

Psychology and Criminology, BSc (Hons) Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/psychology-and-criminology-bsc/>

Academic Year:	2024/25
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Subject Benchmark(s):	Psychology (QAA 2019), Criminology (QAA 2019)
Target Degree Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc Hons) Psychology and Criminology [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 6]
Interim/exit awards:	Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (BSc) [FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) [FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admission:	September
Programme Modes of Study:	(UCAS code C8L0) 3 years full-time

This programme is accredited by The British Psychological Society (BPS).

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modifications Schedule

1. February 2022: Programme approved
2. October 2022: Specification published
3. November 2022: Accreditation confirmed
4. April 2024: Annual changes for 2024 academic year

Programme Aims

The overarching aims of this programme are to deliver a high-quality degree that represents the synergy between the disciplines of Psychology and Criminology, which develops your capacity to successfully address complex problems using the skills of data analysis, scientific method and critical thinking.

This programme originated with the growing need for psychological and criminological expertise in the criminal justice sector such as the need for 'Evidence-Based Policing' and interest in the synergy between psychology and criminology among existing students and applicants. For example, in psychology modules you will develop an understanding of the brain, social cognition, and behaviour. In criminology modules the focus is on the relationship between different aspects of crime, the criminal justice system, policing, and victimisation. You will build up a set of analytic and communicative skills in stages to tackle increasingly complex problems, with a strong emphasis on problem-based learning.

The university has existing connections with local services whose professionals, on occasion, deliver guest lectures. This will give you the opportunity to interact with professionals within the field directly and will add another dimension to the expertise that you bring as a graduate when they work in these areas within the local community and beyond. As a university, we are committed to promoting Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion within our curriculums, this is to enhance your understanding of the cross-cultural perspectives within the disciplines of Psychology and Criminology respectively, and how said perspectives result in 'alternative' realities and possibilities of lived experiences.

As you progress through the programme, each year will build upon and further contextualise the learning acquired during the previous year, with an emphasis on synthesising, evaluating, and reflecting the skills and knowledge you have developed.

The BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology course is accredited by The British Psychological Society and aligns to their curriculum guidelines (BPS 2019). Accreditation means that, upon completion of the degree, and providing that a student achieves the minimum standard of qualification of second-class honours and passing the final year research project, they would be eligible for Graduate Membership of BPS, with the Graduate Basis for Chartership. BPS graduate membership will mean you will be eligible to undertake further studies and training in-order to pursue highly competitive and high-status psychology professions, such as Forensic Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Clinical Psychology.

As a graduate of this programme, you will have developed an understanding of social responsibility and a critical awareness of the wider social world. The programme will provide you with key transferable skills, particularly in data analysis and communication, relevant to a variety of careers: in business, healthcare, child development (for example, relevant to nursery work), education, and the criminal justice sector (such as in the Police, as a probation officer, a court liaison worker and more).

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 award of Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:

1. Understand classical research in psychology and criminology.
2. Evaluate core Psychological and Criminological disciplinary principles within the context of equality, diversity, and inclusion, in both research and practice.
3. Be able to draw on scientific skills while investigating a range of influences on psychological and criminological functioning, and the interactions between them; as stipulated by the British Psychological Society (BPS).
4. Communicate effectively with others using a range of written, oral, and visual means in order to present structured, coherent and evidence-based arguments.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 award of Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:

5. Apply multiple theoretical perspectives in psychology and criminology to lived contexts.
6. Reflect on their own unconscious biases and how they limit their knowledge and interpretations.
7. Display a range of advanced research methods skills and show ability to critically evaluate their influences in psychology and criminology, both in theory and practice.
8. Work independently and part of a team, undertake self-directed study and project management in order to meet desired objectives.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Degree award of Bachelor with Honours, students will be able to:

9. Evaluate and further contextualise the knowledge and skills acquired at Level 5, with an emphasis on creative critique of topics at the forefront of the Psychology and Criminology.
10. Collate and analyse a range of primary and secondary materials, and critically analyse them within current criminological and psychological debates.
11. Conduct significant independent empirical research in the area of Psychology and Criminology, which adheres to the ethical guidelines prescribed by the university's ethics committee, and the BPS.
12. Independently problem solve and present outcomes logically and coherently.

Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Strategy

This programme originated with the growing need for psychological and criminological expertise in the criminal justice sector such as the need for 'Evidence-Based Policing' and interest in the synergy between psychology and criminology among existing students and applicants. Our teaching, learning and assessment approaches have been designed to allow all students to draw on previous experience, develop skills required for future employment, and develop a course identity. In both the subject benchmarks for psychology and criminology, there is a strong emphasis on practical skills, data collection and data analysis applied to real-world problems (e.g., mental health in the criminal justice system).

The unique aspect of this course is that you explore and understand how the two disciplines of Psychology and Criminology are constituted and synthesise. For example, in psychology modules you will develop an understanding of the brain, social cognition, and behaviour. In criminology modules the focus is on the relationship between different aspects of crime, the criminal justice system, policing, and victimisation.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will build up a set of analytic and communicative skills in stages to tackle increasingly complex problems, with a strong emphasis on problem-based learning. As such, problem-based learning is a key feature of this programme that starts with foundational building blocks needed to tackle problems at level four (e.g. study skills, how to work in a group through team-based learning, foundational assumptions of psychology, and criminology and foundational research methods) to more complex problems at level five – (presenting information to others, researching for essays, learning more advanced research methods) and level six to pursue particular interests encountered at levels four and five through a range of options and through the dissertation. More specifically:

- Each module implements a range of teaching approaches and learning activities that are accessible and encourage active participation of all students (Team-Based Learning, flipped-classroom, labs, workshops, seminars, interactive lectures).
- To ensure students understand the wider applications of the content they are learning. This is attained via giving students opportunities to relate course content to their own experiences, therefore, encouraging the sharing of diverse perspectives and interpretations.
- Ensure that teaching approaches and learning activities that are accessible to all students.
- Technology is applied to enhance and facilitate the teaching and learning experience, and not encompass it.
- For student empowerment, engagement, and encouragement, and to take responsibility for their own learning, teaching approach(s) include peer-learning, peer-assessments, and group work.
- For students who do not arrive with prior academic knowledge or skill, extra support will be provided via peer-assisted learning, the allocation of a Personal Academic Tutor, and information about Student Services. The module Thinking Psychologically at Bradford will also help develop scholarship skills.
- To prepare you for independent research in year three for the final project, you will also receive training in a wide range of research methods during the first two years, which is an essential subject-specific skill required for both Psychology and Criminology.

Knowledge and Understanding

During Induction week, you will be assigned a Personal Academic Tutor, who will provide both pastoral and academic support through your full three years on the programme. During Induction week, you will also receive information about:

- Resources to support learning: computer and IT resource services, Academic Skills Advice service, and the library.

- Services to support students throughout their university journey: the Students' Union, Student Welfare, accommodation, financial advice, the Careers Service, and the University's counselling team.

'Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion' are core principles in Higher Education (H.E) and Psychology. Therefore, you will have the opportunity to study modules such as Social Psychology of Crime, Policing in Contemporary Times, A Critical History of Crime and Punishment, and International Perspectives of Crime. In such modules, through interactive seminar activities, you will critically examine core knowledge and practices in Psychology and Criminology, which encourage you to question the monolithic voice within the area and explore whose voice(s) is not being heard. Importantly, how voices can be brought to the forefront of psychological and criminological understanding.

In year one, students will be introduced to the foundational building blocks of psychology and criminology. For example, 'Brain and Behaviour' and 'Understanding Social Development' in psychology, as well as key concepts and theories in Criminology, such as 'Criminological Theory' and 'A Critical History to Crime and Punishment'. This is to ensure that in your first year of study, you gain an understanding of the some of the core areas of psychology, as stipulated by the BPS, but also learn about crime and the criminal justice system. Essentially, through interactive classroom activities and peer discussions, you will be encouraged to begin thinking about the cohesive nature of the two disciplines.

