PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Bachelor of Science with Honours in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice

Awarding institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Teaching institution	LJMU
UCAS Code	CM82
JACS Code	C800, L311
Programme Duration	Full-Time: 3 Years
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Subject benchmark statement	Criminology and Psychology
Programme accredited by	British Psychological Society
Description of accreditation	Accredited against the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).
Validated target and alternative exit awards	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice
	Diploma of Higher Education in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice
	Certificate of Higher Education in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice
Programme Leader	Rachael Steele

Educational aims of the programme

The aims of the Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice programme, in line with the two relevant subject benchmark statements, are to:

Develop knowledge and critical understanding of a range of fundamental psychological theory.

Produce a scientific understanding of mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and of the complex interactions between them.

Develop knowledge of, and the ability to critically evaluate, experimental methods and key research areas in psychology.

Develop students' awareness of a range of real-life applications of psychological theory.

Enable achievement of Graduate Membership (GM) and Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) from the British Psychological Society (BPS). GBC is a pre-requisite for entry to BPS-accredited postgraduate programmes in Psychology.

Provide a rigorous interdisciplinary study of criminal justice drawing on disciplines including, criminology, law, socio-legal studies, sociology, social policy, history and related professional practice.

Link theoretical analysis with empirical enquiry and the operation and impact of policies on practice;

Identify and understand different value positions in the criminal justice system and processes;

Investigate the legal context and principal legal features of the criminal justice system;

Provide students with an understanding of policy and experience of practice in the criminal justice system and so improve their employability in criminal justice and allied areas; and

Encourage students to engage with the development of employability skills by completing a self-awareness statement

Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Certificate of Higher Education

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

Demonstrate progression in the transition to degree level study.

Communicate effectively in written and verbal forms.

Show ability to participate in group work discussion.

Apply the skills required for research design and development.

Develop foundational knowledge for core psychology.

Reflect on the psychological skills and literacies required for course mastery and employability.

Identify and reflect upon the following aspects of self-awareness in respect of personal development and career planning in relation to studying psychology and criminal justice: strengths and weaknesses, motivations and values, ability to work with others.

Apply psychology to a range of human problems.

Demonstrate an understanding of the social construction of crime, the nature of the criminal justice process, and the societal influences on criminal justice practice.

Identify interactions between forensic psychology and criminal justice, and evaluate the contribution psychology has made to the understanding of crime.

Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Diploma of Higher Education

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

Demonstrate increased knowledge and understanding of core psychology.

Compare and contrast a range of psychological perspectives.

Evidence competence and progress in understanding research methodologies.

Demonstrate a critical approach to literature and research findings.

Critically evaluate the applications of psychology to a range of human problems.

Demonstrate the ability to recognise and understand decision-makers and decision-making processes in criminal justice.

Critically evaluate the influence of psychology within criminal justice practice, and the benefits and limitations of psychological interventions within the criminal justice field.

Evaluate the role of risk in criminal justice decision-making.

Analyse the effectiveness of decision-making in criminal justice generally.

Target award Learning Outcomes - Bachelor of Science with Honours

A student successfully completing the programme of study will have acquired the following subject knowledge and understanding as well as skills and other attributes.

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a range of knowledge in Conceptual and Historical Perspectives in Psychology.

2. Explain the basic principles of Biological Psychology.

3. Demonstrate breadth of knowledge in basic Cognitive Psychology.

4. Demonstrate breadth of knowledge in basic Developmental Psychology.

5. Demonstrate breadth of knowledge in basic Social Psychology.

6. Demonstrate breadth of knowledge in the basics of Personality and Individual Differences.

7. Demonstrate breadth of knowledge in the basic principles and processes of Research Methods in Psychology.

8. Demonstrate and explain the basics of other specialist areas of Psychology.

9. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key concepts and theoretical approaches that have developed and are developing in relation to crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.

10. Appreciate the social construction of crime and victimisation.

11. Understand the relationship of class, gender, age, race, ethnicity and other social demographic factors to

crime, victimisation, and responses to these phenomena.

12. Critically appreciate the social and historical development of criminal justice institutions;the changing values governing practice in these institutions, including human rights; the structure and culture of these institutions; and new and emergent issues facing criminal justice institutions in the 21st century.

13. Understand the distinctive character of criminal justice as an academic discipline, and its relationship to other social science disciplines.

14. Appreciate the relationship between criminological theory and empirical evidence in relation to the investigation of issues relating to crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.

15. Demonstrate competence in effective and professional oral and written communication skills, and the ability to develop critical and reasoned arguments in oral and written form.

16. Investigate and understand complex problems relating to crime and criminal justice, using a range of primary and secondary methods of research to do so.

17. Evidence effective comprehension skills and use of data.

18. Provide evidence of evaluative and analytical skills.

19. Understand how to design research appropriately in relation to a specific problem, how to gather, retrieve, and synthesise information, including comparative data; and an understanding of how to evaluate research data, including both quantitative and qualitative data.

