Programme Specification – 2016/17

1. Awarding body
   University of Surrey

2. Teaching institution (if different)
   N/A

3. Final award and programme/pathway title
   MSc Criminology and Social Research

4. Subsidiary award(s) and title(s)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PG Dip</td>
<td>Criminology and Social Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Cert</td>
<td>Criminology and Social Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. FHEQ Level
   6 & 7

6. Credits and ECTS credits
   180 UK credits, 90 ECTS credits

7. Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)
   N/A

8. Mode of study and route code
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of study</th>
<th>Route code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time with PTY</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance learning</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short course</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. JACs code
   N/A

10. QAA Subject benchmark statement (if applicable)
    N/A

11. Other internal and / or external reference points
    N/A

12. Faculty and Department/School
    Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Sociology

13. Programme Leader
    Dr Michael McGuire

14. Date of production/revision of the specification
    July 2016

15. Educational aims of the programme

The MSc in Criminology and Social Research (CCJSR) provides a thorough grounding in the discipline of criminology combined with advanced training in the full range of qualitative and quantitative methods of social research. It is designed to meet the needs of students graduating from a first degree who have an interest in crime and the criminal justice system, people who are currently employed and wish to apply a knowledge of criminological research within their present job, or those who wish to move into a criminological research career. The degree provides an ideal foundation to undertake a part-time or full-time PhD.

The degree is suitable for a wide range of students in terms of age, professional background, and current occupation and circumstances. Because of this diversity of experience, students on the degree learn a great deal from each other, including at the residential Weekend Conference in the middle of the first semester, and the Day Conference at the end of the first semester.

The full-time MSc is taught over 12 months and the part-time course over 24 months. Students who do not wish to undertake the Masters dissertation can obtain the Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology and Social Research after gaining 60 credits, or the Postgraduate Diploma after gaining 120 credits. Students studying for the MSc in full-time mode are required to submit their dissertation during the academic year in which they commenced registration. It is expected that students studying part-time will have obtained a minimum of 60 credits by the end of the first 12 months of registration in order to proceed into the second year.
16. Programme learning outcomes – the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

**Principal Award: MSc in Crime, Criminal Justice and Social Research**

On completing the M.Sc. in Criminology and Social Research students will have:
- Gained experience in conducting an extended piece of criminological research of a high calibre
- Obtained a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the discipline of criminology
- Developed and demonstrated extensive knowledge about the core debates in academic criminology and the central issues in criminal justice policy
- Understood how the concerns of criminology and the criminal justice system connect to and interact with wider social issues
- Acquired and utilised practical knowledge of a range of different traditions and methods relevant to conducting criminological research, from survey research to field methods
- Planned, manage and execute research as part of a team
- Developed the analytic skills and substantive knowledge to enable them to pursue a successful career in academe, research institutes, or relevant government departments

**Subsidiary Award: Postgraduate Diploma in Crime, Criminal Justice and Social Research**

On completing the Diploma in Criminology and Social Research students will have:
- Obtained a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the discipline of criminology
- Developed and demonstrated extensive knowledge about the core debates in academic criminology and the central issues in criminal justice policy
- Understood how the concerns of criminology and the criminal justice system connect to and interact with wider social issues
- Acquired and utilised practical knowledge of a range of different traditions and methods relevant to conducting criminological research, from survey research to field methods
- Planned, managed and executed research as part of a team
- Developed the analytic skills and substantive knowledge to enable them to pursue a successful career in academe, research institutes, or relevant government departments

**Subsidiary Award: Postgraduate Certificate in Crime, Criminal Justice and Social Research**

On completing the Certificate in Criminology and Social Research students will have:
- Obtained an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the discipline of criminology
- Developed and demonstrated knowledge about the core debates in academic criminology and the central issues in criminal justice policy
- Obtained some understanding of how the concerns of criminology and the criminal justice system connect to and interact with wider social issues
- Acquired and utilised practical knowledge of a range of different traditions and methods relevant to conducting criminological research, from survey research to field methods

**Knowledge and understanding**

**MSc**
- Show critical awareness and understanding of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the discipline of criminology;
- Show systematic knowledge of basic principles of research design and strategy
• Understand the use and value of a wide range of different research approaches across the quantitative and qualitative spectra
• Appreciate the epistemological and ontological questions that underpin social research
• Recognise the significance of social/political contexts and uses of research developed competence about the core debates in academic criminology and the central issues in criminal justice policy
• Show engagement with innovations and developments in social research
• Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research ethics

**Postgraduate Diploma**
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• Show systematic knowledge of basic principles of research design and strategy
• Understand the use and value of a wide range of different research approaches across the quantitative and qualitative spectra
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• Show engagement with innovations and developments in social research
• Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research ethics

**Postgraduate Certificate**
Show critical awareness and
• understanding of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the discipline of criminology;
• Show systematic knowledge of basic principles of research design and strategy
• Understand the use and value of a wide range of different research approaches across the quantitative and qualitative spectra
• Appreciate the epistemological and ontological questions that underpin social research
• Recognise the significance of social/political contexts and uses of research developed competence about the core debates in academic criminology and the central issues in criminal justice policy;

**Intellectual / cognitive skills**

**MSc**
• Understood how the concerns of criminology and the criminal justice system connect to and interact with wider social issues
• Acquired and utilised practical knowledge of a range of different traditions and methods relevant to conducting criminological research, from survey research to field methods
• Systematically formulate researchable problems
• Analyse qualitative and quantitative data drawn both from ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments, using basic and more advanced techniques, and draw warranted conclusions
• Critically evaluate the range of approaches to research

