

MASTER'S IN APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY, PENOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Originally developed in partnership with HM Prison Service and the National Probation Directorate, the Master of Studies Course in Applied Criminology, Penology and Management has been run by the Institute of Criminology for over ten years. The course is open to senior practitioners working in criminal justice systems (prisons, probation, the magistracy, the third sector and other related organisations), both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The course is an excellent investment both for the sponsoring organisation and the individual student. A number of our graduates now occupy senior positions within NOMS and other agencies, and the course is very well regarded at senior levels throughout the criminal justice system.

Aims

- To offer an up-to-date and high-quality course, introducing students to some of the most important theory and research in criminology.
- To help students develop the skills necessary to locate, interpret, analyse and evaluate research and other source materials.
- To enhance the capacity of students to apply research to their work as senior criminal justice professionals.
- To give students the tools and space to reflect on their practice and think about wider criminal justice issues.

Course Outline

Each year comprises three formal teaching blocks of two weeks duration. The first block is held around Easter with the second and third blocks usually in July and September. Students need to complete year one to a required standard to be eligible to proceed to year two.

A variety of teaching methods are used, all of which require active student participation. Individual study is also necessary. All students have individual supervisions with Cambridge supervisors to discuss their work as it progresses. The Institute of Criminology has one of the world's finest criminological research libraries.

Course Syllabus

The Diploma focuses on five core subject areas:

- *Criminological Theory and Criminological Research*
- *Criminal Justice, 'What works' and the Community*
- *Management in Criminal Justice*
- *Prisons and Imprisonment*
- *Sentencing, the Legal Context and Court Issues*

The course also gives guidance on how to appreciate research which, in an era of evidence-based practice, is an important skill for modern practitioners and policymakers. A key feature of the course is regular guest lectures given by distinguished speakers – both academics and high-profile practitioners. Previous speakers include Sir Richard Dearlove, Sir Ronnie Flanagan and Professor Rod Morgan. Year two builds on work completed in year one. An intensive two week study block provides a comprehensive introduction to research design and research methodologies

including both quantitative and qualitative methods. This is intended to provide sufficient 'hands-on' experience to enable students to proceed to the development of their own research proposal and the conduct of a study which forms the basis of a dissertation. The study may be based on either library or – usually - empirical research and is selected in close consultation with a supervisor. Usually a topic is chosen which is close to the student's own area of responsibility so that it closely links into career development. Work proceeds on the research proposal and the conduct of the thesis in two further study blocks during which there are further research workshops in addition to regular meetings with supervisors and tutors.

Assessments

Year one: Course members are required to write three essays of 3000 words each from three of the five core subject areas.

Year two comprises one further 3000 word essay (on a subject area not covered in the assessment for the year one), a 3000 word methods assignment (which normally takes the form of a research proposal) and an 18,000 word thesis. The marks from the year one essays will be carried forward and credited towards the Master's year.

What Qualification Will I Gain?

Students who complete year one successfully but who do not proceed to year two, will graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Criminology, Penology and Management (University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education). Those who complete year two successfully will graduate with a Master of Studies (M.St.) (Cantab) Degree.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Senior practitioners working within prison and probation services, the magistracy or other organisations (public, private, or third sector) concerned with criminal justice

Applicants will be selected on their academic and/ or professional potential. Potential applicants from non-academic backgrounds should not be discouraged from applying, providing that they have relevant professional experience and strong references. Experienced and talented practitioners will be able to complete the course successfully. Motivation and commitment are as vital as formal academic qualifications, and we offer support to students who initially lack confidence. Equally, applications are welcome from people who already hold a Master's degree – many of our students have such qualifications, including some in Criminology. The knowledge gained from the course will enhance professional practice, and will help to develop leadership skills, strategic thinking and general understanding of criminal justice issues and research.

The Cambridge M.St. teaching team includes the following:

Dr Ben Crewe (Course Director)

Dr Tim Coupe (M.St. Tutor)

Dr Katrin Müller-Johnson (M.St. Tutor)

Professor Alison Liebling (Director of the Prisons Research Centre)

Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe

Mrs Nicola Padfield (Faculty of Law)

Testimonials

"The M.St. Penology course provides first-rate professional development for senior managers and aspiring senior managers working in prisons and probation. We, at NOMS, value the course very highly, particularly given the expertise held in the Institute's Prisons Research Centre and among other Institute staff. Many successful leaders in our system have completed the course. We recommend governors, regional custodial managers and other budgetholders consider this as one option for

development of suitable candidates" (Ian Poree, Director of Commissioning and Commercial, NOMS)

"To say I enjoyed the experience would be an understatement. From the first lecture I found the course challenging and stimulating (in a way that I thought education and knowledge accumulation never could be), rewarding (personally and professionally) and perhaps above all it was a privilege to be able to converse with, challenge and learn from some of the most knowledgeable individuals in the fields of crime and criminal justice research" (Prison governor)

The Institute of Criminology

Cambridge University's Institute of Criminology has an international reputation for academic excellence. In the most recent Higher Education Funding Council assessments, the Institute achieved the highest possible recognition for both its teaching and research. Part of the Law Faculty, the Institute has a multi-disciplinary teaching and research staff. In September 2004, the Institute moved into new purpose-built premises on the University's Sidgwick Site, a quiet area just ten minutes walk from the city centre. The building boasts state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, as well as the Radzinowicz Library which houses one of the world's leading research collections on crime and criminology.

For more details, please contact:

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