

MSc Applied Forensic Psychology with Placement (THPS-AWM31)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MSc Applied Forensic Psychology with Placement
Route(s)	MSc Applied Forensic Psychology with Placement
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Masters Degree not mainly by Research
Award name	Masters - Postgraduate Taught
Course mode of delivery	Full-time PGT incorporating placement
Course length	2 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Psychology

Course Description

Course Summary Prepare for a career in forensic psychology on this BPS-accredited course. You'll do a work placement in a forensic setting, enhancing your experience.

Course Description This course provides you with the background psychological knowledge, professional skills and experience you need to start your career in the field of forensic psychology.

It is British Psychological Society (BPS)(<https://www.bps.org.uk>)-accredited. This means you'll gain contemporary and relevant knowledge that you can use in a range of forensic psychology roles within the legal, criminal or civil justice systems.

You'll combine theoretical learning with a work placement of up to 12 months. This is a key feature of our course and is designed to help you demonstrate your skills in an applied setting, while gaining important experience.

Throughout this course, you'll develop an up-to-date understanding of psychological theory and practices. This will increase your ability to undertake research and development projects in forensic services, looking at governance, ethical and organisational issues.

You will also gain foundational skills in forensic psychology practice and spend time developing forensic practice skills that can be applied in a variety of settings through your work placement.

If you are a psychology graduate interested in progressing to a career in forensic services as a practitioner or researcher, this course is suited to your needs. It's also suitable if you have an undergraduate psychology degree and are working in the criminal justice or forensic mental health systems and want to learn more about the theory and practice behind forensic psychology to progress your career.

Learn from experts in the field

You'll learn from experts in forensic psychology, as well as staff in the wider Department of Psychology(/departments/department-of-psychology/) community. Their passion, knowledge, experience and research shape their teaching to enhance your

learning experience.

Use specialist facilities

The Department of Psychology is located in a new £30 million building.

You can use this space for group meetings, personal tutor sessions and computer work. The building contains advanced psychology research facilities, including:

- biopsychology suite with two-way mirror(<https://massinteract.com/university-of-bath/31964258p&296.91h&85.92t>)
- crossmodal laboratory including a soundproof room(/360-image/index.html?360=45)
- sensory and pain research suite(<https://massinteract.com/university-of-bath/31964257p&107.79h&83.97t>)
- social and developmental observation labs(/360-image/index.html?360=46), including the Bath Babylab(/research-groups/bath-babylab/)
- virtual reality lab(/360-image/index.html?360=44) with motion sensor cameras
- an electroencephalogram (EEG) scanner
- eye-tracking equipment

Gain important career skills

As part of the course, you'll take part in timetabled sessions to support your professional practice and clinical skills development. These skills-based workshops are designed to help you become a reflective practice practitioner and develop your transferable skills for your work placement and future career.

We'll also provide you with guidance and support for working in forensic settings (including interview support) and CV writing assistance. All of these are designed to enhance your future employability prospects.

Graduate Prospects

Thanks to the skills and relevant experience you gain, you will be well placed to secure work in NHS forensic services, the criminal justice system, probation and prison services, or voluntary sector organisations.

These posts could include training positions to allow the completion of the British Psychological Society (BPS) Qualification in Forensic Psychology (Stage 2) with the aim of becoming a Chartered Psychologist with the BPS Division of Forensic Psychology and a Health and Care Professions Council Registered Practitioner Forensic Psychologist.

Successful completion of this course fulfils Stage 1 of the requirements towards Chartered Membership of the Society and full membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology(<https://www.bps.org.uk/member-networks/division-forensic-psychology>).

Contact hours

You are expected to spend approximately 35-40 hours per week studying, with around 10-13 hours of this being structured classes.

This will be made up of a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops, practical sessions, and reflective practice. You will work as an individual and as part of small groups.

Delivery methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the learning and teaching methods used on the course:

- Lectures
- Practical sessions
- Tutorials
- Workshops

Assessment summary

You'll experience a balance of different forms of assessment designed to support your professional development. This will be made up of coursework; including essays, presentations, reports (including a professional assessment report), placement-related assessments, reflective practice and skills-based assessments, and a forensic psychology dissertation.

We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities. Take a look at our Disability Service's pages(/professional-services/disability-service/) for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:

Dissertation
Practical
Coursework
Essay
Oral presentation

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of text books.

Placement

Your tuition fees during your placement year are significantly lower, but you will need to continue to budget for your costs during this period.

It is unusual for forensic placements to be funded and most are unpaid. Therefore, you'll need to consider this in your financial planning.

Our placements are three days per week, plus one additional day a week for dissertation-related research. This enables you to consider paid work for one day of the week.

Travel to and from placements will be at your own cost. As the placement duration is one year, you can consider relocating, but you are responsible for the cost of this and your accommodation.

