

# MRes in Transnational Crime



## Programme Overview

Transnational crime has become a major concern among policy makers around the world and its significance is growing rapidly among scholars as well. The MRes in Transnational Crime draws on Liverpool Hope's significant research strength in this field, and offers an innovative programme for aspiring academic researchers, policy makers, and practitioners with an interest in a subject at the cutting edge of contemporary criminology.

As the first of its type in the North West, this unique degree programme aims to give students a robust grounding in the study of transnational crime, and the nature of key theoretical, practical, and policy responses to it by state and non-state actors. Across two taught modules and an original research dissertation, students will engage with in-depth subject teaching in this area, as well as advanced quantitative and qualitative research skills and the ethics and practicalities of conducting research on transnational crime. This will build towards the production of an original research dissertation that explores a contemporary transnational crime issue in line with the course theoretical content.

By providing students with a world-leading understanding of the core issues around this field and the skills to produce high-quality original research, it will allow them to pursue careers in and around criminal justice and security policy or practice, or to engage in advanced academic study via further postgraduate research qualifications.

## Why Choose Liverpool Hope

Liverpool Hope University offers the first programme of its type in the North West.

The programme is led by recognised scholars in the field with outstanding teaching and research reputation.

The blended learning approach offers flexibility to accommodate students from different backgrounds, including those not living in Liverpool or those who will be working while studying.

Its strong research methods component prepares students for professional careers in analysis, research, and policy development or to progress towards a doctoral degree.

Hope Park offers superb academic and support facilities, and is located in a vibrant city known for its cultural heritage.

## Key Information

**Award:** MRes in Transnational Crime

**Study Mode:** Full-time & Part-time

**Duration:** 12 months full time; 27 months part time.

**Intake:** September.

**Entry Criteria:** A minimum of a Second-Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline awarded by a UK university, or an equivalent higher education qualification.

For students whose first language is not English there is a language requirement of IELTS 6.0 overall (reading 5.5, writing 5.5). In addition to this, we also accept a wide range of International Qualifications.

**Fees and Funding:** For tuition fee information, please go to the Student Finance pages at [www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding](http://www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding)

**How to Apply:** For details on the application process visit: [www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply](http://www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply)

**School:** Law and Criminology

Student Recruitment,  
[courses@hope.ac.uk](mailto:courses@hope.ac.uk)

Course lead:  
Dr. Sebastian A. Cutrona,  
[cutrons@hope.ac.uk](mailto:cutrons@hope.ac.uk)

*Disclaimer: Information is correct at time of print, however programme details can change.*



**LIVERPOOL  
HOPE  
UNIVERSITY**

## CONTACT

T: +44 (0)151 291 3111

E: [courses@hope.ac.uk](mailto:courses@hope.ac.uk)

[www.hope.ac.uk](http://www.hope.ac.uk)

# Curriculum

The MRes in Transnational Crime is structured as a 180-credit programme. It comprises two compulsory taught modules of 30-credit each and a compulsory 120-credit dissertation. Assessment methods may include coursework, in the form of essays, reports, presentations, and the final 30,000 words research dissertation, a key component of the MRes.

## Modules

### Transnational Crime (30 credits - compulsory)

This module will critically explore key drivers of transnational crime, its historical evolution, manifestations, and law enforcement responses at both national and international levels. Drawing on insights from criminology, sociology, and political science, the module will address a wide spectrum of historical and contemporary risks including drug trafficking, cybercrime, human trafficking, and environmental crime. Supporting case studies will be situated within economic, social, and institutional contexts across different geographic regions such as Latin America, Western Europe, and East Asia.

The module will be delivered through a combination of lectures and discussion-based seminar classes. Lecture content will address concepts, theories, actors, and responses to transnational crime, while seminars will take a problem-based approach, focusing on case studies and exercises aimed at consolidating the theoretical content from the lectures.

### Advanced Research Methods (30 credits - compulsory)

This module will provide students with an overview of the advanced social research methods that provide the foundation for their dissertation research. It will cover a range of relevant topics and skills, including quantitative and qualitative research methods, research design, ethical issues in research, sources of data collection, and the use of specialist software.

The module will be delivered through a combination of lectures and discussion-based seminar classes. These lectures will be grouped into themes of quantitative and qualitative research methods, and cover topics such as research design, ethical issues, sources of data, and analysing data using specialist software.

Seminars will focus on practical research skills, and will provide students with the opportunity to work in groups on the design and analysis of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research projects. The sessions will also provide guidance for students in developing a research proposal for an empirical dissertation project.

### Extended dissertation (120 credits - compulsory)

The extended dissertation offers students the opportunity to produce a longer piece of original research on a topic related to the core subject focus of the degree programme. This may draw on themes introduced in taught modules, or may alternatively speak to interests and/or topics from outside the core programme syllabus.

Produced under the guidance and oversight of a member of academic staff through regular one-hour one-on-one supervisory meetings, the 30,000-word extended dissertation will involve the collection, analysis, and presentation of results from original primary and/or secondary research. In so doing it will provide a test of the student's knowledge and understanding of ethics, research practice, planning, and time-management.

## Research Environment

The MRes in Transnational Crime at Liverpool Hope University is taught by leading scholars in the field with outstanding teaching and research reputation. Our academics have internationally recognised research

profiles in the subject area, with particular emphasis on topics such as organised crime, illegal markets, green crime, and extremism. Their multiple publications have appeared in highly ranked journals and well-regarded university presses. They are actively involved in various research projects and work collaboratively with colleagues from other schools and from different universities in the UK and around the world.

Teaching follows Liverpool Hope University's Learning and Teaching strategy, with an emphasis on small-group teaching. The programme is delivered through lectures and seminars, providing you with the opportunity to work with other students and critically apply your learning. This is supported by directed independent study.

Teaching is delivered at Liverpool Hope University's main campus, Hope Park. The campus is situated just four miles from the city centre and offers superb academic and support facilities, including a library with extended opening hours, computer and wi-fi access, a gym and sports centre, and a careers service for advice on part-time work opportunities and post-study careers.

## Future Career Opportunities

As illegal markets and the actions of criminal organisations become increasingly transnational in the globalisation context, the need for professionals equipped with cutting-edge knowledge to respond to these threats is evident. This programme will appeal to those who wish to work or are seeking development in a broad range of sectors such as the government, multinational organisations, and NGOs, as well as to scholars willing to progress towards a doctorate degree.



**LIVERPOOL  
HOPE  
UNIVERSITY**

## CONTACT

T: +44 (0)151 291 3111

E: [courses@hope.ac.uk](mailto:courses@hope.ac.uk)

[www.hope.ac.uk](http://www.hope.ac.uk)