

Module code	SMC	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Substance Misuse and Crime

This module aims to:

- Ensure students recognise the breadth of legislation designed to address the issue of drugs and crime
- Recognise the key elements of the legislation relating to this issue
- Develop an awareness of the size of the problems related to substance misuse
- Identify and critically assess the key agencies that assist with these issues

Learning outcomes

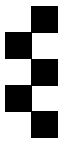
On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- identify the key pieces of legislation
- recognise the types of crime affected by substance misuse
- understand and critically evaluate the role of those agencies primarily responsible for the implementation of Government Policy relating to substance misuse
- identify and critically evaluate the effectiveness of key facets of the legislation

Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The live lectures will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors. At pre-arranged and regularly agreed points, on specified days and times in advance of each lecture (typically two to three days prior to the lecture) there will be a 'drop in' telephone or online preparatory learning liaison session conducted between the student(s) and tutor, typically lasting for 20 to 30 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide students with an introductory preview of the week's work and give them an opportunity to ask specific and general questions related to that week's learning opportunities and to enable them to contextualise their learning experience. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given weekly direction on required and indicative reading.



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Syllabus

- Considering the problem:
 - define drugs in light of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
 - critically consider the misuse of alcohol
 - examine recent legislation concerning substance misuse
 - consider the extent of the problem
- Criminological theory:
 - critically explore the differences in British and American academic literature on drug use and misuse
 - identify and evaluate the framework established to study the drugs-crime link
 - consider the literature on drugs and violence
- Sentencing drug offenders:
 - critically looking at statistics
 - considering the health implications of imprisoning drug offenders
- Compulsory treatment:
 - the ethics of enforced treatment
 - critically assess government initiatives to enforce treatment for drug users
 - mandatory drug testing
- The Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR):
 - examine key aspects of the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement
 - assess the extent to which the drug rehabilitation requirement has been a success
 - analyse the Dedicated Drug Court pilot schemes
- Drug trafficking and laundering:
 - consider the level of international co-operation
 - review the statistics related to drug trafficking
 - assess the extent of drug dealing in Britain
- Policing drugs:
 - consider key government drug policies
 - assess the impact and effectiveness of policing in relation to illegal drugs
 - review the recent successes in tackling drug supplies such as operation nemesis in Stoke-On-Trent (2009)
- Investigating drug crime:
 - the importance of informers
 - the protection offered to informers
 - the special case of juveniles
 - corruption
- Gender and drug misuse:
 - the issue of women’s health and drug use
 - the impact of women drug users in prison
 - the existence of women as drug dealers
 - women in treatment
- Changes in policy and practice:
 - new contributions to the drugs-crime debate
 - current and potential changes in drugs legislation

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	Unit 2 and Unit 3	10%
Mid-module assignment	2,000 words	Unit 6	40%
Journal entries	500 words (each)	Unit 4 and Unit 8	10%
End of module project	2,000 words	Unit 9	40%