



## Programme Specification

| GENERAL INFORMATION                                       |   |
|---|---|
| Programme title   | MSc (PG Dip/PG Cert) Applied Forensic Psychology with Counselling |
| Awarding Institution//Body                                | University of Bath  |
| Teaching Institution                                      | University of Bath  |
| Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation) |   |
| Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:  | N/A   |
| Date of Specification preparation/revision                |   |
| Applicable to cohorts                                     |   |
| Programme Approved by                                     |   |

### Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The MSc Applied Forensic Psychology with Counselling aims to provide students with the background psychological knowledge, professional skills, counselling skills and relevant experience for the legal, criminal and civil justice systems necessary to pursue a professional career in forensic settings.

The Masters will equip students with an up to date knowledge of psychological theory and practices relevant to the legal, criminal and civil justice systems. Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake research and development in the forensic services, including governance, ethical and organisational issues. They will also be introduced to the foundation skills of forensic psychology practice and basic counselling skills. The counselling element in the programme and guaranteed placement presents an opportunity to acquire skills and experience which, compared to other existing Forensic Psychology courses can greatly enhance a student's employability prospects.

This Masters course is intended for graduates in Psychology, who are interested in progressing to careers in the forensic services as practitioners, researchers or managers, and current professionals working in the criminal justice or forensic mental health systems and wishing to learn more about the theory and practice behind forensic psychology.

Graduates of this programme will be well-qualified for a wide range of careers in: the criminal justice system, health services and civil services. Relevant career opportunities are available in the: prison service, probation service, NHS, police and voluntary sector organisations.

### Educational aims of the programme

The Masters in Applied Forensic Psychology will enable students to:

1. Acquire a critical understanding of current knowledge, theory and research relevant to Forensic Psychology
2. Develop skills and capabilities relevant to forensic psychology practice
3. Develop advanced research methods applicable to psychological enquiry in a forensic setting
4. Develop basic counselling skills relevant to forensic settings

The PG Certificate focuses principally on aim (1), but offers students scope for the development of some skills relevant to Forensic Practice (aim 2) and the opportunity to develop advanced research skills (aim 3).

The PG Diploma gives further opportunity to develop advanced research skills (aim 3); and develop basic counselling skills (aim 4).

The MSc involves a placement and a dissertation which meets aim (3) on a still more substantial scale.

- Knowledge & Understanding:

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To apply and critically evaluate fundamental concepts of forensic psychology relevant to becoming an effective practitioner.</li> <li>2. To demonstrate a critical understanding of the theoretical basis of forensic psychology.</li> <li>3. To critically evaluate the effectiveness of different interventions used in Forensic Psychology for different offences, offenders and victims of crime.</li> <li>4. To develop a critical understanding of assessment and formulation in forensic psychology.</li> <li>5. To develop a critical understanding of psychological theory and methods applied to the process of criminal investigations.</li> <li>6. To have a critical understanding of how the theories and practice of forensic psychology apply in a range of forensic settings and contexts.</li> <li>7. To develop knowledge and experience of a practical application of research in the Forensic Psychology, while on placement.</li> <li>8. To demonstrate a basic understanding of the scientific and theoretical underpinnings of counselling as applied in forensic settings.</li> </ol> <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 and 2; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcome 3 to 6 The MSc will ensure that students achieve all eight learning outcomes.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intellectual Skills:</li> </ul>           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To think creatively and analytically.</li> <li>2. To communicate an argument.</li> <li>3. To evaluate others' arguments and research.</li> <li>4. To learn independently and to be able to assess own learning needs.</li> <li>5. To critically evaluate and assess research and evidence as well as a variety of other information.</li> <li>6. To gather information, data, research and literature from a number of different sources.</li> <li>7. To synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding.</li> <li>8. To utilise problem solving skills.</li> <li>9. To work independently.</li> <li>10. To demonstrate intellectual, psychological and scientific skills in a practical context, whilst on placement.</li> </ol> <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 to 4; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcome 5 to 9 The MSc will ensure that students achieve all ten learning outcomes.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Practical Skills:</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To effectively and efficiently apply principles of forensic psychology within a range of settings and contexts relevant to forensic psychology.</li> <li>2. To be able to identify and deploy appropriate assessment strategies to assessing individuals, groups and/or organisations in a forensic setting.</li> <li>3. To develop sensitivity to the values and interests of 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.</li> <li>4. To be familiar with 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.</li> <li>5. To have some knowledge of delivering interventions for offenders, patients and at risk individuals, victims / survivors, professionals, groups and organisations.</li> <li>6. To develop basic counselling skills relevant to forensic settings</li> <li>7. To effectively and efficiently apply principles of forensic psychology in a practical context while on placement</li> </ol> <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcome 1; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcomes 2 to 6. The MSc will ensure that students achieve all seven learning outcomes.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transferable/Key Skills:</li> </ul>       |  |

