

Faculty of the Built Environment



Professional Development
In Community Safety and
Crime Prevention:
By Distance Learning

Prospectus 2006/07

As Programme Leader for the Community Safety and Crime Prevention at the University of the West of England, I am pleased to invite you to study with us. Our programme was developed in 1993 so we have many years of experience of teaching students on the subject area of community safety and crime prevention. To date, over 200 students have graduated from the University, with a range of credits and qualifications, enabling them to put into practice the skills and expertise they have acquired as a result of studying the course.



The course was developed in conjunction with the Safe Neighbourhoods Unit, drawing on their considerable expertise in practical approaches to community safety. The initial curriculum was based on the training recommendations contained in the Home Office commissioned report "Safer Communities – the local delivery of crime prevention through the partnership approach" (The Morgan Report) which in turn heavily influenced Section 17 of the British Crime and Disorder Act of 1998.

As the programme has developed, we have consulted widely with organisations such as the Home Office, Crime Concern and other establishments throughout Europe. Although drawn on British experience, research and good practice in other countries are extensively referred to. The course materials are regularly updated in response to new research and feedback.

Our course considers the extensive approaches to the field of crime prevention and community safety, but also focuses on the new directions in research and theory, leading to students' own conclusions on the most effective methods of preventing crime and increasing community safety.

We believe that we are able to offer students the most flexible and comprehensive approach to enhancing their knowledge in this increasingly complex area of study and practice.

I hope that you will enjoy browsing through the prospectus, but please feel free to contact us if you have any queries about the course.

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The University of the West of England (UWE) is a modern, growing university in the thriving city of Bristol. UWE is one of Britain's most popular universities, with more than 30,000 students and 3,000 staff and is the largest provider of higher education in the South West of England.

The University offers undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and short course programmes to a diverse student community. Students come to Bristol UWE from all parts of the UK, as well as a significant and growing number of international students from over 50 countries worldwide.

In parallel with the traditional values of academic excellence, the University is committed to using academic knowledge and skills to find practical solutions to problems. Our research community makes a significant contribution to advances in industry, commerce, public services and the professions, both nationally and internationally.



What students have said about their experience of studying with us

Many of our students have written to us to let us know how the programme has helped them in their day-to-day work. Here are a few of the comments we have received (all included with permission from the students).

"I can honestly say that, as a result of studying this course, I find that I am thinking and reacting differently, and am far more knowledgeable than I was a year ago with regards to the importance of involving other agencies and more importantly, the community themselves ... I have been on a steep and exciting learning curve. This course has been a breath of fresh air and it will definitely make me more effective and efficient as a practitioner in community safety and crime prevention"



Barbara White, Hampshire Constabulary



"I will undoubtedly refer to the material time and time again, as it is a wonderful source of evaluation material. I never thought I would say this at the beginning, but this unit has been the most useful I have undertaken so far".

René Evans, West Midlands Police, writing about the Evaluation module in the diploma stage of the course.

"Can I say that this course could not be more relevant to my work if it tried – outstanding".

**Graeme MacDiarmid
Strathclyde Police
Architectural Liaison Officer
Glasgow Housing Association**



I have found this course to be very enlightening for me, both as an individual and as a police officer. I have recommended this course to many people, and will continue to do so".

Victor Smallwood, Thames Valley Police



".. It pleases me that the training and assignments are so relevant to my job, that at times it parallels the work I am doing. This is ideal as I can put my learning to good use immediately".

Sarah Bartlett, Safer Community Council Co-ordinator for Auckland City Council, New Zealand



**Graduates of 2001
Graduates of the Community Safety
and Crime Prevention Open Learning Programme
celebrate after the Awards ceremony at Bristol
Cathedral.**

Introduction to the Programme

The Programme offers students the opportunity to study by distance learning. This is a cost effective way for students to learn at their own pace, in their own style.

Importantly, this offers you the opportunity to choose when to study so that you can enhance your career whilst balancing your other commitments of work, home and family.

The course is flexible in that students can choose to study with us for interest only, or you can enrol for a complete programme of study leading to a credit or an award. Some students choose to study with us as part of their continuing professional development.

The formal programme of study consists of four stages, ranging from a certificate of credit to a Masters Degree. Students can enrol for one module at a time, allowing for breaks in between each stage if preferred.

We can offer flexibility in terms of the pace of study, but in general students should be able to commit a certain amount of time to studying each week – around five to six hours a week is the average.

You can enrol with us at any time of the year. Although there are criteria for entry, it is not essential that you possess a degree or any professional qualifications, and we welcome students from all occupational backgrounds.

Course materials can be accessed electronically or sent by post. Interactive learning materials are available online using the programme's website, and we are linked to other UK university libraries.

The course materials are broken down into easily digestible modules of study, and consist of lively, self-instructional materials. The text is drawn from a wide range of key publications and articles.

Study Options

The Open Learning Programme can be studied in several ways.

- Studying modules for personal interest only
- Incorporating modules into a broader education or training programme
- Studying modules to meet continuing professional requirements
- Obtaining credits towards other qualifications
- Studying for a credit or award with the University of the West of England

Modules can be studied for interest only, on an individual basis, with or without tutor support.

Modules can be incorporated into a broader educational or vocational training programme, or can be studied to meet the Continuing Professional Development requirements of several professional institutes. Successful completion of coursework will provide students with recognised credits which can be used towards other professional qualifications.



Programme of study

If you choose to enrol with the University, there are four stages to the programme of study.

