

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

(Refer to the Institute's document: Graduate Standards and Programme Specification Requirements for further guidance and to the Institute's Learning and Teaching Policy)

May 2011

1. Qualification BSc (Hons) DipHE in Psychological studies CertHE Psychological studies	2. Programme Title Criminological & Forensic Psychology	3. UCAS Code	4. Programme Type Modular: Single (S), Full-time and Part-time		
5. Main Purposes and Distinctive Features of the Programme					
<p>To develop in students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. an appreciation of the diversity of perspectives in criminology and forensic psychology; ii. a critical understanding of psychological theories, methods and debates and their relevance to applied areas; iii. the acquisition of research methods skills and a capacity to apply such skills to specific research problems in criminological and forensic psychology, in the context of an appropriate awareness of relevant ethical issues; iv. an understanding of a range of applications of criminological and forensic psychology; v. key transferable skills in the areas of numeracy, communication, information technology and groupwork; vi. the ability to engage in independent learning. vii. An appreciation of how subject specific knowledge and practice is applied in a forensic setting. <p>The curriculum is consistent with the benchmarks for psychology, developed by both the Quality Assurance Agency and the British psychological Society.</p> <p><u>Special Features</u> Opportunities for: Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (the Graduate Basis for Registration) of the British Psychological Society; self-negotiated career development and work-based learning. The learning environment is characterised by: supportive and approachable staff in psychology with a diverse range of research interests; use of innovative methods of teaching and assessment; dedicated laboratory facilities are available for work of an experimental nature.</p>					
6. What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme (objectives and learning outcomes)					
<p>To gain the qualification the learner will have demonstrated: i) subject knowledge and understanding ii) cognitive skills iii) discipline-related practical and professional skills and iv) other general skills and capabilities (e.g. key/transferable/common) as specified in the learning objectives/outcomes for approved modules in the programme. Further details of module outcomes can be found in the programme document.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><i>Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject(s)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. critical awareness of the scientific orientation central to the discipline and alternatives to it ii. understanding of the key theories, conceptual frameworks, and debates central to the discipline iii. understanding of the range of empirical methods used to study human behaviour and awareness of any limitations associated with their use iv. awareness of a range of applications of psychological theory in contemporary society v. awareness of the boundaries of psychology and the discipline's relationship with other cognate disciplines; especially sociology and criminology vi. critical coherent understanding of a defined body of psychological knowledge informed by current research, and appreciation of the limits of that knowledge <p><i>Cognitive skills in the context of the subject(s)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the capacity for critical analysis and ability to develop an argument ii. the capacity to employ evidence based reasoning to make informed judgements iii. the capacity for creative thinking iv. the capacity to understand data sets and identify relationships v. the capacity to generate and explore research questions in a systematic way vi. the capacity for independent learning and problem solving vii. the capacity to apply and integrate findings across multiple </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><i>Subject-specific practical/professional skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. competence to carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection; especially within criminological / forensic areas ii. competence in analysing data using quantitative and qualitative research methods and interpreting the results of the analysis iii. competence to carry out a systematic search, review and evaluation of psychological research findings (including electronic sources of information) iv. ability to apply critical analysis and evidence based reasoning to current research to identify a focus for further development v. competence to design and execute an original, independent piece of research in an area of criminological / forensic psychology having due regard for ethical issues vi. competence to report research in an appropriate format vii. psychological awareness and understanding applicable to a range of situations and careers that can be used to enhance human experience viii. competence in evaluating and reporting case based material <p><i>Other skills (e.g. key/transferable) developed in subject or other contexts</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to communicate effectively orally and in writing ii. to problem solve and reason systematically iii. numerical and quantitative skills appropriate to carrying out independent research </td> </tr> </table>				<p><i>Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject(s)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. critical awareness of the scientific orientation central to the discipline and alternatives to it ii. understanding of the key theories, conceptual frameworks, and debates central to the discipline iii. understanding of the range of empirical methods used to study human behaviour and awareness of any limitations associated with their use iv. awareness of a range of applications of psychological theory in contemporary society v. awareness of the boundaries of psychology and the discipline's relationship with other cognate disciplines; 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<p>perspectives</p> <p>viii. the capacity for decision-making in criminological / legal contexts</p>	<p>iv. competent use of information technology especially in relation to criminological data bases</p> <p>v. self-management including time-management and willingness to take responsibility for thoughts and actions</p> <p>vi. independent learning and critical self-reflection as a basis for personal development and life-long learning</p> <p>vii. ability to engage in supportive peer collaboration and constructive criticism.</p>
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7. Qualities, Skills & Capabilities Profile

The educational and training goals of the programme seek to develop and demonstrate the following qualities, skills, capabilities and values in its graduates:

A Cognitive	B Practical	C Personal & Social	D Other
<p>Conceptualisation</p> <p>Critical reasoning</p> <p>Powers of analysis</p> <p>Flexibility of thought</p> <p>Synthetic thinking</p> <p>Creative thinking</p> <p>Theoretical and applied problem solving</p>	<p>Writing skills</p> <p>Experimental design and quantitative research skills</p> <p>Fieldwork and qualitative research skills</p> <p>Information technology skills</p> <p>Presentation skills</p> <p>Communication skills.</p>	<p>Self-expression</p> <p>Self-motivation</p> <p>Organisation and time management</p> <p>Teamwork</p> <p>Social interaction and communication</p> <p>Self-reflection</p>	<p>Reporting case based material</p> <p>Searching criminological data bases</p>

8. Subjects Studied, Levels, Credits & Qualifications

(Duration and structure of programme/modes of study/credit volume of study units)

3 years full-time; organised on 2 semesters per year basis.

