

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map: M.Sc. Forensic Psychology

1. Programme title	Forensic Psychology
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	The British Psychological Society, Division of Forensic Psychology Training Committee. Successful completion of this programme will permit exemption from Stage one of the Diploma in Forensic Psychology.
5. Final qualification	M.Sc. Forensic Psychology
6. Academic Year	2008/9
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full time/part time
9. Criteria for admission to the programme	
For the M.Sc. Forensic Psychology, candidates will possess a good honours degree (normally 2,1 or better) in Psychology that confers the Graduate Basis for Registration with the British Psychological Society. They will also normally have experience of work (voluntary or paid) in a relevant area associated with forensic psychology.	
10. Aims of the programme	
<p>The general aim of the programme is to provide an intellectual setting within which students can both develop a fuller appreciation of substantive areas of Forensic Psychology and improve their practical and analytical skills.</p> <p>They must have the Graduate Basis for Registration with the British Psychological Society before registering on this programme. It is designed to build upon certain key fundamental understandings of psychology that they should already possess. We also aim to facilitate students' development so that when they engage in supervised practice, they will have the necessary appreciation of ethical, governance, diversity and equality issues and will be prepared for work in interdisciplinary environments.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of this programme, the student will have:</p> <p><i>Developed her/his knowledge</i> of applied psychology within the forensic context: Specifically, the programme will facilitate psychologically driven understandings in the areas of Criminal Behaviour; Criminal Justice; Therapeutic Contexts; Victimisation; Professional and Research Practice.</p> <p><i>Honed his/her cognitive skills</i> through analytical reasoning, critical evaluation and generation of advanced social scientific constructs and materials.</p> <p><i>Demonstrated Subject Specific skills</i> through development of core professional, ethical and research skills in line with the BPS generic National Occupational Standards and D.F.P. specific syllabus and by making an appropriate contribution to research within an area of Forensic Psychology. These skills are also related to</p> <p><i>Transferable skills gained</i> through use of a variety of research techniques and statistical methods appropriate to postgraduate training in the Social Sciences, in general and Psychology, in particular. These include those utilised & demonstrated in the development of practical research, working in groups & alone. Utilising electronic bibliographic tools, and making use of ICT for work preparation, analysis and submission.</p>	

<p>11. Programme outcomes* - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. The highest level at which these programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates is shown in the curriculum map section.</p>	
<p>A. Knowledge & understanding of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concepts, issues and debates in theories applied to Forensic Psychology. 2. The practice of Forensic Psychology and its uses within other professions. 3. Research and statistical Methods for Applied Psychology. 4. Professional and ethical issues. 5. Applications of psychology to the processes of investigation. 6. The design, conduct and report of an independent piece of research. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>We will facilitate students' acquisition of knowledge and understanding through lectures, small group activities, seminars, field trips, workshops and participation in individual and group based research projects. Students will be expected to prepare properly for taught components through extensive reading and ongoing appraisal of literature.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding will be assessed both formatively and summatively, by coursework that includes: extended essays, visit/workshop reports, a reflective logbook, project report and research dissertation.</p>
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have demonstrated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical Evaluation 2. Decision Making 3. Information Processing 4. Analytical Reasoning 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students will develop cognitive skills through critical appraisal of published material throughout the programme (including electronic and paper based information from refereed, policy and other appropriate sources). Critical appraisal of research methodologies, ethics and practice are particular focuses within the programme that are integral to successful completion of the Dissertation.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills will be assessed by: Extended essays, research dissertation, observational visit reports, reflective logbooks and research dissertation. Where possible, electronic submission of coursework will be facilitated.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulation & Presentation of Structured Arguments (oral and written) 2. Reflective Log book keeping 3. Critical Appraisal 4. Debating skills 5. Qualitative Methodological Skills 6. Quantitative Methodological Skills 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students are given formative feedback as part of every assessment. They also learn practical skills through the Research Methods and Professional and Research Issues modules. For M.Sc. students, these skills will be further developed through the process of producing a research dissertation.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by: project reports, presentations, log books, essays, visit/workshop reports and research dissertation.</p>

12. Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and qualifications

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The M.Sc. programme will be studied over one year full-time or two years part-time. It includes a range of taught modules together with a dissertation, (based on empirical research), carried out by the student.