20. Understand how to assess the ethical issues arising in particular research situations.

21. Demonstrate versatility and understanding in the use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments.

22. Demonstrate project management skills in carrying out an extensive piece of independent empirical research, applying skills of choosing and applying appropriate advanced empirical methodologies and the treatment of resulting data with appropriate analytical methods.

23. Analyse, assess methodologically, and communicate, information and empirical research findings about crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.

24. Investigate criminological questions in relation to victimisation, crime, responses to crime and deviance, and representations of these.

25. Identify the ethical issues and the range of ethical problems in research into criminological questions.

26. Critically examine the relevance of criminological work on crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance including representations of these in relation to issues of social, public and civic policy at a national, international and global level.

27. Demonstrate adaptability and versatility in computer literacy, both in use of standard software applications and use of internet to search for information.

28. Adapt problem solving and reasoning skills to a range of challenges.

29. Demonstrate versatility in the application of self-management of learning, utilising time-management skills and effective planning strategies.

30. Demonstrate collaboration and co-operation in working with others in varied situations.

31. Prioritise time to work to strict deadlines.

32. Evaluate personal and academic performance, and to recognise strengths and weaknesses in relation to these.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:

Lectures and directed independent reading are used to introduce core knowledge. Lectures are supplemented by seminar and workshop activities in which students can explore ideas in more depth and contribute to, and benefit from, peer learning. In addition, students are expected to cover substantive course content through their own directed reading. These approaches are consistent with the learning outcomes of each specific module.

In formulating the assessment strategy, the programme team aims to achieve an appropriate match between teaching and learning methods and assessment tasks, including the provision of formative feedback, an appropriate balance of assessment tasks over the programme, and inclusivity of a range of student approaches to learning. A variety of assessment methods is therefore utilised across the programme.

Lectures are supported by appropriate learning resources and learning activities to provide practice in applying declarative knowledge to applied problems, with feedback from tutors and peers. Workshop activities similarly provide a forum for skill development through practice with feedback. Individual supervision meetings support students in developing, conducting and reporting an empirical investigation in psychology. Students are provided

the opportunity for reflection and achievement in developing their own understanding in acquiring skills.

A variety of assessment methods is used, including examination, essay, projects, portfolios and presentations, as specified in each module's guide.

Lectures are used to introduce core knowledge and principles. Practical skills are prioritised within all level 4 modules, but particularly in the Introduction to Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice module (4021LAWCJ). Workshops provide opportunities for students to develop skills underpinned by this knowledge through practice with feedback (from peers and tutor) and through critical reflection. Individual supervision sessions are used to support students in the development and completion of their final year Dissertation (6022LAWCJ) project.

Practical skills are the central focus of core module assessments across the programme, where information gathering, written and spoken communication, and group work are prioritised. A variety of assessment methods is used, including examination, essay, projects, portfolios and presentations.

Lectures are used to introduce transferable skills including computer literacy, problem-solving and reasoning skills, self-management of learning along with time management, effective planning strategies and collaboration and cooperation in working with others. Workshops and group tutorials provide opportunities for students to develop skills underpinned by this knowledge through practice with feedback (from peers and tutor) and through critical reflection. Individual supervision is provided to guide the student through the development and completion of a final year project and dissertation. The main focus of these skills is introduced in level 4 through the Introduction to Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice module (4021LAWCJ). Transferable skills are an essential part of the activities throughout the programme, being further developed especially at level 6, and particularly in the Dissertation (6022LAWCJ) module.

All of the transferable skills are assessed in the various assessment processes, exams, coursework, projects and portfolios across the three levels of the programme. Assessment methods addressing these skills include written assignments and examinations, together with practical skills assessment. All programme students seeking BPS accreditation complete a dissertation in their final year, which in itself covers all transferable skills listed in this document.

