Programme Specification

and Curriculum Map

for MSc Forensic

Psychology

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| **1. Programme title** | MSc 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 provide the academic component necessary for enrolment on the BPS Qualification in Forensic Psychology (Stage 2). |
| **5. Final qualification** | MSc Forensic Psychology (for 180 Credits)  Two exit awards are also offered, if needed by students who have to end their studies before successful completion of all components of the programme:  PG Cert. in Applied Psychology (for 60 Credits) PG Dip. in Legal & Criminological Psychology (for 120 Credits) |
| **6. Academic year** | 2012/13 |
| **7. Language of study** | British English |
| **8. Mode of study** | Full Time or Part Time |

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| **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 Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society. Where English is not a candidate’s first language, they will usually be expected to demonstrate an IELTS of 7.0 (or equivalent). They will also normally have experience of work (voluntary or paid) in a relevant area associated with forensic psychology. |

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| **10. Aims of the programme** |
| 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.  They must have the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership 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.  Upon successful completion of this programme, the student will have:  *Developed her/his knowledge* 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.  *Honed his/her cognitive skills* through analytical reasoning, critical evaluation and generation of advanced social scientific constructs and materials.  *Demonstrated Subject Specific skills* 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.  *Transferable skills gained* 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. |

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| **11. Programme outcomes** | |
| **A. Knowledge & understanding** On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:   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. | **Teaching/learning methods:** Students gain 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.  **Assessment Methods:** Students’ knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework that includes: extended essays, visit/workshop reports, a reflective logbook, project report and research dissertation. |
| **B. Cognitive (thinking) skills**  On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:   1. Critical Evaluation 2. Decision Making 3. Information Processing 4. Analytical Reasoning | **Teaching/learning methods:** 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.  **Assessment:** 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. |
| **C. Practical skills** On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:   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 | **Teaching/learning methods:** 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.  **Assessment:** Students’ practical skills are assessed by: project reports, presentations, log books, essays, visit/workshop reports and research dissertation. |
| **D. Graduate Skills**  As a postgraduate programme, students will have entered this programme with graduate skills. However, on completion of this programme, the successful student will be able to claim exemption from Stage one of the BPS Diploma in Forensic Psychology. | **Teaching/learning methods:** Students acquire Stage 2 academic eligibility through successful completion of all modules on this programme.  **Assessment method:** Students’ Stage 1 skills are assessed by successful completion of all components of all modules on this programme. |

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| **12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)** |
| **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 300 hours of 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 Qualification in Forensic Psychology, the P.G.Dip. **will not.** Should a student need to end his or her studies sooner, then the P.G.Cert. in Applied Psychology can be awarded after successful completion of any taught modules from this programme, sufficient to obtain 60 credits. |

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| **12.2 Levels and modules**  **Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University is changing the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.** |
| All Modules are at Level 7 (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 |

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| ***12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)*** | |
| ***Module level*** | ***Module code*** |
| 7 (4) | PSY 4011 |
| 7 (4) | PSY 4013 |
| 7 (4) | PSY 4014 |
| 7 (4) | PSY 4018 |
| 7 (4) | PSY 4113 |
| 7 (4) | PSY 4222 |

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| **13. A curriculum map relating learning outcomes to modules** |
| **See Curriculum Map attached** |

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| **14. Information about assessment regulations** |
| The University and School Assessment Policies apply to this programme (http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/sectionepg.aspx).  Programme specific requirements are:   1. All summative components of each module must be passed. 2. 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%). |

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| **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. |

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| **16. Future careers (if applicable)** |
| Successful completion of this programme will enable the student to claim academic eligibility for enrolment on the Qualification in Forensic Psychology (Stage 2), which is based on 2 years of supervised practice that are not part of this programme. |

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| **17. Particular 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; UniHub and the English Language Learning Support Service. |

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| **18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)** | 011C810  (programme codes for alternative exit awards are: 034C812: PGDip Legal and Criminological Psychology and 035C810 PGCert Applied Psychology) |
| **19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)** | Not applicable for psychology at level four |

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| **20. Reference points**  The following reference points were used in designing the programme:  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 member of the BPS and full member of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP).  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.  Please note that the title ‘Forensic Psychologist’ is a protected title, and that practitioner forensic psychologists are regulated by the Health Protection Council (HPC), which sets the training requirements (currently the same as is necessary to obtain full membership of the DFP) |

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| **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  appreciation of the legal framework of the law and the civil and criminal justice systems  methodological issues commensurate with the master’s level of education  appreciation of the ethical and professional considerations of forensic practice | PSY 4014  PSY 4014  PSY 4011; PSY4013; PSY 4222  PSY 4013; PSY 4222 | | **Applications of psychology to processes in the justice system** |  | | psychology applied to the process of investigation  psychology applied to the legal process  psychology applied to the process of detention  throughcare/aftercare | PSY 4113  PSY 4014; PSY 4113  PSY 4014; PSY 4018  PSY 4018; PSY 4014. | | **Working with specific client groups encountered in forensic psychology** |  | | assessment and intervention with victims of offences (adults and children)  assessment and intervention with offenders (adults and children)  applications and interventions within criminal and civil justice systems, including attention to litigants, appellants, and individuals seeking arbitration and mediation.  \* 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 | PSY4018; PSY4014  PSY4018; PSY4014  PSY4018; PSY4014 | | **Using and communicating information in forensic psychological practice** |  | | approaches to assessment  criteria for professional report production  giving of expert testimony  consultancy, project management, and organisational interventions | PSY 4013; PSY 4018  PSY 4013;  PSY 4013; PSY 4018  PSY 4013; PSY 4018 | | Research Project | PSY 4222 | | Research Methods | PSY4011; PSY4222 | |

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the student programme handbook and the University Regulations.

**Curriculum map for MSc Forensic Psychology**

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

**Programme learning outcomes**

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| 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 |

This section maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed. Please note that all work is assessed at Level 7 (4).

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| **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 |  | 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**