Programme Specification

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awarding body</strong></td>
<td>University of London</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Institution</strong></td>
<td>Birkbeck College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme Title(s)</strong></td>
<td>MA/LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme Code(s)</strong></td>
<td>TMJCMGY_C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UCAS code (if applicable)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home Department</strong></td>
<td>Law</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exit Award(s)</strong></td>
<td>PG Dip, PG cert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration of Study (number of years)</strong></td>
<td>1 year full time, 2 years part time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Study</strong></td>
<td>FT x PT x DL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Level of Award (FHEQ)</strong></td>
<td>MA/LLM Level 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)</strong></td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QAA Benchmark Group (or not applicable)</strong></td>
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**Programme Rationale & Aims**

The programme offers an opportunity to explore the interface between criminal law and criminal justice from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It is designed for the student with some academic or practical background knowledge in criminal law or criminal justice, interested in exploring and developing new critical perspectives on major contemporary national and international debates in these areas. Studying part-time in the evening makes the course particularly attractive to criminal justice and legal professionals and practitioners.

The aims of the programme are:
- To provide an opportunity for sustained advanced study of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice (CLCJ).
- To provide students with an opportunity to pursue a multi-disciplinary study of CLCJ.
- To provide a distinctive platform for undertaking studies in and researching CLCJ through an engagement with the humanities as well as social science theory and methods.
- To develop an academic and academic informed vocational study of criminal law and criminal justice.

**Entry Criteria**

- Good second-class honours degree in law or a related discipline in the humanities or social sciences.
- Degrees from overseas institutions must be equivalent to a UK second-class degree.
- Other relevant qualifications and appropriate professional experience and training welcome.
- Excellent English language skills are essential.
## Prospective Entry

Security is a major contemporary preoccupation; criminal law and criminal justice are key responses. This programme offers an exciting, challenging and distinctive opportunity to undertake advanced study in these areas.

The central focus of the programme is the interface between criminal law and criminal justice. It offers a theoretically informed and multidisciplinary course of study. In addition to studying the now established critical and theoretical perspectives relevant to criminal law and criminal justice, the programme also has a humanities focus, which offers an opportunity to explore and engage with cutting-edge scholarship in criminal law and criminal justice studies.

The programme is delivered by staff from the School of Law, the Institute of Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck, and a range of visiting international scholars and practitioners.

The Institute for Criminal Policy Research is a unique resource attached to the School of Law, undertaking major empirical research into crime and the criminal justice system. Its main areas of research are:

- the quality and effectiveness of criminal justice services and resources (including the courts, police, probation and services for drug users)
- the causes, consequences and prevention of offending
- public attitudes towards: crime and sentencing, the police and community safety.

## Learning Outcomes

### Subject Specific Skills

The ability to master the wide range of theoretical approaches that can be taken to research in criminal law and criminal justice. In particular, students will be required to have a firm understanding of the interface between criminal law and criminal justice.

A firm critical understanding of a range of research methods and their relevance to undertaking research in criminal law and criminal justice.

A knowledge of and ability to appreciate different theoretical perspectives applicable to scholarship and research in substantive issues in criminal law and criminal justice.

### Generic Research Skills:

The ability to formulate a clear thesis proposal and detail the methodological and theoretical steps necessary for its completion.

The ability to conduct high-level research, both library based and empirical, on an independent basis.

The ability to work within a research community, both supporting the work of other researchers and gaining from the work of others.

The ability to communicate and present the results of research to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

The ability to appreciate the ethical implications of all independent research.

The ability to complete a high level piece of research in Research Project form.
**Transferable Skills:**

The ability to collect and collate materials and effectively communicate them to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

The ability to work both independently and in a group.

Language and communication skills (including, where appropriate, foreign languages).

Computing and Internet skills.

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**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

Final assessment for most compulsory and option modules is based on a 4000-word essay. You will also submit a Research Project of 6000–8000 words on a topic of your choice, to be agreed with the programme director.

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**Programme Description**

**Full Time**

**LLM/MA Criminal Law Criminal Justice**

All modules are level 7

Criminal Law, Theory and History
Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
Research Project (6,000 words)
3 x Optional modules

**Part Time - 2 year**

**LLM/MA Criminal Law Criminal Justice**

All modules are level 7

Year 1
Criminal Law, Theory and History
Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
1 x Optional module

Year 2
Research Project (6,000 words)
2 x Optional module
## Programme Structure

### Full Time programme

#### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LADD058S7</td>
<td>Criminal law theory and history</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LADD059S7</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LACN022S7</td>
<td>Masters Research Project</td>
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### Part Time programme

#### Year 1

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## Regulations

- **Admissions**
  
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy:  

- **Credit Transfer**
  
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf)

- **Programme Regulations**
  
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)n/a**

## Student Attendance Framework – in brief


**Principle**

Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.
Attendance expectation

Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

E-Registers

All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality

Programme Director

Leslie J Moran

Start Date (term/year)

Prior to 2008/09

Date approved by TQEC

Prior to 2008/09

Date approved by Academic Board

Prior to 2008/09

Date(s) updated/amended

October 2019