Three Core Forensic Psychology Modules (Conceptual Forensic Psychology, Practical Forensic Psychology and Investigative Psychology) provide the kinds of materials and experiences required by the DFP-TC. Two modules provide the research-oriented backbone of all our Applied Psychology, postgraduate teaching: The Research Methods and Professional Issues modules develop research, statistical, consultancy and practical skills relevant across all areas of Applied Psychology. Lastly, the Dissertation module encourages students to develop expertise in a particular aspect of Forensic Psychology.

Each 30 credit module represents approximately 270 hours study commitment with typically 2-3 hours per week contact time, over 22 weeks. The M.Sc. is awarded for successful completion of 180 credits, including the dissertation. Should a student be unable to complete a research dissertation, then they may be eligible for the P.G.Dip. in Legal and Criminological Psychology upon successful completion of 120 credits across the other, taught modules. Successful completion of the M.Sc. route should satisfy the BPS requirements for Stage One of the Society's Diploma in Forensic Psychology, the P.G.Dip. **will not**.

12.2 Levels and modules. This section should contain a more detailed description level-by-level of the programme structure, modules and credits. All modules should be categorised as compulsory or optional.

All Modules are at Level 4 and all are compulsory.

Students must take all of the following modules:

PSY 4011 Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	30 credits
PSY 4013 Professional Issues in Applied Psychology	15 credits
PSY 4014 Conceptual Forensic Psychology	30 credits
PSY 4018 Practical Forensic Psychology	30 credits
PSY 4113 Investigative Psychology	15 credits
PSY 4222 Dissertation in Advanced Psychology	60 credits

12.3 Non-compensatable modules. Modules may additionally be designated non-compensatable.

Module level	Module code
4	PSY 4011
4	PSY 4013
4	PSY 4014
4	PSY 4018
4	PSY 4113
4	PSY 4222

13. A curriculum map relating programme learning outcomes to modules

Please see after this specification

14. Information about assessment regulations

The University and School Assessment Policies apply to this programme.

Programme specific requirements are:

- All summative components of each module must be passed.
- The pass mark for all modules is 40%. On the University's categorical marking scheme, this is a grade of 16. Further details on the 20 point scale are provided in the programme handbook.
- A failed module may not be compensated, although there is the right to re-sit a failed module. A student may only re-sit a failed module once and the highest mark attainable on re-sit will be the basic pass mark of 16 (40%).

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)	
There are no formal placement requirements however we do encourage voluntary arrangements and will do our best to facilitate them. The careers service is also available for advice and information during the programme and for up to two years after graduation.	
16. Future careers: how the programme supports graduates' future career development (if applicable)	
Successful completion of this programme will enable the student to claim exemption from Stage 1 of the BPS Diploma in Forensic Psychology. Stage 2 is based on 2 years of supervised practice that are not part of this programme.	
17. Specialised support for learning (if applicable)	
In the first teaching week, we will provide specialist study skills sessions, covering uses of the University's Learning Resources Service; bibliographic searches; computing at Middlesex; OASISPlus; MISIS and the English Language Learning Support Service.	
18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	
Not applicable for Level 4 Psychology.	
20. Reference points	
<p>The following reference points were used in designing the programme:</p> <p>The programme represents an opportunity for students to study material of the kind required by the British Psychological Society in order to gain the Academic Component necessary to become a Chartered Forensic Psychologist.</p> <p>It draws on modules designed to comply with the National Occupational Standards for Psychologists and the Division of Forensic Psychology Training Committee's criteria for accreditation and syllabus.</p> <p>Given the imminent Statutory Registration of Psychologists, it will be particularly important to stay abreast of changes in professional practice and development.</p>	
21. Other information	
This section shows how the programme covers the topics from the DFP-TC Accreditation Criteria	
The context of practice in forensic psychology	Module coverage
psychology and criminal behaviour	PSY 4014
appreciation of the legal framework of the law and the civil and criminal justice systems	PSY 4014
methodological issues commensurate with the master's level of education	PSY 4011; PSY4013; PSY 4222
appreciation of the ethical and professional considerations of forensic practice	PSY 4013; PSY 4222
Applications of psychology to processes in the justice system	
psychology applied to the process of investigation	PSY 4113
psychology applied to the legal process	PSY 4014; PSY 4113
psychology applied to the process of detention	PSY 4014; PSY 4018
throughcare/aftercare	PSY 4018; PSY 4014.
Working with specific client groups encountered in forensic psychology	

