. An online induction will ensure that students are prepared for study and are familiar with the learning environment and sources of support during their student journey.

Principle 2: Student learning

Our programmes are designed to provide students with a rich, vibrant, rigorous and engaging learning experience.

Principle 3: Student support

Our programmes are designed to provide students with the support they need to succeed and fulfil their potential.

Principle 4: Programme and module structure

Our programmes follow a consistent structure, designed to drive progression and retention, and offer flexibility within an efficient module release schedule.

Principle 5: Design for learning

Our programmes are a co-creation between various teams who each contribute their professional expertise, and educational design for successful learning is at the heart of the programme development process.

Principle 6: Unbundling, portability

Wherever possible, our modules are designed as discrete sequences of learning for maximum use and portability.

Principle 7: Assessment

Our assessment is rigorous, robust, secure, transparent and aligned to the learning outcomes.

Principle 8: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Inclusion is at the heart of our practice in teaching, learning and assessment.

Assessment methods

Each module is run over a 20 week block, followed by an assessment submission window.

Each module, excluding the Project, is assessed by one end of term coursework assessment or online examination (100%).

The Project module is assessed by one research project (100%).

Repeating or resitting a failed module may be done once the module results have been confirmed by the Board of Examiners.

Coursework is submitted in the VLE by prescribed deadlines.

Student support and guidance

Key features of the support for students include:

- [Student Portal](#): for accessing student induction, study skills support, careers and employability resources, student wellbeing advice.
- Student induction resources.
- [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives guidance on a range of issues from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- VLE containing: self-assessment and student planner tools; comprehensive learning materials; e-resources/e-library; student forums and progress monitoring tools
- Online Module Leader
- [Programme Regulations](#).
- [The Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its flexible and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and member institutions of the University of London. However some of the flexible and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London, and are delivered without academic lead by a member institutions. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The Quality Framework, the [Quality Assurance Schedules](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, [programme specific regulations](#).

Awards standards

All University of London qualifications have to align with the [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#) to assure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every programme that is developed by a member institution of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one member institution) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics: prepared for all systematic reporting within the University of London;
- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and up-to-date.

Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback and engagement

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every two years, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme may serve as preparation for students who wish to go on to take further study in the subject area. Enquiries about further study opportunities should be directed to the University of London Student Advice Centre ‘ask a question’ button in the [student portal](#).

Graduate employment routes

The Criminology and Criminal Justice programme is targeted at individuals who wish to gain or enhance the professional skills associated with a diverse range of careers in criminal justice, public policy and criminology.

The Psychology Law programme is targeted at individuals who wish to gain or enhance the professional skills associated with a diverse range of careers in psychology law, public policy and criminology.

The Alumni community

Upon graduation, students automatically become members of the University of London Alumni Network, a diverse community of over 100,000 alumni in more than 180 countries. The Alumni Network can provide individuals with lifelong links to the University of London and each other. Benefits include social and networking events, access to local groups, a bi-annual magazine, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)