

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name, title and level of final qualification(s)                                                                 | <b>MRes Social Research and Criminology</b><br>(Level 7)                          |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s)                                                                     | PG Dip Social Research<br>PG Cert Social Research                                 |
| Awarding Body                                                                                                   | University of London                                                              |
| Teaching Institution(s)                                                                                         | Birkbeck, University of London                                                    |
| Home school/other teaching departments                                                                          | School of Social Sciences                                                         |
| Location of delivery                                                                                            | Central London                                                                    |
| Language of delivery and assessment                                                                             | English                                                                           |
| Mode of study, length of study and normal start month                                                           | Full-time (1 year)<br>Part-time (2 years)<br>September                            |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body                                                                      | N/A                                                                               |
| <a href="#">QAA subject benchmark group(s)</a><br><a href="#">Higher Education Credit Framework for England</a> | <a href="#">Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) training requirements</a> |
| Birkbeck Course Code                                                                                            | TMRSOCCM_C                                                                        |
| HECoS Code                                                                                                      | 100471                                                                            |
| Start date of programme                                                                                         | Autumn 2017                                                                       |
| Date of programme approval                                                                                      | Summer 2017                                                                       |
| Date of last programme amendment approval                                                                       | November 2022                                                                     |
| Valid for academic entry year                                                                                   | <b>2025-26</b>                                                                    |
| Date of last revision to document                                                                               | 28/11/2022                                                                        |

## Admissions requirements

A second class honours degree (2:2 or above) in a related area, or relevant experience combined with an adequate academic background (subject to interview).

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

## Course aims

MRes Social Research and Criminology is one of five interdisciplinary programmes designed to prepare students for further research in the workplace or for doctoral study. Taught by leading figures in the field, our MRes programmes provide a rigorous training in a range of quantitative and qualitative methods while addressing critical issues in social science research. Students also write a dissertation, putting into practice the methods and theoretical concepts they have been taught. Through flexible evening study, this course provides a vibrant environment for theoretically informed and socially engaged research. Students who wish to specialise in Criminology will find a rich selection of module choices. This course satisfies Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) training requirements.

## Course structure

| Level                      | Module Code | Module Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Credit    | Comp Core/ Option | Likely teaching term(s) |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Full-time – 1 year</b>  |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |                   |                         |
| 7                          |             | <b>Two</b> subject options in the substantive pathway                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 60        | Option            | 1-3                     |
| 7                          | SSPO239H7   | <b>Four</b> from:<br>Introduction to Quantitative Social Research,<br>Applied Social Data Analysis in R,<br>Experiments in Social Science<br>Qualitative Social Research Methods<br>Qualitative Research Design<br>Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research | <b>60</b> | Core              | 1,2,3                   |
| 7                          | SSPO240H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 1                       |
| 7                          | SSPO245H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 2                       |
| 7                          | SSPO242H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 3                       |
| 7                          | SSPO242H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 1                       |
| 7                          | SSPO243H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 2                       |
| 7                          | SSPO241H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 3                       |
| 7                          | SSPO018D7   | Social Research Dissertation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 60        | Core              | 3                       |
| <b>Part-time – 2 years</b> |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |                   |                         |
| <b>Year 1</b>              |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |                   |                         |
| 7                          |             | <b>One</b> subject option in the substantive pathway                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 30        | Option            | 1-3                     |
| 7                          | SSPO239H7   | <b>Two</b> from:<br>Introduction to Quantitative Social Research,<br>Applied Social Data Analysis in R,<br>Experiments in Social Science<br>Qualitative Social Research Methods<br>Qualitative Research Design<br>Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research  | <b>30</b> | Core              | 1,2,3                   |
| 7                          | SSPO240H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 1                       |
| 7                          | SSPO245H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 2                       |
| 7                          | SSPO242H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 3                       |
| 7                          | SSPO242H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 1                       |
| 7                          | SSPO243H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 2                       |
| 7                          | SSPO241H7   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 15        |                   | 3                       |

| <b>Year 2</b> |           |                                                 |    |        |       |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|----|--------|-------|
| 7             |           | One subject option in the substantive pathway   | 30 | Option | 1-3   |
| 7             | SSPO239H7 | Two from:                                       | 30 | Core   | 1,2,3 |
| 7             | SSPO240H7 | Introduction to Quantitative Social Research,   | 15 |        | 1     |
| 7             | SSPO245H7 | Applied Social Data Analysis in R,              | 15 |        | 2     |
| 7             | SSPO242H7 | Experiments in Social Science                   | 15 |        | 3     |
| 7             | SSPO243H7 | Qualitative Social Research Methods             | 15 |        | 1     |
| 7             | SSPO241H7 | Qualitative Research Design                     | 15 |        | 2     |
| 7             |           | Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research | 15 |        | 3     |
| 7             | SSPO018D7 | Dissertation                                    | 60 | Core   | 3*    |

### Indicative options list

LADD059S7 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice  
LADD027S7 Gender, Sexuality and Criminal Justice  
LALA149S7 Global Perspectives on Crime and Control  
LALA139S7 Drugs, Crime and Culture  
LALA078S7 Youth Justice  
LALA087S7 Psychology of Law and Crime

*Core: Module must be taken and passed by student*

*Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

*Option: Student can choose to take this module*

*\*In term 3 of year 1, part-time students undertake initial preparatory work for their dissertation which is completed at the end of the second year.*

### How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.:

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

### How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will mainly be through essays and online examinations (usually completed at home or in a workspace in college), but may also involve short written exercises, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments, case studies, or problems to solve.

## **Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)**

‘Learning outcomes’ indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- apply quantitative and qualitative methods to social research
- demonstrate understanding of the key theoretical and methodological issues of the chosen pathway
- employ the analytical, evaluative and critical skills developed in addressing problems presented in other academic and non-academic work settings
- demonstrate the ability to conduct an independent research project
- obtain and analyse information from a wide array of sources.

## **Careers and further study**

Our graduates go into a variety of research roles, for instance, in private firms, government departments, think tanks, NGOs, and political parties. The MRes degree also helps students prepare for doctoral study and satisfy ESRC funding requirements.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

## **Academic regulations and course management**

Birkbeck’s academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

## **Support for your study**

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

## **Quality and standards at Birkbeck**

Birkbeck’s courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives

to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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