Programme Specification Document

Approved, 2022.04

Overview

Programme Code	36373
Programme Title	Covert Investigation and Specialist Intelligence
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Masters
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Programme Leader	Adrian James
Link Tutor(s)	Adrian James

Partner Name	Partnership Type
Informa Connect	Supported Distance Learning

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Target Award	Master of Science - MS	See Learning Outcomes Below
Recruitable Target	Postgraduate Certificate - PC	See Learning Outcomes Below
Recruitable Target	Postgraduate Diploma - PD	See Learning Outcomes Below
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Certificate - PC	Exercise self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level. Advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level within the field of covert investigation and specialist intelligence. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility, including decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations. Learn independently for the purposes of continuing professional development.
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Diploma - PD	Evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses within covert investigation and specialist intelligence studies. Exercise self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level. Advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility, including decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations. Learn independently for the purposes of continuing professional development.

Alternate Award Names	

External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement	

Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Part-Time, Distance Learning	January	Informa Connect	2 Years
Part-Time, Distance Learning	September	Informa Connect	2 Years

Aims and Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

These courses aim to provide students with a critical view of the use and management of covert investigation and specialist intelligence within the context of national security, counter-terrorism, and serious organised crime. It will explore investigative and intelligence development activity used by intelligence agencies, law enforcement, criminal justice partners and private agencies. It will explore the cross-cutting considerations for operational ethics in decision making and, using real life case studies, the application of sensitive capabilities.. During the programme, students will use reflection and critical analysis to understand and develop their own area of expertise within the fields of covert investigation, specialist intelligence and the underpinning covert capabilities. To place these in context, the courses aim to provide an analysis of important intelligence and security events and issues of the late 20th and 21st century and place this within a practical basis for the use of covert investigation and specialist intelligence. An exploration of the history and development of covert investigation and specialist intelligence, informed by both its success and failure nationally and internationally will help the student contextualise the importance of the disciplines and the varying degrees of impact on operational activity. An examination of the capabilities will provide the student with a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses tactics when applied in a given set of operational circumstances. In particular, the student will focus on understanding and applying covert techniques, intelligence and analytical thinking to practical problems by looking at current and emerging security problems as well as evaluating potential solutions to these issues. These courses are taught by distance learning and aim to connect a diverse body of domestic and international students across time zones, to share knowledge and develop expertise in the fields. The courses key aims are: • To provide part-time and full-time distance learning programmes in Covert Investigation and Specialist Intelligence for full-time employees or for those seeking a career in covert investigation or specialist intelligence. • To enable students to make an original contribution to the discipline of Covert Investigation and Specialist Intelligence studies and the advancement of professional security practice. • To produce competent, informed reflectively and ethically competent students who have a developed academic understanding the key issues within Covert Investigation and Specialist Intelligence Studies and the theories which underpin the discipline. • To enable students to connect the conceptual basis of the disciplines to some of the practical issues facing the national, regional and international security system.

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
PLO1	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the impact and influence policy has, and continues to have, on professional practice in covert investigation and specialist intelligence within the context of, national security, law enforcement and counter-terrorism.
PLO2	Articulate arguments and conclusions based on evidence and that are subject to a well-developed critical appraisal and imaginative judgement.
PLO3	In a timely fashion, present and communicate information, in both verbal and written forms and in various formats for different audiences.
PLO4	Collaborate and co-operate in working with others to investigate questions or issues relating to covert investigation and specialist intelligence studies, including policing studies, security studies and international relations.
PLO5	Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the influences and drivers of policy and practice change in the broad areas of covert investigation and specialist intelligence.
PLO6	Apply major theories and concepts to the study of covert investigation and specialist intelligence studies.

Code	Description
PLO7	Demonstrate the skills necessary to plan, conduct and report a research project by independently engaging with the subject literature, analyse or and assess it to support critical and normative judgements within security studies and theories with relevant evidence and structured argument.
PLO8	Identify a range of research strategies and methods and reflexively assess the merits of each.
PLO9	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the research designs, methodological choices, and validity of sources of empirical research and good/best practice guidance that seek to analyse and measure the performance of covert investigation and specialist intelligence and by doing so, show imagination and flexibility in seeking solutions to problems.
PLO10	Understand and show sensitivity to diversity issues and competing interests in covert investigation and specialist intelligence to identify and take account of normative and moral positions.
PLO11	Recognise the relevance of the study of covert investigation and specialist intelligence.
PLO12	Using ICT to identify, access and select effective information collection methods and use the most appropriate analytical tools including the application of numerical skills to cases involving a quantitative dimension.

