UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences
Division of Sociology and Criminology

Programme Specification

Programme Title: MA Sociology, Social Policy and Crime

Academic Year:	2018-19
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	N/A
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7] MA Sociology, Social Policy and Crime Postgraduate Diploma Sociology, Social Policy and Crime Postgraduate Certificate Sociology, Social Policy and Crime
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	N/A
Programme duration:	One year full-time
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	N/A
Date of Senate Approval:	June 2017
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	April 2018

Introduction

This programme enhances existing undergraduate provision in the Division. It is both distinct from, and complementary to, our existing degree programmes. It is thus attractive to both our in-house graduates and applicants from other universities. Whilst other providers (who tend to be located in the South of England) offer MA programmes that combine two of the subject disciplines (usually Sociology and Criminology) this programme also offers social policy and thus offers a distinctive profile that builds on a long-established and related academic discipline within our Division.

The MA programme in Sociology, Social Policy and Crime provides students with the theoretical, critical and analytical skills to enable them to develop advanced knowledge of central issues, contemporary developments and theoretical perspectives in the related academic disciplines of sociology, social policy and

crime. The programme addresses the interaction of these disciplines by exploring issues of identity, diversity, social justice, inequality, sustainable societies and community participation.

The programme is held together by all of the core modules, and is introduced with the 'Contemporary Sociology and Crime' module. In addition, students choose an elective module to reflect their objectives and interests. All of the learning outcomes and aims of the programme are met by the core modules – the inclusion of the elective module adds to the learning outcomes and enhances the student experience.

Many Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences postgraduates show a personal commitment to addressing a wide range of social issues and some already have work experience in related areas, for example the public, private and voluntary sectors. Students will see the programme as a means of developing sector-relevant knowledge and skills for their future professional career. Students are likely to go on to work in a wide variety of sectors, such as in the criminal justice and social policy fields, in the UK or abroad.

The Division of Sociology and Criminology is a multidisciplinary team of scholars within the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences. Teaching staff have academic backgrounds in the social sciences, and have specialist areas of expertise in topics such as criminal identity, human rights, law, mental health, national minorities, psychology, refugees and social exclusion. The programme is taught by research-active staff in the Division who have a particular interest and expertise in the issues that students will study and they will therefore have access to cutting edge research and thinking.

The programme has strong skill-based elements, in line with the University's mission of 'Making Knowledge Work'. Examining real-world case studies and engaging in theoretical debates will provide students with the critical, analytical and communication skills attractive to future employers. Face-to-face lectures and small-group seminar work are complimented by off-campus visits to relevant professional and governmental organisations. Our primary goal as tutors is always to encourage participation, openness and the expression of diverse points of view. These will equip students to develop leadership potential and professional capacities that will help them to advance in their chosen career.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

A1.   Develop the skills required to evaluate and apply theoretical concepts relevant to contemporary sociological and criminological issues.

A2   Develop the skills necessary for lifelong learning in professional contexts.

A3   Develop strong personal and transferable skills in the areas of communication, research and critical thinking.

A4   Equip students with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for analysing social policy and practice.

A5   Equip students with the knowledge and skills required to be a continuously reflective and critical practitioner.

A6   Critically analyse current and emerging research and practice so that students have a good grounding in contemporary sociological and criminological issues.

A7 Equip students to formulate and independently investigate a complex research question and communicate their findings at an advanced level.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO1 Critically evaluate advanced theoretical concepts in sociology, social policy and crime.

LO2 Critically analyse contemporary social and criminal justice policy issues.

LO3 Understand and evaluate complex information on a range of related UK and international social issues.

LO4 Use their initiative in self-directed learning and construct sound written arguments.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO5 Critically reflect on advanced theoretical concepts in sociology, social policy and crime.

LO6 Critically appraise contemporary social and criminal justice policy issues.

LO7 Develop a critical and reflective approach to practice or policy-based interventions.

LO8 Apply originality and creative problem-solving skills in dealing with complex issues.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO9 Demonstrate a detailed and critical knowledge of current research and scholarship in a specialist area of UK or international sociology, social policy or crime.

LO10 Identify appropriate research approaches and methods for specific purposes and applications within their area of study

LO11 Identify gaps and inconsistencies in the evidence-base guiding policy and practice within their area of study.

LO12 Apply critical reasoning to existing evidence and scholarship within their area of study.

Curriculum

Postgraduate Certificate – students will study 60 credits, including the 40 credits of core modules below plus an elective module of 20 credits:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Contemporary Sociology and Crime	core	20	Sem 1	SAC7002-B
7	Conceptual and Legal Approaches to Mental Health	core	20	Sem 1	SAC7009-B
7	Elective	elective	20	Sem 1	-

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and have achieved the award learning outcomes.

Postgraduate Diploma – students will study the 60 credits below:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Minorities and Refugees: A century caught between persecution and self-reliance	core	20	Sem 2	SAC7004-B
7	Gendered Transitions	core	20	Sem 2	SAC7005-B
7	Researching the Social World	core	20	Sem 2	SAC7006-B

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and have achieved the award learning outcome.

Degree of Master – students will study the 60 credit dissertation:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Dissertation in Sociology, Social Policy and Crime	core	60	Sem 3	SAC7007-E

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The MA Sociology, Social Policy and Crime is designed to produce graduates who are well prepared for careers in the social sciences field, with good transferable and employability skills. The programme is also designed to prepare our graduates for lifelong autonomous learning, collaboration, teamwork and leadership.

Most teaching is lecture or group-based discussion for each of the modules, whilst individual supervisors will provide specialist guidance during dissertation writing (starting in semester two, with the Research Methods module). Hence, as the programme progresses, the main learning method gradually becomes more individualised and student-centred.

Students will start the programme with an intensive induction week to develop their learning and personal development planning skills and to provide an advanced understanding of IT and library resources. Additional group and one-to-one support is provided to individual students who require it. Students will be introduced to advanced academic writing, research and analytical skills as part of the preparation for writing their dissertation.

The learning, teaching and assessment strategies built into this course design take into consideration the learning outcomes for the programme, the nature of the areas studied and the need for students to demonstrate significant autonomy in their learning and to appreciate that policy and practice in some of these area changes rapidly. Directed study, involving reading appropriate texts and the preparation of assessed work, is used to address the majority of learning outcomes. At level 7 students are expected to demonstrate well-developed skills of analysis, synthesis and criticism and to demonstrate self-direction and originality in dealing with complex problems.

Assessment Strategy

To ensure the systematic development of knowledge and academic skills in key subjects, modules are assessed by a variety of methods. In addition to individual reports, presentations, essays and formal examinations, we use group work - where the assessment may be based on a group report or a presentation – to provide teamwork experience and practice in different ways of expressing arguments and information. Some modules may also use problem-solving exercises or ask students to develop a portfolio of their work. Both these methods help to develop skills needed for to become an independent, critical and creative learner. The assessment type is varied, so as to accommodate a wide range of learning styles and preferences, and some of the coursework (the case-study, the dissertation proposal and the dissertation) permits students to choose what they would like to focus on.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations, which are available at the following link:

http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students. The decision to offer a place is based on our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and their ability to succeed on this programme. Consideration of applications will be dependent on a combination of formal academic qualifications and/or relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

A first degree award of 2:2 or above in one of the following: Sociology, Social Policy, Criminology, History, Law, Psychology or Political Studies. Other degrees in related or non-related subject areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applications are also welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or with significant relevant experience.

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certified learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1		