Programme structure - programme rules and modules

The programme is offered in full-time mode (3 years or 4 years). The BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society and confers graduate eligibility for both Graduate Membership of the British Psychological Society and the Graduate Basis for Chartership, provided the minimum standard of a Second Class Honours degree is achieved. In addition, the student must achieve a mark of 40% or more in the Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice Dissertation module (6022LAWCJ). Two 10-credit options can be chosen at level 6, but no more than two. The programme can be studied over three years (360 credits) or four years (480 credits) full time. On the three year model, study is undertaken at three levels, one for each year of study. 120 credits are required for the completion of each level and 360 credits for the completion of the full honours programme. In addition, under the four-year, 480 credit version of the programme, the programme will offer the opportunity of an additional study year abroad following Level 5 study at LJMU. Students who take this opportunity will be enrolled on a 480 credit honours with study abroad programme. Of those 480 credits, 120 will be taken via a Level 5 study abroad module (5026LAWCJ). The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The grade for this module will be determined by the Faculty Recognition Panel upon receipt of a transcript from the host institution. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 240 credits at Level 5. The programme is taught within the Academic Framework. Modules are two types: core and options. The programme is based on a two semester academic year with modules being delivered and assessed in either semester 1 or semester 2, apart from the year-long study skills-inclusive module at Level 4, Introduction to Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice (4021LAWCJ) and the research-based Dissertation module at Level 6 (6022LAWCJ). All modules at Level 4 are core and must be taken (7 modules). At Level 5, there are 5 core modules (100 credits) and 1 optional module from an available range of three (20 credits each - 5019LAWCJ (Decision-Making in Criminal Justice), 5022LAWCJ (Penology), and 5028LAWCJ (Victimology)). There are two core modules at level 6, Forensic Psychology (6201PSYSCI) and the Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice Dissertation (6022LAWCJ), leaving 60 optional credits to be completed. These programme rules apply for students who start at level 4 on the programme in 2021-22 and beyond.

For students who started on the programme in September 2020, the following rules apply. All modules at Level 4 are core and must be taken (7 modules - 120 credits). At level 5, there are five core modules (5025LAWCJ, 5202PSYSCI, 5203PSYSCI, 5204PSYSCI, 5020LAWCJ) comprising 100 credits, and 20 credits of options to be selected, with students choosing one module from a list of three (5019LAWCJ, 5022LAWCJ, 5028LAWCJ). There are two core modules at Level 6, Forensic Psychology (6201PSYSCI) and the Dissertation (6016LAWCJ), leaving 60 optional credits to be completed. Optional modules are as follows: 6008LAWCJ; 6009LAWCJ; 6011LAWCJ; 6012LAWCJ; 6014LAWCJ; 6102LAWPL; 6020LAWCJ; 6021LAWCJ; 6018LAWCJ; 6210PSYSCI; 6202PSYSCI; 6203PSYSCI; 6207PSYSCI; 6208PSYSCI; 6209PSYSCI; 6204PSYSCI; 6212PSYSCI; 6206PSYSCI.

For students who started on the programme prior to or in September 2019, the following rules apply. All modules at Level 4 are core and must be taken (7 modules - 120 credits). At Level 5, all modules are core and must be taken (6 modules - 120 credits). These core modules are as follows; 5019LAWCJ; 5022LAWCJ; 5025LAWCJ;

5202PSYSCI; 5203PSYSCI; 5204PSYSCI. There are two core modules at Level 6, Forensic Psychology (6201PSYSCI) and the Dissertation (6016LAWCJ), leaving 60 optional credits to be completed. Optional modules are as follows: 6008LAWCJ; 6009LAWCJ; 6011LAWCJ; 6012LAWCJ; 6013LAWCJ; 6014LAWCJ; 6102LAWPL; 6013LAWCJ; 6210PSYSCI; 6202PSYSCI; 6203PSYSCI; 6207PSYSCI; 6208PSYSCI; 6209PSYSCI; 6204PSYSCI; 6212PSYSCI; 6206PSYSCI.

Level 6	Potential Awards on completion	Bachelor of Science with Honours
Core	Option	Award Requirements
6022LAWCJ Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice Dissertation (40 credits) 6201PSYSCI FORENSIC AND INVESTIGATIVE PSYCHOLOGY (20 credits)	6008LAWCJ Contemporary Issues in Prisons and Probation (20 credits) 6009LAWCJ Policing (20 credits) 6012LAWCJ YOUTH JUSTICE (20 credits) 6014LAWCJ Substance Use, Society and Criminal Justice (20 credits) 6018LAWCJ REGULATION, HARM AND VICTIMISATION (20 credits) 6020LAWCJ Comparative Criminal Justice (20 credits) 6026LAWCJ Green Criminology and Environmental Crime (20 credits) 6027LAWCJ Cybercrime and the AI World (20 credits) 6028LAWCJ Violence and Society (20 credits) 6107PS Terrorism and Counter Terrorism (20 credits) 6202PSYSCI HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (20 credits) 6203PSYSCI COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE (20 credits) 6204PSYSCI POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (20 credits) 6206PSYSCI PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY AND ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOUR (10 credits) 6207PSYSCI FACE PERCEPTION: PROCESSES AND DISORDERS (10 credits) 6208PSYSCI SOCIAL COGNITION (10 credits) 6210PSYSCI WORK PSYCHOLOGY (10 credits) 6212PSYSCI PSYCHOLOGY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE (10 credits)	60 core credits at level 6 60 option credits at level 6

