



Course Specification

HLST190 MSc Forensic Psychology (Campus based)

HLST252 MSc Forensic Psychology (Online)

Part A

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

School of Psychological, Social and Behavioural Sciences

Academic Year 2021-22

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

MSc Forensic Psychology

1. Introduction

As a well-established course, the MSc Forensic Psychology at Coventry University will provide students with a thorough grounding in the theory, themes, issues and practical skills central to forensic psychological practice and the settings in which it is applied. The course is designed to cover the British Psychological Society's Division of Forensic Psychology's (DFP) core curriculum, covering diverse topics such as the theoretical basis of forensic psychology across a range of settings justice process, i.e. from investigation to punishment and through care, and risk assessment and the associated risk management of offenders as well as , coverage of legal approaches relevant to psychology.

As part of this course students will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module, students will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

The professional development module will develop key skills that are transferable to a future career in the forensic psychology arena. Alongside this curriculum, students on this course will also develop a range of globally relevant practice-based transferable skills including: effective communication and dissemination, criticality, reflection, synthesis, and evaluation of ethical issues. As such, this course fulfils Stage 1 requirements towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist and obtaining Full Membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology in the British Psychological Society. For more information on the Stage 2 requirements, please see this link from the BPS webpage (<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/society-qualifications/qualification-forensic-psychology>)

Taught by staff with extensive professional psychological experience, either as Chartered/HPC registered Members themselves and/or as active researchers, the MSc Forensic Psychology is part of a suite of postgraduate forensic psychology courses that can be studied at Coventry University. As indicated by its accreditation, this course is primarily for those who wish continue in a career associated with forensic psychology in a range of settings (e.g., with victims, practitioners), without specialising at this point, or for those who wish to undertake an accredited programme before determining their future career trajectory. Specifically, this course will develop a broad overview of forensic psychology as a whole and the settings relevant to this work, so that students can determine a future career trajectory based on their experience of the course curriculum and skill development. The course can be taken as a Full-Time course over one year, which involves attendance to a traditional campus based course. However, the course is also offered Part-Time over two years through an online learning approach. This version of the course provides flexibility and part-time continuing professional development, potentially (but not limited to) practitioners who are already working in forensic psychology settings. Staff have considerable experience in delivering high quality online provision and understand how online learning is substantially different when compared with face to face courses.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
MSc Forensic Psychology <i>Fall-back award:</i> MSc Forensic Psychology Studies PG Diploma Forensic Psychology PG Certificate Forensic Psychology	FT 1 year or PT 2 years	NA	7

3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University.
4 Collaboration	NA
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University FT 1 year – Campus based PT 2 years – Online learning
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of approval: 23/04/2002 / 2008/ 2015/amended February 2018. Date of latest review: 04/2018 Date for next review: 2024/25

7 Course Accredited by	British Psychological Society (Division of Forensic Psychology) Graduates must achieve the necessary 50% pass mark for all modules contributing to the accredited MSc degree (BPS Standards for the Accreditation of the Masters Programme in Forensic Psychology and Crime MSc, October 2017)
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	June 2003. Re-accredited September 2007 and November 2014. Re-accreditation Visit due 2020/21
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	QAA Quality Code for Higher Education October 2014 (4.17 Descriptor for a higher education degree qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ and SCQF level 11 on the FQHEIS: master's degree) available at: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf QAA Master's Degree Characteristics available at: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Masters-Degree-Characteristics-15.pdf These benchmarks have been used to inform the aims of the course, and also the intended learning outcomes.
10 Date of Course Specification	04/2018 Amended March 2021
11 Course Director	Mira Yaneva (Campus) Eryn Berman – Roberts (Online)

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The key educational aims of the course are to:

- Develop the understanding, skills, and confidence of learners needed to become Forensic Psychologists and/or for employment in associated fields
- Provide students with exemption from the Stage 1 of the process of becoming a Chartered Psychologist
- Develop learners' skills and competencies (e.g., critical reflection) that can be applied across a range of forensic settings.
- Provide learning environments that enable learners to develop and apply knowledge and skills relevant to their future practice in global forensic settings.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes the course will have achieved the following Course Learning Outcomes.

