

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years part-time
Intended Award	MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice
Named Exit Awards	PgD Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice PgC Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: Have a background in policing, criminal/youth justice, social work or related social science subject area through previous study (Bachelors honours degree 2:2 or above or equivalent) Or Have acquired qualified experience through professional employment that enables the candidate to study successfully at master's level
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice (EBP) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2017-18 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

This Master's course in Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice aims to develop criminal justice and law enforcement practitioners' skills in assessing, appraising, synthesising and using research findings. In the UK, evidence-based decision-making has been prominent in public discourse for a number of years. In a world where the public sector and law enforcement agencies are expected to do more with less financial investment and fewer resources, the evidence-based approach to policing has gained considerable

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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momentum in recent years as it strives to improve both efficiency and effectiveness by focusing on 'what works'. Using an informed approach, to investigate all available evidence, can lead to decisions that are more effective in achieving desired outcomes as decisions are based on accurate and meaningful information.

This course will provide students with an advanced understanding of crime, criminological theory and criminal justice and will enable you to drive an evidence-based approach to decision-making. The programme explores key themes and issues in criminal justice; the application of criminological theory and approaches to understanding crime and conducting comparative police and criminological research.

Course Aims

- to enable students to develop and refine their in-depth knowledge of criminological theory; explanations of crime and the criminal justice system in order that they develop a systematic understanding and a critical awareness of current problems in an international comparative context
- to provide students with opportunities to foster and develop a core set of analytical problem solving skills that can be translated into effective professional practice within a range of different contexts
- to enable students to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and make sound judgements
- to provide students with a conceptual understanding of research and the skills necessary to interrogate, analyse and evaluate crime data and other primary resources (managing data), to be able to critically evaluate current research and have a practical understanding of how established research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge
- to enhance the ability of students to effectively communicate to specialist and non-specialist audiences, plan strategically and manage and lead in transformational change in the public sector
- to provide students with the skills necessary to apply the lessons of 'what works' literature into confronting regional crime and anti-social priorities and make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations
- to enable students to develop an understanding of the significance of community engagement, procedural justice and interprofessional practice and be able to apply this within an operational context
- to develop in students a range of intellectual skills reflecting both the ethos of lifelong learning and the rigour required at M level, a high level of student autonomy and self-direction in order to facilitate the student to demonstrate initiative, originality alongside integrity and ethical judgement in their advanced scholarship and to become influential and effective specialists in their field of practice

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning

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outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

1. a systematic understanding of complex social problems, how they inform criminological theory and evidence including a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in criminology, ethics and the political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation
2. an in-depth knowledge of the principles of EBP, the different approaches to crime reduction and the mechanisms to critically evaluate the efficacy of each and to be able to conduct their own implementations and evaluations of EBP initiatives including proposed crime reduction methods
3. an appropriate application of established theories and concepts within criminology and other social sciences to analyse how social needs, social problems and policies in relation to crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance are constructed and understood in both national and international contexts
4. an in-depth and critical understanding of appropriate techniques sufficient to allow detailed investigation into crime reduction and prevention, deviance and criminal behaviour and creativity in the application of knowledge
5. a practical ability to critically analyse the values and processes that underpin developments in criminal justice, together with the practices of agencies which administer criminal justice policy
6. an ability to critically analyse strategic and organisational change issues, to identify managerial and resource implications of implementing change at strategic and operational levels to create learning based organisational culture
7. a critical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to develop and interpret data and the ability to acquire and accurately analyse data and information, to evaluate their relevance and validity, and to synthesise a range of information in the context of new situations
8. a sound ability to undertake either on their own, or in collaboration with others, investigations of social issues in relation to criminological debates and be able to apply appropriate ethical standards with regards to a range of research strategies and methods to assess the appropriateness of their use

Course Design

The QAA subject benchmark statements relate to expected standards of degrees in a variety of subject areas. They identify what underpins a particular discipline to provide coherence and identity, and outline what can be expected of a graduate in terms of the abilities and skills needed to develop understanding or competence in the subject: however, there are no specific benchmark statements for Crime and Community Safety at Master's level. This course, therefore, draws upon the Master's degrees in Criminology (2014) and Business and Management (2015). These benchmarks are used to inform the appropriate content of the MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice but at an advanced level of scholarship appropriate for a level 7 master's qualification as set out by QAA's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2015).

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Course Structure

The MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	New Frontiers in Crime and Its Control	40	M
	Innovation in Public Sector Management	20	M
	Interprofessional Practice	20	M
	Research and Evaluation: Evidence Based Practice	40	M
	Dissertation	60	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice on successful completion of 120 credits other than the Dissertation, or a PgC Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice on successful completion of 60 credits including the modules 'New Frontiers in Crime and Its Control' and 'Innovation in Public Sector Management'.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich for four consecutive days in each semester including a tutorial/assessment day and the rest of the programme online. Students studying on the MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice course are likely to have approximately 18 contact hours during the face-to-face teaching week each semester and then they will be expected to find at least 12 hours per week for online learning and independent study for the duration of the semester.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will include a wide variety of assessment strategies: Blogs, essays; a case review; academic poster and presentation; research proposal and dissertation.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

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Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Crime and Community Safety: Evidence Based Practice will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Part-time UK/EU	£825 per 20 credit module
Part-time International	£1,120 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).