**Postgraduate Diploma**
• Understood how the concerns of criminology and the criminal justice system connect to and interact with wider social issues
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### Postgraduate Certificate
- Understood how the concerns of criminology and the criminal justice system connect to and interact with wider social issues
- Acquired and utilised practical knowledge of a range of different traditions and methods relevant to conducting criminological research, from survey research to field methods
- Systematically formulate researchable problems
- Analyse qualitative and quantitative data drawn both from ‘real world’ and ‘virtual world’ environments, using basic and more advanced techniques, and draw warranted conclusions
- Critically evaluate the range of approaches to research

### Professional practical skills

**MSc**
- Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in criminological research
- Generate both quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological base
- Employ a quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data

**Postgraduate Diploma**
- Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in criminological research
- Generate both quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological base
- Employ a quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data

**Postgraduate Certificate**
- Use the range of research techniques commonly employed in criminological research
- Generate both quantitative and qualitative data through an array of techniques, and select techniques of data generation on appropriate methodological base
- Employ a quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative software package to manage and analyse data

### Key / transferable skills

**MSc**
- Work to deadlines and within work schedules
- Apply computing skills for research instrument design, data analysis, and report writing and presentation
- Communicate ideas, principles and theories by oral, written and visual means

**Postgraduate Diploma**
- Work to deadlines and within work schedules
- Apply computing skills for research instrument design, data analysis, and report writing and presentation
- Communicate ideas, principles and theories by oral, written and visual means

**Postgraduate Certificate**
- Work to deadlines and within work schedules
- Apply computing skills for research instrument design, data analysis, and report writing and presentation
- Communicate ideas, principles and theories by oral, written and visual means
17. Programme structure – including the route/pathway/field requirements, levels modules, credits, awards and further information on the mode of study.

All programmes operate on a 15 credit modular structure over two semesters. All taught modules are semester based and are worth 15 credits, which is indicative of 150 hours of learning, comprised of student contact, private study and assessment. Project and dissertation modules can be either 15, 30, 45 or 60 credits and, additionally, Master’s dissertations 90 credits.

Students on the CCJSR MSc are encouraged to take up opportunities for experiential learning in workplace settings, providing extended opportunities for work experience and career development in professional research settings. The department supports students in finding 3-4 week research placements during Spring and Summer vacation periods, and this approach has recently been supplemented to include strategies of support for students seeking a wider range of opportunities for professional development in the first-hand experience of research organisation – including such activities as part-time internships over longer periods, workplace visits, or shadowing research professionals. This introduces further flexibility in a student-led process of professional development in light of increasing external pressures on students’ commitments and responsibilities. All, however, involve opportunities to consider issues in career development and professional skills. The support process involves the Department working closely with students on a one-to-one basis toward their goals and requirements, in association with the University’s Careers Service, to offer pastoral advice and support. Organisations the department has worked with in the past have included the Office of National Statistics, Cabinet Office, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, Sussex Youth Offending team and Surrey Police.

In some cases the work experience may also be with projects in academic contexts. Students seek experiential learning opportunities with the support of the Department’s Senior Placement Tutor, and assistance from the Faculty Placement Office. Students are asked to provide a brief evaluation of their placement experience, and the workplace liaison/supervisor is also asked to submit a brief summary report, so that students’ workplace experiences may be evidenced by the Senior Placement Tutor and their Personal Tutor.

Credits achieved from completing the dissertation/final project module cannot be attributed to a subsidiary award. Students are unable to submit their dissertation until they have successfully completed their taught modules.

The Dissertation module is 60 credits; submission of which is only allowed after successful completion of 120 taught module credits.

This programme is studied full-time over one academic year and part-time over two academic years. In order to achieve the principal award of an MSc a student must complete 180 credits, with a minimum of 150 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6. Students are also eligible to exit the programme with the following subsidiary awards:

- PG Dip – 120 credits with a minimum of 90 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6
- PG Cert – 60 credits with a minimum of 45 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6

In order for students to progress they must achieve a minimum average of 50%.

Programme adjustments (if applicable)
N/A

<p>| FHEQ Level (7): Potential awards – MSc / PG Cert / PG Dip |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Module code | Module title    | Core/compulsory | Credit volume  |
|             |                 |                 | Semester (1/2) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Code Type</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCM006</td>
<td>Field Methods</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM010</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM032</td>
<td>Criminological Theories</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM042</td>
<td>Research: From Design to Dissemination</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM008</td>
<td>Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM026</td>
<td>Law, Society and Social Control</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM019</td>
<td>Crime and Offending</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM033</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice in Crime and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCM035</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many optional modules must a student choose in order to achieve the necessary amount of credits to achieve this level? N/A

18. Opportunities for placements / work-related learning / collaborative activity – please indicate if any of the following apply to your programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Indication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Tutor(s) / Guest Speakers / Visiting Academics</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Training Year (PTY)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement(s) (study or work that are not part of the PTY or Erasmus Scheme)</td>
<td>Yes, one month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Placement(s) (that are not part of the PTY Scheme)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERASMUS Study (that is not taken during Level P)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study exchange(s) (that are not part of the ERASMUS Scheme)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual degree</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

19. Quality assurance

The Regulations and Codes of Practice for taught programmes can be found at:
http://www.surrey.ac.uk/quality_enhancement/index.htm