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding of how psychology can be applied to a range of criminal justice, legal and forensic settings, and client groups.
2. Demonstrate competence in applying psychological knowledge and skills (e.g., critical evaluation) to practice-based scenarios in forensic psychology.
3. Demonstrate reflective and critical understanding of themselves as future practitioners.
4. Demonstrate and consolidate a range of transferable and professional skills that are applicable to a range of forensic practice settings.
5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of psychological research paradigms, research methods, ethical procedures, data analyses, psychological literature evidence and theory.
6. To be able to critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and a culture of organisational health and wellbeing.

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

All modules on the MSc Forensic Psychology are mandatory. During the course, students study a range of modules that carry credits from 10 – 40 credits, and then complete a 40-credit dissertation.

For an MSc award students are required to complete 180 credits, including the 40-credit dissertation.

Students who achieve a total of 120 credits can be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Psychology, but this must include 40 credits from either 7066PY, 7067PY, and 7068PY. Students who achieve a total of 60 credits can be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology, but this must include 20 credits from either 7066PY, 7067PY, and 7068PY.

Structure - Indicative delivery pattern – module sequencing may be subject to change

Students on the **FT 1 year** MSc Forensic Psychology will complete all 180 credits over the course of the year - see below for positional details.

Year	Semester Sept Intake	Module	Credit Value
Y1	1	7057PY - Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology	40
Y1	1	7066PY - Offending Behaviour and the Criminal Justice System	20
Y1	2	7067PY – Intervention across different Client Groups	20
Y1	2	7059PY - Risk Assessment and Management in Forensic Settings	20
Y1	2	7052CRB - Leading and Creating Organisational Health and Wellbeing	10
Y1	2	7000CLS The Legal Process	10
Y1	3	7068PY – Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	20
Y1	3	7058PY - Dissertation in Forensic Psychology	40

Year	Semester Jan intake	Module	Credit Value
Y1	1	7057PY - Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology	40
Y1	1	7067PY – Intervention across different Client Groups	20
Y1	2	7059PY - Risk Assessment and Management in Forensic Settings	20
Y1	2	7052CRB - Leading and Creating Organisational Health and Wellbeing	10
Y1	2	7000CLS The Legal Process	10
Y1	2	7068PY – Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	20
Y1	3	7058PY - Dissertation in Forensic Psychology	40
Y1	3	7066PY - Offending Behaviour and the Criminal Justice System	20

Students on the **PT 2 year** online learning MSc Forensic Psychology will complete 90 credits for each year of study- see below for positional details.

Year	Semester Sept Intake	Module	Credit Value
Y1	1	7057PY - Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology	40

Y1	2	7059PY - Risk Assessment and Management in Forensic Settings	20
Y1	2	7052CRB - Leading and Creating Organisational Health and Wellbeing	10
Y1	3	7068PY - Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	20
Y2	1	7066PY - Offending Behaviour and the Criminal Justice System	20
Y2	2	7067PY - Intervention across different Client Groups	20
Y2	2	7000CLS The Legal Process	10
Y2	3	7058PY - Dissertation in Forensic Psychology	40

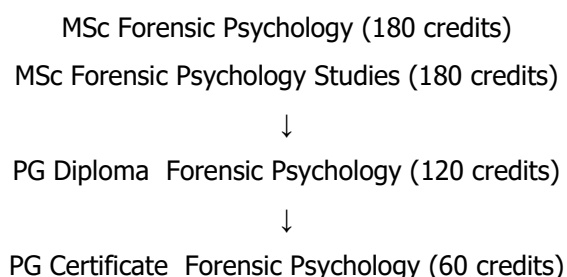
Year	Semester Jan Intake	Module	Credit Value
Y1	1	7057PY - Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology	40
Y1	2	7059PY - Risk Assessment and Management in Forensic Settings	20
Y2	2	7052CRB - Leading and Creating Organisational Health and Wellbeing	10
Y1	3	7066PY - Offending behaviour and the Criminal Justice System	20
Y2	1	7067PY - Intervention across different Client Groups	20
Y2	2	7068PY - Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	20
Y2	2	7000CLS The Legal Process	10
Y2	3	7058PY - Dissertation in Forensic Psychology	40

Students begin the course with a 40 credit module (7057PY - Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology) to enable them to continue to develop their knowledge of research methods and importantly, begin their development of their dissertation project and ethics application.