To encourage interdisciplinary thinking and facilitate your understanding of how Psychology and Criminology align, you will study 'bridging' modules in Years 2 and 3. In particular 'Social Psychology and Crime' and 'Research Project in Psychology and Criminology'. The assessment criteria for both modules are specifically designed for you to demonstrate your understanding of the cohesiveness between the two disciplines. For example, Social Psychology of Crime implements a 'patchwork assessment,' where throughout the module, you will create a variety of small sections to demonstrate your Social Psychology knowledge, and towards the end of the module these sections will be 'stitched' together with a Criminology narrative. Similarly, your final year research project will offer you the opportunity to display the culmination of your critical engagement with the theoretical concepts and methodological approaches within Psychology and Criminology.

Assessment and Feedback

Assessments and feedback are an essential part of student learning, student satisfaction, and must reflect an inclusive and diverse representation of student achievement. Modules may also have more than one component of assessment to assess a broad range of learning and acknowledged the diversity of students' learning styles and skill set, ensuring inclusivity. For example, Multiple Choice Questions may be applied to test students' descriptive knowledge of a certain area within Psychology and Criminology. Coursework including lab reports and essays, as well as exams may be utilised to test deeper-level learning and develop a range of academic skills, which will prepare you for skills required at level 5 and 6.

The designing of assessments is considered carefully and align with the following ethos: offer the opportunity to develop and display a wide range of transferable skills. Each assessment is appropriate for the level of learning and set learning outcomes. Importantly, for each module, the preparation of these assessments is ongoing throughout the module, and formative assessments are included to provide feedback. This is to support students to achieve the intended learning outcomes to the best of their ability.

Essentially, the patterns of assessment ensure that students go through a developmental trajectory from Year One to Year Three, and at each stage students build on their skill set from the previous year. At Level 6, students have the opportunity to demonstrate fully their skills in presenting a well-structured argument, synthesising information from a range of sources and critically evaluating evidence within the field(s) of Psychology and Criminology. The marking rubrics at each level will reflect a progressive expectation of complex problem-solving and critical analysis.

Curriculum

The BSc (hons) Psychology and Criminology programme consists of 360 credits, made up of core and optional modules. Students will study 120 credits of modules at each Stage of the programme, corresponding to the expected Year - 1, 2 or 3. Taught modules are studied across the 'Academic Year' of October to April, or during the first half (Semester 1) or second half of it (Semester 2). The summer period offers an opportunity for final examinations and any supplementary assessment required.

Stage 1

In Year One, the primary drive will be to ensure that you acquire study skills and knowledge essential for higher education. For examples, having the ability to identify, demonstrate comprehension, apply, and analyse a variety of theories and approaches related to Psychology and Criminology. You will also be introduced to research methods, which is an essential Subject Benchmark requirement for both Psychology and Criminology.

Students study 100 core credits. In Semester 2, students select 1 of 2 options:

Stage 1 Modules (FHEQ Level 4/Cert.HE)

Study	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Academic Year	PSY4006-B	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology	20	FHEQ 4
Academic Year	PSY4011-B	Thinking Psychologically at Bradford	20	FHEQ 4
Semester 1	PSY4009-B	Brain and Behaviour	20	FHEQ 4
Semester 1	SAC4007-B	Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice	20	FHEQ 4
Semester 2	PSY4010-B	Understanding Social Development	20	FHEQ 4
Sem. 2 Option	SAC4011-B	A Critical History of Crime and Punishment	20	FHEQ 4
Sem. 2 Option	SAC4012-B	Criminological Theory	20	FHEQ 4

Please note: the curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

At the end of Stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

THE CERT.HE AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER FOR THE GRADUATE BASIS FOR CHARTERED MEMBERSHIP (GBC) OF THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Stage 2

In Year Two, you will build on the skills you acquired in Year One, and, using a scaffolding approach, an emphasis on critical application and a synthesis of the multi-disciplinary approaches will be developed. You will also be expected to demonstrate an appreciation of the application of those approaches.

