

Introduction to

BSc (Hons) Criminology with Psychology

Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

Primary Purpose

Course management, monitoring and quality assurance.

Secondary Purpose

Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification supplement and believes it to be correct. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification supplement but reserve the right to change the content, timetabling and administration of the course whilst maintaining equivalent academic standards and quality.

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Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

1. Named Award

BSc (Hons) Criminology with Psychology

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C2181S (M9C8)

To view units and course structures please visit www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch and enter the 'C' code above to find the correct course.

3. Awarding Body

University of Portsmouth

4. Teaching Institution

University of Portsmouth

5. Document Control Information

August 2016

6. Effective Session

2016-17

7. Home Course Leader

Kerry Devitt

8. Home Faculty

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

9. Home Department

Institute of Criminal Justice Studies

10. About this Programme Specification Supplement

This Combined Honours Course Programme Specification Supplement is designed for prospective students, registered students, University staff and potential employers. It provides an introduction to combined honours courses at the University of Portsmouth, and an overview of the course rationale, aims and learning outcomes.

A full Programme Specification is prepared for each half of the course. This supplement links the full Programme Specifications for each half of the Combined Honours Course. In the full Programme Specification documents (see A1. and A2. below), you will find more detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes, unit information, reference points, support for student learning and regulatory arrangements for each half of the Combined Honours.

A1. Combined Honours Criminology and Criminal Justice Half - PSD

A2. Combined Honours Psychology Half - PSD

11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth

At the University of Portsmouth, our Combined Honours Degrees are predetermined combinations of subjects (subject A and subject B). Most students will be registered on a joint award where the number of credits studied in both subjects is roughly the same (approximately 50/50). A small number of Combined Honours courses are designated major/minor courses where subject A is the major subject and subject B is the minor subject (approximately 66/33). For a joint Combined Honours, a student may choose to undertake a dissertation in subject A or subject B; in the case of major/minor awards, the dissertation will always be in the major subject.

12. Course Management

For each course, one of the academic departments owning one of the two subject halves will be designated the 'home' department. The home department is often, **but not always**, the first named of the subject combination, see section 9 above for this course's home. The home department will be the students' base and is responsible for providing the academic course leader, personal tutor and student support. A deputy course leader is appointed from the 'away' department.

The University operates a two-tier course management structure at department level, which monitors students' progression and achievement at unit level and award level. At University level, there is a dedicated Combined Honours Management Board, which reviews annually overall student experience, monitors student achievement and advises on the introduction and withdrawal of new course combinations.

13. Course Rationale

This degree course is designed to provide you with an opportunity to study the interdisciplinary nature of criminology as a major subject, whilst taking psychology as a minor subject. This course benefits from two complimentary disciplines that work in parallel to one another. Whilst there are opportunities during the course to integrate subject themes and disciplines (including law, criminal justice and sociology), there is a distinct differentiation between psychological and criminological study. This means that students can explore a range of interesting topics and build a full appreciation of the two disciplines. This has further benefits in the final year of study as students can use both disciplines to inform them in their dissertation topic.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To enable students to study a multi-disciplinary subject and develop specialist interests in key areas of psychology, criminology and criminal justice, including the roles and professional practices of criminal justice agencies, and other statutory and third sector agencies working in the criminal justice arena.
- To enable students to exercise choice in their studies, drawing upon the expert knowledge and research of academics teaching in two well-established departments.
- To provide an opportunity for students to create and understand links between the disciplines of criminology and psychology.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop key academic skills, enabling critical thinking and the ability to undertake independent research.
- To provide students with the knowledge, experience and employability skills required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities
- To provide a broad education presenting multiple perspectives on criminology, criminal justice and psychology, acknowledging issues relating to diversity, social justice and human rights.
- To foster knowledge of criminology and criminal justice in a multi-disciplinary context and critical engagement with its subject areas.
- To provide an understanding of the role of empirical research in challenging existing theories and practices.
- To promote an understanding of real life application of criminological and psychological theory and the subsequent development of new policies, practices and legislation.