- Certificate of Credit
- Postgraduate Certificate
- Postgraduate Diploma
- Masters Award

Unless you have already studied modules covering the same ground elsewhere, you will be expected to start at the first stage of the programme. Each is like a 'building block' that sets the foundation for the next stage of the course. Students can stop and gain a qualification at the appropriate stage, or can continue right through to the MA degree.

Certificate of credit

This is the foundation stage of the programme, leading a certificate of credit (30 credits, in Applied Criminology and Crime Prevention). There are two modules of study, which consider in detail the traditional approaches to crime prevention, and the perceived failures and limitations of previous strategies. The modules introduce the student to the new directions in research and theory, concentrating on the relationship between the development of crime control and the involvement of communities.

The certificate of credit requires around 300 hours of study, over a period of 9 – 12 months.

Postgraduate Certificate

Students are required to study two modules, one on the situational and one on the social

issues in community safety. Two components from a list of three are studied for the Situational Issues in Community Safety module. For the Social Issues in Community Safety module there is a compulsory component concerned with Multi- Agency and Co-operative Working, but the remaining component can be chosen from a list of three options.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Issues in Community Safety, requires around 300 hours of study, over a period of 9 – 12 months.

Postgraduate Diploma

Study for the Postgraduate Diploma involves four modules of study. Three of these modules are compulsory modules:

- Youth Criminality, Personal Safety and Conflict Resolution.
- Town Centre and Workplace Safety
- Research for practice and policy

The fourth module is selected from a list of options.

The Postgraduate Diploma requires around 600 hours of study, over a period of 18 – 24 months.

Masters Award

To achieve the Masters Award, students must have completed all the preceding stages and in addition, must then complete a final dissertation.

The dissertation consists of the preparation of a proposal confirming the aims, proposed research strategy and programme of work, as well as a presentation. The dissertation itself will consist of 16,000 – 18,000 words.

The Masters Award on average involves 6 – 9 months of study.

Block enrolments

Police forces and organisations that need to train a number of their staff can benefit from a block enrolment. If six or more students are enrolled at the same time, a group tutorial is provided at the beginning of each module, at the employers' place of work (subject to the feasibility of tutors travelling from Bristol). There is no additional charge for this service.

Course fees

Full details of course fees can be found in the supplement to this prospectus. Course fees include all course materials, tuition and assessment.

Fees are subject to a cost of living increase each academic year, which all students are required to pay.

Students who enrol for the Postgraduate Diploma may elect to pay for the cost of each module, as they progress through the course.

Where UK students pay for the cost of the course themselves, they can elect to pay by instalments.

Entry requirements

We actively encourage students from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience. If you choose to enrol for the programme of study, you will need to be over 21 years of age in the year of entry, and must also meet the requirements of *one* of the following categories:

- A. Hold a degree awarded by a UK university or the CNAAB (or a degree awarded by an overseas institution), or
- B. Hold other appropriate academic or professional qualifications, or
- C. Be a mature applicant without the educational backgrounds described above, but have the experience and potential ability to cope with the requirements of the course. Applicants under this section will normally;
 - Be over 24 years of age in the year of entry, *and*
 - Possess an appropriate educational background and provide evidence of an appropriate level in English language, *and*
 - Be able to demonstrate that they have had at least three years appropriate experience, and provide a reference to this effect.

Applicants who do not have the relevant experience may instead be asked to provide a satisfactory essay of at least one thousand words on a topic selected by a tutor, or alternatively must satisfy an admissions tutor of their potential ability to benefit from the programme of study.

Vocational relevance

The programme operates at post-experience level and is therefore most suited to those working in the field of community safety or crime prevention. The course is especially relevant to police officers and community safety officers, but may also be of interest to anyone which is practising in community safety and crime prevention. Community representatives or those who have an active involvement in resident's associations are also welcome to apply.

The course will assist you in reflecting constructively on your own experiences and perceptions, and in exploring the relationship between social theories, academic research, and policy and practice.

Support for the distance learner

Students are allocated a personal tutor upon enrolment, who will guide them through their programme of study and assist with any queries or problems.

A team of administrative staff also help students with their progress through the course. You will be invited to visit the University, to meet with your tutor within the first few weeks of starting your course. This visit is optional.

Studying by distance can be isolating and for this reason we have a student network, which enables students to get in touch with others studying the programme, to establish student support and an exchange network.

We produce regular newsletters for our students on our latest developments.

Students are also periodically invited on optional study visits to look at crime prevention measures and community safety initiatives in other cities and countries. In recent years our study visits have included New York and Chicago, Manchester and Paris.

Course materials

Course materials can be sent either electronically or by post. Additional material is available through the programme's website www.uwe.ac.uk/fbe/commsafe and interactive web-based workbooks are being developed for each module, as an optional mode of study.

A specially prepared study guide is provided upon enrolment, enabling students to prepare for the course.

Students can use the University's library, or they can use their own local University library via the UK Libraries Plus scheme.

The modules of study have clear learning outcomes and all course materials are broken down into manageable sections to help students organise their time. Text is written in easily digested format and includes a large number of case studies and examples, to ensure that the material is as relevant as possible.

Assessment

The course is based on continuous assessment, with each of the modules comprising a log journal and an assignment.

The log journal records progress towards the personal study objectives. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and concerns. The log journal does not receive a formal mark but the tutor will comment on the journal and it is useful to refer to this feedback when completing the corresponding assessment. It is advisable to complete and submit the log journal prior to completing the assignment.

Students are provided with a full detailed assessment at the end of each module, with clear assessment criteria.