Level 5	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
5020LAWCJ Professional Development in Criminal Justice (20 credits) 5025LAWCJ Exploring Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice (20 credits) 5202PSYSCI RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY 4: ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS (20 credits) 5203PSYSCI COGNITIVE AND BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY (20 credits) 5204PSYSCI DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, AND INDIVIDUAL	5019LAWCJ Decision Making in Criminal Justice (20 credits) 5022LAWCJ An Introduction to Penology (20 credits) 5028LAWCJ Victimology (20 credits)	100 core credits at level 5 20 option credits at level 5

Level 4	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
4017LAWCJ Criminal Justice System (20 credits) 4019LAWCJ Criminological Theory (20 credits) 4021LAWCJ Introduction to Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice (20 credits) 4202PSYSCI RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY 1: RELATIONSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS (10 credits) 4203PSYSCI INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES (20 credits) 4205PSYSCI RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY 2: TESTING FOR DIFFERENCES (10 credits) 4206PSYSCI INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (20 credits)		120 core credits at level 4 0 option credits at level 4

Information about assessment regulations

All programmes leading to LJMU awards operate within the University's Academic Framework.
https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework

Opportunities for work-related learning (location and nature of activities)

Aside from the self-awareness assessment contained within the teaching and assessment of the core Introduction to Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice module (4021LAWCJ),Work Related Learning will also be delivered in the Level 6 core module, Forensic Psychology (6201PSYSCI). Students have direct contact with the prison psychology service and other agencies as part of teaching delivery on this module. Also, in the Level 6 core module 6022LAWCJ (Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice Dissertation), students will study independently and will be able to have contact with a range of psychology and criminal justice-based agencies as part of planning and producing the research necessary to complete the module assessment.

Criteria for admission

A/AS Level
128 UCAS points from a minimum of 2 A Levels. Maximum of 20 AS points accepted.

BTEC National Diploma
128 UCAS points

Irish Leaving Certificate
128 UCAS points. Maximum of 20 UCAS Tariff points at Ordinary Level

Scottish Higher
128 UCAS points from a minimum of 2 Advanced Highers

International Baccalaureate
30 IB points

Access
At least 30 Distinctions and 15 Merits or any other combination that equates to 128 UCAS Tariff points in a relevant subject

Other
Prior to starting the programme applicants must have obtained grade 4 or grade C or above in English

Language and Mathematics GCSE or an approved alternative qualification:

• Key Skills Level 2 in English/ Maths

• NVQ Level 2 Functional skills in Maths and English Writing and or Reading

• Skills for Life Level 2 in Numeracy/English

• Higher Diploma in Maths/ English

• Functional skills Level 2 in Maths/ English

• Northern Ireland Essential Skills Level 2 in communication or Application of Number

• Wales Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number

Mature entry
Applications are welcomed from mature and non-standard applicants, who will be considered on an individual

basis. These applicants may be required to submit an essay and/or attend an interview, and should demonstrate

potential and motivation and/or have relevant experience.

Overseas qualifications
International applications will be considered in line with UK qualifications.

Any Applicant whose first language is not English will be required to have IELTS 6.0 (minimum 5.5 in each

component) or acceptable equivalent.

External Quality Benchmarks

All programmes leading to LJMU awards have been designed and approved in accordance with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK (FHEQ) and subject benchmark statements where applicable.

The University is subject to periodic review of its quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Published review reports are available on the QAA website at www.qaa.ac.uk

Programmes which are professionally accredited are reviewed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and such programmes must meet the competencies/standards of those PSRBs.

Support for students and their learning

The University aims to provide students with access to appropriate and timely information, support and guidance to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their time at LJMU. All students are assigned a Personal Tutor to provide academic support and when necessary signpost students to the appropriate University support services.

Students are able to access a range of professional services including:

• Advice on practical aspects of study and how to use these opportunities to support and enhance their personal and academic development. This includes support for placements and careers guidance.

• Student Advice and Wellbeing Services provide students with advice, support and information, particularly in the areas of: student funding and financial matters, disability, advice and support to international students, study support, accommodation, health, wellbeing and counselling.

• Students studying for an LJMU award at a partner organisation will have access to local support services

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Student Feedback and Evaluation

The University uses the results of student feedback from internal and external student surveys (such as module evaluations, the NSS and PTES), module evaluation questionnaires and meetings with student representatives to improve the quality of programmes.

Staff development

The quality of teaching is assured through staff review and staff development in learning, teaching and assessment.

Internal Review

All programmes are reviewed annually and periodically, informed by a range of data and feedback, to ensure

quality and standards of programmes and to make improvements to programmes.

External Examining

External examiners are appointed to programmes to assess whether:

- the University is maintaining the threshold academic standards set for awards in accordance with the FHEQ and applicable subject benchmark statements
- the assessment process measures student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s) and is conducted in line with University policies and regulations
- the academic standards are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which external examiners have experience
- the achievement of students are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which the external examiners have experience

and to provide informative comment and recommendations on:

- good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment observed by external examiners
- opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities provided to students

Please note:

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme guides.