Programme Structure

Programme Structure Description

The exit award of Postgraduate Certificate will be given to students who have completed the core modules 7208PS, 7209PS and 7214PS. The exit award of Postgraduate Diploma will be given to students who have completed the core modules 7208PS, 7209PS, 7214PS, 7218PS and any 50 credits from the optional modules. The Master of Science will be given to students who have completed all of the core modules 7208PS, 7209PS, 7214PS, 7218PS, 7212PS and any 50 credits from the optional modules. NB: Module 7212PS Dissertation will be led by the Informa module leader from the School of Justice Studies and students will be supervised by the most appropriate member of academic staff from across the faculty. Skype tutorials with module leaders will be available within office hours for distance learning students.

Programme Structure - 180 credit points	
Level 7 - 180 credit points	
Level 7 Core - 130 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 7208PS HUMINT – Human Intelligence Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7209PS Forensic Elicitation of Intelligence Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7212PS Dissertation – Covert Investigation and Specialist Intelligence Approved 2022.02 - 60 credit points	
[MODULE] 7214PS Covert Techniques: Legislation and Operational Capability Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7218PS Research Methods Approved 2022.03 - 10 credit points	
Level 7 Optional - 50 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 7127PS Intelligence Sharing and Cooperation Approved 2022.04 - 10 credit points	
[MODULE] 7129PS Intelligence Analysis Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7210PS Case Studies in Intelligence Failure and Success Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7211PS Operational Ethics Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7215PS Disclosure Approved 2022.02 - 10 credit points	
[MODULE] 7216PS Intelligence Oversight Mechanisms Approved 2022.02 - 10 credit points	
[MODULE] 7222PS Investigative Interviewing Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	

Module specifications may be accessed at https://proformas.ljmu.ac.uk/Default.aspx

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated. On the course, there is an especial emphasis on a sound grasp of the relevant academic literature, including substantial use of key scholarly journals, legislative provision, case law and Government strategic policy in the field of security studies, law, intelligence and analysis, counter-terrorism and criminal justice studies. The assessment strategy also concentrates on how theory relates to and enhances good practice. This is assessed through a variety of summative and formative assessments including online tests, essays, presentations and, for the MSc, a dissertation. A range of learning strategies and a variety of modes of interactive delivery conducive to on-line distance learning will be utilised throughout the programme and delivered by the LJMU VLE Canvas or Informa Connects learning platform, including an introductory lecture and a range of on-line activities; e.g. presentations, workbooks, podcasts, blogs, forums both tutor-led synchronous (which can be recorded) and asynchronous, Skype tutorials in addition to utilising suitable OER (open educational resources),such as 'You Tube' videos, supported by digital key readings. Knowledge and understanding is assessed via summative assessment methods suitable for on-line distance-learning, such as formal and reflective essays, and full-scale individual report. A range of periodic formative study skills and knowledge checks will be completed by the students on-line which feedback will be given in order to enable on-going development via reflective practice and aimed at research and compilation of the summative assessment tasks. Target Award Learning Outcomes 1 – 12 are taught through on-line lectures and developed via on-line forums, knowledge checks, targeted learning documents and appropriate formative tasks designed for on-line learning. These skills are assessed across all modules while the variety of assessments across the programme ensures that these skills are assessed in different ways and in a mode suitable for on-line distance-learning. Formative assessment is used to develop knowledge, understanding and skills, while summative assessment is used to assess the student's success in achieving the learning outcomes.

Opportunities for work related learning

If the students are able to work in Liverpool and are not already employed in policing, opportunities are available for students to work as Special Constables within the Merseyside Police and the British Transport Police. It is envisaged that many of those undertaking this course will already be employed within Criminal Justice institutions or security related agencies.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
NVQ	Entry Qualifications for Students without a first degree A relevant second-class honours degree or above (such as in criminology, law, policing, security, social or political science) or an overseas equivalent qualification is normally required. Alternatively, a graduate level professional qualification of comparable standard and suitable work experience (such as policing, corporate intelligence, security or military) may be accepted. Any applicant who does not possesses a first degree must satisfy the programme team of their ability to successfully study at Level 7 through presentation of a strong portfolio to demonstrate appropriate equivalent skills in the workplace. The expectation is that the experience will include a minimum 3 years working within a dedicated intelligence and / or covert investigative related role. The programme also welcomes students with both prior certified and learning and/or application for experiential learning credits. Applicants claiming Recognition of Prior Learning will be explored on an individual basis where previous qualifications or experience will be mapped against the Learning Objectives of the programme modules in accordance with LJMU RP(E)L policy and procedures www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework

Other international requirements	Entry Qualifications for Students where English is a second language Proficiency in English – where English is a second language you will be required to demonstrate a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5 or a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFEL) score of 575. In some cases, applicants who do not pass the standard entry requirement may be permitted to enrol at the discretion of the programme leader. Applications are welcomed from overseas students, and all applicants are considered on individual merit, without regard to gender, marital status, disability, race, ethnic origin, religion or social background. The course will be taught in English.

Extra Entry Requirements