

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MSc Forensic Psychology
2	BCU Course Code	PT0978
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	The British Psychological Society

6	Course Description
	<p>Want to study a forensic psychology Master's in Birmingham? This MSc Forensic Psychology course offers you the chance to learn about some of the most dangerous offenders in society and, their victims.</p> <p>It will explore, approaches to assisting police with their enquires (investigative psychology), the criminal justice system from a psychological perspective and how to enhance your skills in communication, group work, professionalism and application of IT.</p> <p>We also aim to improve your research skills and knowledge, through teaching you how to design high-level research projects, conduct statistical analysis, and to evaluate and scientifically report research findings.</p> <p>The core aim of the course is to prepare students to work with clients and professionals in a range of forensic and forensic-related settings. Equipped with a sound knowledge of key theoretical and applied issues in forensic psychology, you will gain not only a critical appreciation of theoretical and factual concepts, but an awareness of the strengths and limitations of research evidence. The course integrates psychological theory with the development of practical skills and an understanding of professional practice.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>The aims of the course are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip you with a detailed critical understanding of the key theoretical and applied issues in forensic psychology, including investigative psychology procedures, the court system, the development of offending behaviour, the assessment and treatment of offenders, and the effects of offending on victims, and; • Provide an understanding of forensic psychology techniques and the roles of other criminal justice professionals in the detection, prosecution, assessment and treatment of offenders; • Enable you to acquire an advanced ability to design research, conduct statistical analysis, and evaluate and scientifically report research in forensic psychology; • Enhance your skills in communication, group work, professionalism and application of IT so that you can perform at a high level of competence in these areas;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfy the academic requirements for Master’s-level knowledge as set out by the Division for Forensic Psychology of the British Psychological Society. <p>On successful completion of the course, you will be able to demonstrate an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of the key issues in forensic psychology of relevance to both academics and practitioners.</p> <p>Graduates of this course are expected to have developed advanced academic, intellectual and professional skills, with the ability to work autonomously and in teams.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Science Forensic Psychology	7	180
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate Forensic Psychology	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Forensic Psychology	7	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted.

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	1 year	PT0978
	Part Time	City Centre	2 years	PT0980

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>

11	Course Learning Outcomes
1	<p>Research and research methods</p> <p>You will have the ability to use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to advanced scholarship in the discipline. You will learn how to conduct qualitative and quantitative research of relevance to forensic psychology, and you will conduct at least one empirical study. You will have the appropriate skills and capabilities to collect and analyse data relevant to forensic psychology.</p>
2	<p>The legal and criminal justice context for forensic psychology</p> <p>You will be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of the psychological theories and evidence of relevance to processes in the justice system, including: the legal framework of the civil and criminal justice systems; processes of investigation; the legal process; the process of detention; working with litigants, appellants, and individuals seeking arbitration and mediation; and interdisciplinary and multi-agency working.</p>
3	<p>Assessment and formulation</p> <p>You will be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of different approaches to assessment and formulation in relation to assessing individuals, groups and / or organisations. You will also be able to demonstrate a familiarity with the processes and tools of assessment in line with the particular focus offered within this course.</p>
4	<p>Interventions</p> <p>You will demonstrate a critical understanding of the range of interventions available for offenders, patients and at risk individuals, victims / survivors, professionals, groups and organisations. You will understand different approaches and be able to identify strengths and weaknesses of these approaches to inform the selection of appropriate interventions. You will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.</p>
5	<p>Client groups</p> <p>You will have the knowledge and skills to enable you to progress to working with a range of client groups including: different types of offenders, patients and at risk individuals; victims / survivors; individuals across the lifespan (including children and young people in conflict with the law); males and females; professionals, groups, and organisations.</p>
6	<p>Forensic settings</p> <p>You will have the knowledge and skills to enable you to progress to working within a range of settings and contexts relevant to forensic psychology, including: prisons; secure units; hospitals; mental health; police; courts (including criminal, family and civil); community settings; charities and social enterprise. You will understand issues of organisational culture and systems, and the ways in which these impact on the practice of forensic psychologists and other professionals. Your understanding of legal and professional practice frameworks, though relevant to the full Stage 1 curriculum, will be particularly relevant to your developing understanding of the work of forensic psychologists in different settings.</p>
7	<p>Development and training</p> <p>You will be able to recognise the need to take responsibility for your own professional development, and you will therefore understand the principles and utility of reflective practice for your current and future development as a forensic psychology student, practitioner, or academic. You will also understand the forensic psychological theories and evidence underpinning the development and training of others.</p>
8	<p>Advice and consultancy</p> <p>You will demonstrate a critical understanding of the forensic psychological theories and evidence relevant to working with organisations to contribute to the development of practice, guidance and / or policy. You will also understand the principles and procedures that forensic psychologists use when evaluating the practice of organisations and conducting consultancy</p>

12	Course Requirements																												
12a	Level 7: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):</i>																												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Module Code</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Module Name</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PSY7051</td> <td>Advanced Research Methods</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7047</td> <td>The Assessment and Treatment of Offenders</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7055</td> <td>Forensic and Transferable Skills</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7046</td> <td>Investigative Psychology</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7050</td> <td>The Psychology of Law and Justice</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7056</td> <td>Research Methods in Forensic Psychology</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7048</td> <td>Victimology</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY7052</td> <td>Dissertation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PSY7051	Advanced Research Methods	20	PSY7047	The Assessment and Treatment of Offenders	20	PSY7055	Forensic and Transferable Skills	20	PSY7046	Investigative Psychology	20	PSY7050	The Psychology of Law and Justice	20	PSY7056	Research Methods in Forensic Psychology	20	PSY7048	Victimology	20	PSY7052	Dissertation	40	
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12b Structure Diagram
Full-Time Structure

Term One				
Forensic and Transferable Skills (20 credits)	Victimology (20 credits)	Research Methods in Forensic Psychology (20 credits)	The Psychology of Law and Justice (20 credits)	Dissertation Project Sessions
Term Two				
Advanced Research Methods in Forensic Psychology (20 credits)	The Assessment and Treatment of Offenders (20 credits)	Investigative Psychology (20 credits)	Dissertation Project Sessions	
Term Three				
Dissertation Project (40 credits)				

Part-Time Structure

Part-time students will have a different structure. The part-time course will typically take two years to complete. Part-time students on this course are typically expected to physically attend University one day per week.

During the first year of study there are four taught modules, two in Term 1 and two in Term 2. In the second year there will be four taught modules (one of these modules includes the requirement to complete a Dissertation Project), two in the first term and two in the second term (the dissertation module will be taught in both terms).

Year 1 Term One	
Victimology (20 credits)	Research Methods in Forensic Psychology (20 credits)
Year 1 Term Two	
Advanced Research Methods in Forensic Psychology (20 credits)	The Assessment and Treatment of Offenders (20 credits)
Year 1 Term Three	
Reflection and Preparation for Year 2	

Year 2 Term One		
Forensic and Transferable Skills (20 credits)	The Psychology of Law and Justice (20 credits)	Dissertation Project Sessions
Year 2 Term Two		
Investigative Psychology (20 credits)	Dissertation Project Sessions	
Year 2 Term Two		
Dissertation Project (40 credits)		

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216
Directed Learning	164
Private Study	1420
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	25%
In-Person	0