assessment and intervention with victims of offences (adults and children)	PSY4018; PSY4014
assessment and intervention with offenders (adults and children)	PSY4018; PSY4014
applications and interventions within criminal and civil justice systems, including attention to litigants, appellants, and individuals seeking arbitration and mediation.	PSY4018; PSY4014
* This section should include some coverage of all topics and detailed coverage of one or more of the topics in order to form the basis of a future specialism	
Using and communicating information in forensic psychological practice	
approaches to assessment	PSY 4013; PSY 4018
criteria for professional report production	PSY 4013;
giving of expert testimony	PSY 4013; PSY 4018
consultancy, project management, and organisational interventions	PSY 4013; PSY 4018
Research Project	PSY 4222
Research Methods	PSY4011; PSY4222

Curriculum Map for M.Sc. Forensic Psychology

This section maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed. Please note that all work is assessed at Level 4.

Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
		Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	PSY4011			X				X		X	X			X	
Professional Issues in Applied Psychology	PSY4013				X			X		X	X	X		X			
Conceptual Forensic Psychology	PSY4014	X						X	X		X	X		X	X		
Practical Forensic Psychology	PSY4018	X	X					X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
Investigative Psychology	PSY4113	X				X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Dissertation in Advanced Psychology	PSY4222	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		##	##

indicates that either one of these outcomes must be demonstrated within the dissertation. It is possible that both outcomes may be demonstrated in the dissertation, but it is not required.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Concepts, issues and debates in theories applied to Forensic Psychology.	C1	Formulation & Presentation of Structured Arguments (oral and written)
A2	The practice of Forensic Psychology and its uses within other professions.	C2	Reflective Log book keeping
A3	Research and statistical Methods for Applied Psychology.	C3	Critical Appraisal
A4	Professional and ethical issues.	C4	Debating skills
A5	Applications of psychology to the processes of investigation.	C5	Qualitative Methodological Skills
A6	The design, conduct and report of an independent piece of research.	C6	Quantitative Methodological Skill

Cognitive skills	
B1	Critical Evaluation
B2	Decision Making
B3	Information Processing
B4	Analytical Reasoning

Programme Diagram for M.Sc. Forensic Psychology

Full-time mode

<i>October-December</i>	<i>January-May</i>	<i>May-Sept.</i>
PSY4011 Advanced Research Methods in Psychology (30 Credits)		
PSY4014 Conceptual Forensic Psychology (30 Credits)		
PSY4018 Practical Forensic Psychology (30 Credits)		
PSY4013 Professional Issues in Psychology (15 Credits)	PSY4113 Investigative Psychology (15 Credits)	
PSY4222 Advanced dissertation in applied psychology (60 Credits, throughout your programme)		

Part-time mode

<i>October-December</i>	<i>January-May</i>	<i>May-Sept.</i>
YEAR 1		
PSY4011 Advanced Research Methods in Psychology (30 Credits)		
PSY4014 Conceptual Forensic Psychology (30 Credits)		
PSY4222 Advanced dissertation in applied psychology (60 Credits, throughout your programme)		
YEAR 2		
PSY4018 Practical Forensic Psychology (30 Credits)		
PSY4013 Professional Issues in Psychology (15 Credits)	PSY4113 Investigative Psychology (15 Credits)	
PSY4222 Advanced dissertation in applied psychology (60 Credits, continued from year 1)		

