# Programme Specification

**Programme and title:** Masters (MSc) in Applied Social Research (Criminology)

**SCQF Level:** 11  
**SCQF Credit Value:** 180

## Educational aims of the programme:
Concise (e.g. a few sentences), general statement of aims and broad purposes of the programme

- The Diploma/MSc in Applied Social Research (Criminology) is available on both a full and part-time basis and is aimed at those who wish to embark on a career in social science research, and also at those who already undertake, evaluate, commission or manage research in the public and voluntary sectors. The MSc in Applied Social Research (Criminology) can lead to embarking on a PhD.

- The specific objectives of the programme are:
  - to introduce students to the theoretical foundations that underpin social scientific research and criminological research and analysis
  - to develop students’ understanding of research from the proposal stage to dissemination of the findings
  - to introduce students to the key applications of information technology in social scientific and criminological research
  - to provide students with the skills and knowledge base required to collect, analyse and report qualitative and quantitative data, taking account of ethics, reliability and validity
  - to develop students’ understanding of the relationship between research and policy and the meanings of evaluation, its terminology, practice and use.
  - to provide students with a grounding in criminological theory that can be applied in their own research
  - to enable students to critically examine some of the theoretical foundations that underpin social scientific research and criminological research and analysis
  - to enhance student learning during the course by conducting and writing up a group research project
  - to design and complete a research project in the form of a dissertation on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the Course Director

## Intended programme learning outcomes:
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) of what the student will know, understand and be able to do as a result of their learning, expressed in the categories below. Please consider the contribution made to the student's personal development planning (PDP) and future employability.

### Knowledge and understanding
- students will have an understanding of the nature of social enquiry and a critical awareness of the relationship between social theory and criminological research
- students will understand the scope and scale of a range of research techniques and data collection instruments
- students will be able to work independently to design and complete criminological research projects

### Subject-specific skills and other attributes
- students will have developed key skills necessary to effectively use the key applications of information technology in social and criminological research
- students will have developed a broad knowledge base and key skills required to collect, analyse and report qualitative and quantitative data
- students will be able to analyse and apply theory in research tasks
- students will be sensitised to the requirements of the research process and issues associated with implementing research
- students will have developed both individual and group skills in the area of communication
### Generic skills
(e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem solving abilities) and other attributes

- Academic Skills: advanced literacy and advanced numeracy; critical and analytical skills; library and database skills (including the ability to use data and archive resources in legal studies); problem solving; creativity; advanced research skills; information technology (IT) skills including specialist software (e.g. SPSS and NVIVO)
- Communication Skills: communication in group work; individual presentations; group presentations; conference posters; essay writing; research report and dissertation writing;
- Self-Management Skills: planning; applying study skills; organising academic work; working under pressure; time management; meeting deadlines
- Interpersonal Skills: interaction in group work; leadership; listening; sensitivity

### Learning, teaching and assessment strategies:
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) on overall approach taken to develop and assess learning outcomes, including any distinctive features

- To achieve the learning outcomes of the Diploma / MSc programme, appropriate teaching and learning strategies have been developed. Programmes draw on a variety of methods of assessment to enable students to demonstrate the achievement of the learning outcomes.
- Varied teaching methods appropriate to the curriculum, including lectures, seminars, computer based workshops and group work, are used to deliver a coherent programme of study. Teaching methods are adapted to suit the aims of each module, and to provide students with the range and depth of learning required by the degree as a whole. They are designed to facilitate students’ progressive development and acquisition of skills through the degree.
- Students experience a range of different forms of assessment – these include standard essays, critical review essays, book reviews, research proposals, conference posters, group project reports and the research dissertation.

### Professional/statutory body accreditation or recognition:

| ESRC |

### Further details:

- Entry requirements: [http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php](http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php)
- Programme structure: [http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/](http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/)
- Relevant Subject Benchmark statement (if applicable): [http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp)
- Introduction/revision date: September 2010