Students select 1 of 2 options in Semester 1:

Stage 2 Modules (FHEQ Level 5/Dip.HE)

Study	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Semester 1	PSY5018-B	Cognitive Psychology and Psychobiology	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 1	PSY5019-B	Social Psychology and Crime	20	FHEQ 5
Sem. 1 Option	SAC5017-B	Psychology and Crime: Victims and Offenders	20	FHEQ 5
Sem. 1 Option	SAC5018-B	Legal and Moral Constructions of Crime and Criminal Behaviour	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	PSY5017-B	Further Research Methods	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	PSY5015-B	Lifespan and Individual Differences	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	SAC5021-B	Policing in Contemporary Times	20	FHEQ 5

Please note: the curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

THE DIP.HE AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER FOR THE GRADUATE BASIS FOR CHARTERED MEMBERSHIP (GBC) OF THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Stage 3

In Year Three, you will further build upon and contextualise the knowledge and skills acquired during the Years One and Two. At this stage, you will also be expected to demonstrate an awareness of the historical importance, current limitations, and further development of different approaches and theories covered throughout the programme. This will culminate in their Final-Year empirical research project.

Students select a final 20 credit option module, offered in Semester 1 or across the academic year.

Stage 3 Modules (FHEQ Level 6/BSc)

Study	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Academic Year	PSY6017-D	Research Project in Psychology and Crime	40	FHEQ 6
ACYR Option	PSY6011-B	Psychological Life skills and Employability	20	FHEQ 6
Sem. 1 Option	PSY6016-B	Clinical Psychology & Mental Health	20	FHEQ 6
Sem. 1 Option	PSY6003-B	Advanced issues in neuropsychology	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	SAC6020-B	Offenders, Punishment and Change	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	PSY6001-B	Forensic Psychology	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	SAC6005-B	International Perspectives on Crime	20	FHEQ 6

Please note: the curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at 120 credits in both Level 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6. THE ORDINARY BSc AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER FOR THE GRADUATE BASIS FOR CHARTERED MEMBERSHIP (GBC) OF THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

THE BSc (HONS) AWARD CONFERS ELIGIBILITY FOR THE GRADUATE BASIS FOR CHARTERED MEMBERSHIP (GBC) OF THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, PROVIDED THE EMPIRICAL PROJECT IS PASSED & THE MINIMUM CLASSIFICATION OF LOWER SECOND (2:2) ACHIEVED.

Please note: the curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the following link: www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/

Placement/Study Abroad Experience

This programme is not eligible for opportunities to study a single semester at another University due to the requirements of BPS accreditation. Students may choose to undertake travel and short summer activities (up to 6 weeks) through International Opportunities: www.brad.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students/

Admission Requirements

Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience. **A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme is around 112 points, including 2 full A-Levels. GCSE Maths and English are also required at Grade 4/C or higher.**

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond. Our Admissions Team will take into consideration a number of contextual factors when assessing applications. Applications are particularly welcomed from adult learners (those aged 21+ at the start of the programme), armed forces families, carers and care leavers, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller families. To find out more about the University of Bradford Progression Scheme, visit the webpage: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/applicants/progression-scheme/>

On completion of a UCAS form students will be invited to the Faculty for an Open Day when they will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss “the Bradford experience” with current students.

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, and/or significant personal/professional experience. If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. For more information about the University's Recognition of Prior Learning processes visit: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning/>

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply at: www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before/

Please note: This admission information is relevant to the contemporary recruitment cycle and therefore may be different to when this document was originally published. The UCAS tariff applicable may vary and is published here: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/psychology-and-criminology-bsc/>

International students

This programme welcomes international applicants. For information on what qualifications are equivalent to the above, visit the Entry Requirements page for your country by visiting: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/country/>

The standard English language requirements apply for candidates for whom English is not a first language and you can find more information about these, and which English tests we accept, online at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/>

If you do not meet the University or UK Student Visa IELTS requirement, you can take a University of Bradford pre-sessional English course with our Language Centre:
<https://www.brad.ac.uk/courses/other/pre-sessional-english-language-programme/>