All modules are mandatory and no modules are condonable within this course. Graduates must achieve the necessary 50% pass mark for all modules contributing to the accredited MSc degree (BPS Standards for the Accreditation of the Masters Programme in Forensic Psychology and Crime MSc, October 2017).

Graduates who do not meet this requirement will exit with a non-accredited award **MSc Forensic Psychology Studies**. To achieve the necessary number of credits for all non-accredited awards, graduates must achieve the necessary 40% pass mark for all modules contributing to the award.

Cascade of Awards:



Students who successfully complete the module 7052CRB and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and Developing People to Optimise Performance (unit 702); Strategic Approaches to Mental Health and Wellbeing (unit 716).

Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

Mapping of Modules to Course Learning Outcomes

Module credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7059PY	Risk Assessment and Management in Forensic Settings	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4
7	7000CLS	The Legal Process	10	M	1, 2
7	7057PY	Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology	40	M	1, 3, 4, 5
7	7052CRB	Leading and Creating Organisational Health and Wellbeing	10	M	4, 6
7	7058PY	Dissertation in Forensic Psychology	40	M	1, 2, 4, 5
7	7066PY	Offending Behaviour and the Criminal Justice System	20	M	1, 2, 3
7	7067PY	Intervention across different Client Groups	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4
7	7068PY	Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

Applicants should hold the equivalent of a minimum 2:2 undergraduate degree in Psychology. Consideration will be given to applicants who hold the equivalent of a minimum 2:2 undergraduate degrees in Science or Social Sciences, where a minimum of 50% of undergraduate study is in Psychology with evidence of studying curriculum including research methods.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have an IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component lower than 5.5. Pre-sessional English is available if required.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)/Recognition of Experiential Learning (RPEL) shall be in accordance with University Regulations. Prior learning shall only be recognised at the point of admission to the course and shall not be given for more than two thirds of any course.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Regulations](#) Mode R.

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The course is managed by the Psychological, Social and Behavioural Sciences Board of Study of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

The Progression and Awards Board (PAB) for Psychological, Social and Behavioural Sciences is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners report annually on the course and their views are considered as part of the annual quality monitoring process (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's website.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The following are key indicators of quality and standards:

The course has been designed in accordance with the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics and the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education October 2014 (4.17 Descriptor for a higher education degree qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ and SCQF level 11 on the FQHEIS: master's degree).

The QAA's review of higher education undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets UK expectations in:

- the setting and maintenance of the academic standards of its awards;
- the quality of student learning opportunities;
- the quality of the information about learning opportunities;
- the enhancement of student learning opportunities.

The External Examiner report in September 2017 stated: "the programme is appropriate for the level, against the various markers of quality and standards".

The School has a thriving research community. The majority of staff contribute to applied research activity through the Centre for Advances in Behavioural Sciences. Coventry University was awarded Gold for outstanding teaching and learning by the Teaching Excellent Framework 2017. It achieved 12th place in the Guardian university guide 2018 (<http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2014/jun/02/university-league-tables-2015-the-complete-list>) (<http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2015/may/25/university-guide-2016-league-table-for-health-professions>). It came 1st in the Complete University Guide as the UK's Top New University 2018 (<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?g=University+Alliance>).

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including:

HLS Postgraduate Student Handbook

Course Handbook

Course Specification

Module Guides

Module Information Directory

Course/Module webs (Aula)

IT Service Desk (24 hours support).