



Course Specification

HLST191 MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health (Campus based)

HLST253 MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health (Online)

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.

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 and Mental Health

1. Introduction

This specialised MSc in Forensic Psychology and Mental Health at Coventry University will provide students with a thorough grounding in the theory, themes, issues and practical skills central to forensic psychological and forensic mental health settings. The course covers the British Psychological Society's Division of Forensic Psychology's (DFP) core curriculum, which includes foundational topics such as the theoretical basis of forensic psychology across a range of settings and risk assessment, as well as a more specialised focus on mental health issues in forensic settings and 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. This course will not only focus on skills for working in forensic mental health settings, but also develop a range of practice-focused 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/HCPC registered Members themselves and/or as active researchers, the MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health 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 to continue in a career associated with forensic psychology and specifically work in forensic mental health settings, or with offenders with mental health issues. The course can be completed on a full-time basis over one year, which involves attendance to the campus, usually two days a week. However, the course is also offered Part-Time over two years through an online learning approach. This delivery format provides flexibility for students with other commitments, particularly (but not limited to) those who are already working in forensic psychology settings. Staff have considerable experience in delivering both campus-based and online teaching and ensure that the high quality of the courses is maintained and equitable across both delivery formats.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health <i>Fall-back award:</i> MSc Forensic Psychology Studies and Mental Health PG Diploma Forensic Psychology and Mental Health PG Certificate Forensic Psychology and Mental Health	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:

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	September 2019 , Re-accreditation Visit due 2020/21
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	<p>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</p> <p>QAA Master's Degree Characteristics available at: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Masters-Degree-Characteristics-15.pdf</p> <p>These benchmarks have been used to inform the aims of the course, and also the intended learning outcomes.</p>
10 Date of Course Specification	04/2018 Amended March 2021
11 Course Director	Dr. Teresa Ferraz-da-Silva (Campus) Dr Anita Ruddle (Online)
<p>12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course</p> <p>The key educational aims of the course are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the understanding, skills, and confidence of learners needed to become Forensic Psychologists and/or for employment in forensic mental health settings • Provide students with exemption from the Stage 1 of the process of becoming a Chartered Psychologist • Develop learners' skills and competencies that can be applied across a range of forensic settings (e.g., critical reflection). • Provide learning environments that enable learners to develop and apply knowledge and skills relevant to their future practice in global forensic mental health settings. 	
<p>13 Course Learning Outcomes</p> <p>A student who successfully completes the course will have achieved the following Course Learning Outcomes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (including forensic mental health settings). 2. Demonstrate competence in applying psychological knowledge and skills (e.g., critical evaluation) to practice-based scenarios in forensic psychology in mental health settings. 3. Demonstrate reflective and critical understanding of themselves as future practitioners in forensic mental health settings. 4. Demonstrate and consolidate a range of transferable and professional skills that are applicable to a range of forensic practice settings with a particular focus in forensic mental health. 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. 	
<p>14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards</p> <p>All modules on the MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health 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.</p>	

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 and Mental Health, but this must include 40 credits from either 7060PY, 7061PY, or 7062PY. Students who achieve a total of 60 credits can be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology and Mental Health but this must include 20 credits from either 7060PY, 7061PY, or 7062PY.

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

Students on the **FT 1 year** MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health 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	7061PY - Mental Health Disorders in Client Groups	20
Y1	1	7057PY - Ethical Research and Methods in Forensic Psychology	40
Y1	2	7060PY - Forensic Clinical Assessment and Case Formulation	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	7062PY – Professional Practice in Forensic Mental Health	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	7060PY - Forensic Clinical Assessment and Case Formulation	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	7062PY – Professional Practice in Forensic Mental Health	20
Y1	3	7058PY - Dissertation in Forensic Psychology	40
Y1	3	7061PY - Mental Health Disorders in Client Groups	20

Students on the **PT 2 year** online learning MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health 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	7062PY – Professional Practice in Forensic Mental Health	20
Y2	1	7061PY - Mental Health Disorders in Client Groups	20
Y2	2	7060PY - Forensic Clinical Assessment and Case Formulation	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
Y1	2	7052CRB - Leading and Creating Organisational Health and Wellbeing	10
Y1	3	7061PY - Mental Health Disorders in Client Groups	20
Y2	1	7060PY - Forensic Clinical Assessment and Case Formulation	20
Y2	2	7062PY – Professional Practice in Forensic Mental Health	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 and Mental Health**. 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:

MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health (180 credits)

MSc Forensic Psychology Studies and Mental Health (180 credits)



PG Diploma Forensic Psychology and Mental Health (120 credits)



PG Certificate Forensic Psychology and Mental Health (60 credits)

Students who successfully complete 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	7060PY	Forensic Clinical Assessment and Case Formulation	20	M	1, 2, 3
7	7061PY	Mental Health Disorders in Client Groups	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4
7	7062PY	Professional Practice in Forensic Mental Health	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 of 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 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 comes 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

IT Service Desk (24 hours support).