Different placements will have different requirements, but all will require:

- a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (and sometimes higher-level vetting, such as for prison access). This will be at your own expense. Currently enhanced DBS checks cost £44.
- health and safety regulations (such as checks on up-to-date immunisations and additional vaccinations if required). These will be at your own expense.

During your placement, you may wish to consider professional indemnity insurance. Several organisations offer this, including three companies suggested for graduate members of the British Psychological Society(<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/member-resources>).

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of textbooks. Some courses involve visits away from campus and you may be required to pay some or all of the costs of travel, accommodation and food and drink. If you're on a placement, you're responsible for your own travel, accommodation and living costs. You should also consider the financial implications if you go on an unpaid or overseas placement.

Additional Costs

If you receive an offer, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of £1,000 when you accept to secure your place. This will be deducted from your tuition fee when you register.

**Placement/Study Year
Abroad details**

This degree features a work placement to help you gain important workplace experience and enhance your academic learning. You must be based in the UK for your placement.

You will spend up to 12 months working closely alongside a psychologist, or other suitably qualified professional working in a forensic setting or where forensic research is relevant. This is an opportunity to use the practice skills you'll gain during your studies in a practical setting and learn from real-world professionals.

Your placement, which will usually start at the beginning of June in Year 1, is three days per week. You will also spend one day per week working on your dissertation.

While many of our placements are in the South West, as this is our catchment area, some are based in other locations across the UK. We have had recent placements available in Bath, Bristol, Devon, and Dorset; as well as Wales, Oxford, Leeds and London.

The placement will be organised by our academic team and can take place in a variety of settings, such as:

- the NHS
- prison in-reach services
- charities
- law enforcement agencies
- children's services
- research settings

Some placements require previous experience, which will be taken into account when they are allocated. Choices may be more limited if you have no or little experience.

Please note: if you are an international student, you will find it easier to gain some relevant documentation in your home country before starting the course. You will be provided with details regarding what will be required.

Forensic psychology as a profession is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/53>); hence, no conviction is ever considered spent. You must disclose any convictions to the course supervisor and placement provider. If you do not satisfy any of the required checks then your placement opportunities may be limited.

Course accreditation(s) Accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS)

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	Not specified
Course Progression Requirements	Not specified

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PS00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
M02	PS52038	Advanced research methods for applied psychology	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	
M02	PS52040	Assessment and intervention with offenders and victims	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	
M02	PS52044	Forensic psychology practice and clinical skills	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	
M02	PS52045	Fundamentals in psychology, crime and law	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	
M11	PS52043	Forensic psychology placement	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	60	
Additional rules for module selection						
None						

Year 2

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
M02	PS52042	Forensic psychology dissertation	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	30	
Additional rules for module selection						
None						

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
No data found						
Additional rules for module selection						

None

The availability of optional units is subject to constraints such as staff availability, minimum and maximum group sizes, and timetabling factors, as well as a student's ability to meet any pre-requisite rules.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge and Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Professional and Transferable Skills	Placement	Study Year Abroad
Critically evaluate psychological theories and evidence relevant to processes in the justice system, including legal, investigative, and detention processes, as well as interdisciplinary and multi-agency working.	✓	✓			
Demonstrate familiarity with the processes and tools of assessment and the ability to critically evaluate different approaches to assessment and formulation in relation to assessing individuals, groups and / or organisations in a forensic setting.				✓	
Evidence a critical understanding of the effectiveness and appropriateness of a range of interventions available for offenders, patients and at-risk individuals, victims / survivors, professionals, groups and organisations.	✓	✓			
Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to enable you to work 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.

Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to be able 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.

✓

Display an understanding of the legal and professional practice frameworks and application to forensic psychology practice, as well as knowledge of the governance, ethical and organisational issues of working in a forensic context, using BPS and HCPC guidelines and principles.

✓

Take responsibility for your own professional development and evidence the use of reflective practice skills in working towards your goal of becoming a forensic psychologist.

✓

Understand and evidence the application of forensic psychological theories and research in the development and training of others.

✓

Reflect and appraise issues of organisational culture and systems, and the ways in which these impact on the practice of forensic psychologists and other professionals, including for consultancy and/or contributing to the development of practice, guidance or policy.

✓

Communicate complex information effectively using appropriate written, oral, graphical and electronic means, taking into account a diverse and varied audience.			✓
Demonstrate the ability to use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to advanced scholarship in the field of forensic psychology, including qualitative and quantitative research.	✓	✓	
Design, conduct, analyse, interpret and report a study in forensic psychology and recognise its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations.			✓
Show knowledge and experience of working in a forensic psychology setting and demonstrate application of appropriate professional boundaries and ethical principles.			✓

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards

PG Certificate in Applied Forensic Psychology comprising any 30 credits of the taught units
 PG Diploma in Applied Forensic Psychology comprising 60 credits made up of taught units minus the placement and dissertation
 MSc in Forensic Psychology comprising 90 credits (taught and dissertation units, without placement unit]