Part 1 (120 credits) - 6 HE4 20 credit modules (80 credits in core psychology / 40 credits in Criminological and Forensic Psychology). Part 2 (240 credits) - 6 HE5 and 6 HE6 20 credit modules. (HE5 – 80 credits in core psychology / 40 credits in Criminological & Forensic Psychology; HE6 – 40 credits in core psychology / 80 credits in Criminological & Forensic Psychology).

Core Modules

prerequisite modules shown in brackets

Optional Modules (may be varied)

prerequisite modules shown in brackets

Part 2 Level HE6	<p>PSC3300 The Honours Project (PSC2503) (40 credits)</p> <p>PSC3302 Psychology Practicum (PSC1215 & PSC2503)</p> <p>PSC3222 Social & Critical Psychology** (PSC1217)</p> <p>CFP3000 Forensic Psychology (CFP2000)</p>	<p><i>Bachelor Honours Degree 360 Credits</i></p> <p>PSC3207 Abnormal Psychology (PSC2514 or PSC3221)</p> <p>PSC3231 Psychometric Testing (Ability) None</p> <p>PSC3227 Assessment of Personality (PSC2514 or PSC3221)</p>
Part 2 Level HE5	<p>PSC2500 Cognitive Psychology (PSC1202)</p> <p>PSC2501 Biopsychology (PSC1202)</p> <p>PSC2503 Research Methods in Psychology (PSC1223)</p> <p>PSC2513 Further Methods in Psychology (PSC2503)</p> <p>PSC2514 Personality & Developmental Psychology (PSC1217)</p> <p>CFP2000 Criminological Perspectives (CFP1000)</p>	<p><i>HE Diploma 240 Credits</i></p>

Part 1 Level HE4	<p>PSC1202 Cognitive & Biopsychological Perspectives</p> <p>PSC1217 Understanding the Person</p> <p>PSC1223 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology</p> <p>PSC1228 Exploring Psychology II</p> <p>CMM1000 Career Management</p> <p>CFP1000 Psychology and Crime</p> <p>CFP1001 Psychology Work Experience</p>	<i>HE Certificate 120 Credits</i>
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**Students may choose to take either PSC3223 Cognitive Psychology or PSC3224 Biopsychology in place of PSC3222 Social & Critical Psychology but must then study PSC2515 Social & Critical Psychology.

<p style="text-align: center;">9. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy</p> <p><u>Learning and Teaching Methods</u> Active learning is promoted via: practical classes; laboratory workshops; seminars; tutorials; self-directed study; lectures; video viewing and analysis; IT sessions; guided study; fieldwork.</p> <p><u>Assessment Methods</u> Assessment tasks are linked to the learning outcomes of each module and are completed at selected points within the module (chosen to facilitate student learning via feedback on the tasks);</p> <p>Types of assessment include: <i>Coursework</i> essays – 1,500-,2000 words in length practical reports statistical assignments seminar presentations seminar reports posters poster presentations project - normally 6-10,000 words in length</p> <p><i>Time-limited assessments</i> examinations (seen / unseen) in-class assessments of various types</p> <p><u>Assessment Classification System</u> Pass mark for individual assessments - 40% The degree classification is based on 30% of the best 4/6 modules at level HE5 and 70% of all modules at level HE6.</p> <p><u>Honours Classification Bands</u> (Marginal Criteria operate within final 2% of each category)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">70% and above</td> <td style="width: 10%;">-</td> <td style="width: 60%;">First Class</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60% - 69%</td> <td>-</td> <td>Upper Second Class</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50% - 59%</td> <td>-</td> <td>Lower Second Class</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40% - 49%</td> <td>-</td> <td>Third Class</td> </tr> </table>	70% and above	-	First Class	60% - 69%	-	Upper Second Class	50% - 59%	-	Lower Second Class	40% - 49%	-	Third Class	<p style="text-align: center;">10. Other Information</p> <p><u>Date programme first offered</u> 2004/5</p> <p><u>Admissions Criteria</u></p> <p><i>Standard Requirements</i> 260 UCAS tariff points from at least two, but preferably three A2 levels (or equivalent) in any subjects plus 5 subjects at GCSE including Mathematics and English (Grade C or above); Equivalent EU, Scottish or Irish qualifications; appropriate number and level of Edexcel / BTEC qualifications; Kite marked Access Certificate.</p> <p>Other cases dealt with by Admissions Tutor on an individual basis. Special consideration is given to mature applicants aged 21 years or over, without the above qualifications, but who have relevant work/life experience.</p> <p><u>Indicators of Quality and Standards</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Course is accredited as providing Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (the Graduate Basis for Registration) of the BPS, which is the first step towards attaining Chartered Membership (Chartered Psychologist). ii. Research Assessment Exercise 2001, achieved a rating of 3b; in 2008 90% of research activity judged to be of national or international standing with a proportion judged to be "internationally excellent".
70% and above	-	First Class											
60% - 69%	-	Upper Second Class											
50% - 59%	-	Lower Second Class											
40% - 49%	-	Third Class											