To develop:

1. Study and learning skills.
2. Basic information and computing technology skills.
3. Inter-personal and communication skills.
4. Essay research, preparation and writing skills.
5. Time management and administration skills.
6. Presentation skills and verbal communication.
7. Team and group working skills.
8. To solve problems in a variety of situations.
9. To prioritise workloads.
10. Independent and group working skills.
11. Advanced oral communication skills.
12. Advanced numeracy skills.
13. Leadership skills.
14. An understanding of career opportunities and challenges ahead.
15. An ability to reflect on his/her academic and professional performance and take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.
16. An awareness of ethical issues in carrying out research.
17. Advanced information technology and computing technology (e.g. SPSS) skills.
18. The ability to be sensitive to and react appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors in a professional context.

The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 to 12; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcomes 13 to 18. The MSc will ensure that students achieve all eighteen learning outcomes.

#### Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

#### Progression Regulations and Awards

The programme assessment and progression regulations are covered by the University's "New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes (NFAAR-PGT)" which can be found at: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm>.

Specific regulations for the Masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>.

Details of 'Stage Required Units' and 'Designated Essential Units' can be found in the Programme Description in Annex 1.

Completion of the first two semesters can result in an exit award of either a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma. Students who have achieved at least 30 credits in the first two semesters but have been unable to achieve 60 credits may be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Forensic Psychology with Counselling. Students who have successfully completed the 60 credits in the first two semesters of year 1 but do not wish to, or are unable to, progress to the Dissertation unit may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Forensic Psychology with Counselling.

Year 2 of the course provides students with the opportunity to go on placement, where they will work with academics or forensic psychologists to develop their skills as a scientist-practitioner. They further develop their research skills by putting into practice some of the methods, theories and skills they have learned in the first year. Successful completion of the two year course leads to the award of a Master of Science in Applied Forensic Psychology with Counselling.

#### Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

The year-long placement is integral to the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology with Counselling, an aspect not currently offered by the majority of MSc Forensic Psychology courses in the UK.

All students complete a year-long placement working closely alongside a forensic psychologist or other suitably qualified professional working in a forensic setting. This provides an excellent opportunity to put into practice some of the methods and theories that the students have learned during the programme and to build professional skills.

Most student placements will be in the UK, but some may take the opportunity to complete placements abroad, depending on availability e.g., Europe, USA. Candidates will normally be required to have a Standard or Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service prior to undertaking their placement. Forensic Psychology is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and, as such, no convictions are spent and all must be declared.

#### Details of Study Abroad Requirements

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| N/A   |
| <p><b>Details of Professional Accreditation</b></p> <hr/> <p>Accreditation documents will be prepared to submit to the British Psychological Society.</p>   |
| <p><b>Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements</b></p> <hr/> <p>The programme is open to psychology graduates.</p> <p>UK graduates will normally be expected to have been awarded a good honours degree in Psychology (upper second class or above) and to have completed a programme that is recognised by the British Psychological Society (The Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC)).</p> <p>Applicants must submit a personal statement that provides evidence of how their academic, professional and personal experiences equip them to meet the demands of the programme.</p> <p>As part of the statement they will also be asked to document their reasons for wishing to study forensic psychology at the University of Bath and to outline their subsequent career intentions.</p> <p>Overseas students with equivalent qualifications will be admitted in accordance with the University's regulations. Overseas applicants must seek approval for their course from the British Psychological Society before they can be admitted to the programme.</p> <p>These admissions criteria are a baseline expectation for all candidates.</p> <p>English requirements:</p> <p>IELTS 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components), .</p> <p>These are the minimum levels required.</p> <p>Students may be interviewed by telephone.</p> |
| <p><b>Details of Support Available to Students</b></p> <hr/>  |
| <p><b>Department and Programme Specific Support Information</b></p> <hr/> <p>All taught students will be allocated a Personal Tutor. They will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with students. Students can also self-refer. These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to: accommodation, physical and mental health, assessment of needs and provision of support for students with disabilities, student funding, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, immigration status, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. <u>Further information</u> about these services is available on-line.</p>  |