- To facilitate students understanding of and competence in a range of qualitative and quantitative research skills for exploring crime and its management.
- To provide the opportunity to pursue specialist knowledge and interests through volunteering, placements and research.
- To provide the opportunity to develop transferable skills required for future professional success.

15. Employability Statement

Employability skills are delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. We provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from L4 to L6. Core units at each level include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework. **Career management skills** specifically (as a subset of employability skills) are embedded throughout the curriculum and feature in unit descriptors. This can be extended to employability opportunities that are aligned to specific units and a focus on employability within personal tutorials. This enables students to gain individualised advice and support that aims to increase the likelihood of employment after graduation and throughout the course. All students are given the opportunity to use the learning that they have gained from voluntary placements and internships through the L5 LIFE unit in order to promote future employability opportunities and develop transferable skills for the future.

Students have the opportunity at L5 and L6 to choose optional units which form part of a careers pathway for certain criminal justice occupations, including the police service, probation and youth justice. The Police, Law and Community optional unit at L5, if successfully completed, provide students with the first fourteen weeks of initial police training with certain police services in England and Wales. Students are also encouraged to undertake voluntary or paid placements with the relevant agencies in order to gain the practical employability skills and experience required by these employers. **Career management skills** specifically (as a subset of employability skills) will be embedded throughout the curriculum:

At a basic level (L4), the management of self, learning, tasks, the communication of information, and the development of interpersonal skills are embedded in the first 'short fat' subject foundation unit ('skills plus'). This unit helps students to acquire the relevant learning skills required to study the discipline of a subject area. Additionally, students are introduced to basic career management skills (self-awareness, professional development planning, CV development etc) in order to get them thinking about their existing skills and career plans.

At L5, we continue with developing Career Management skills during Induction Week. There are plenary sessions for students on the further development of career management skills and this is supported by interactive online exercises and website resources related to the subject area. Students also have access to an interactive, online Employability Hub.

At L6, as part of Induction Week, personal tutorials and PDP, we provide further guidance and activities for students (as part of what are currently termed 'Pathfinder Exercises'). This is linked to individual research/project skills related to the core 40 credit dissertation/project and group research/project skills in core units.

For both L5 and L6 students we also run a series of Faculty-wide careers events with employers from a range of relevant employment sectors during the year and a Faculty Alumni Day. ICJS also runs a Careers Panel, which invites former ICJS students, who have since gained employment in the relevant sectors, to return to the university and share their experiences with current students.

All these activities will be supported by the Personal Tutor system and a refocused PDP – developing students as professionals - ***Professional Development Planning***.

We also provide opportunities for students to engage in work-related learning through active learning and the application of skills in work-related environments. This consists of an understanding of working environments and the impact of globalisation on career goals. Students will be introduced to criminal justice themes and issues in core units and will then have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and further understanding of professional and practice issues through specific work-related pathways provided by optional units at levels 5 and 6. Examples include the Policing, Security, Risk and Fraud, and Probation pathways as follows:

Policing pathway:

Level 5:

Police, Law and Community

Victims of Crime: Key Players in Criminal Justice

Policing a Diverse Society

Level 6:

Dangerous Offenders and Public Protection

Hate Crime

Contemporary Terrorism and the Global Response

Probation pathway:

Level 5:

Youth Crime, Youth Justice

Victims of Crime: Key Players in Criminal Justice

Level 6:

Dangerous Offenders and Public Protection

Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Hate Crime

Crime, Exclusion and Mental Health

Security, Risk and Fraud pathway:

Level 5:

Crimes of the Powerful

Global, State and Corporate Security

Level 6:

Cyber Crime: Virtual Realities, Control and Mitigation

Students will also have the opportunity to take the Faculty-wide **Learning from Experience (LiFE)** unit – which allows students to gain credit from paid/unpaid work, volunteering, placements, internships, working on research projects for staff, etc.

Furthermore, all students will have an opportunity to undertake a **work-based learning dissertation/project** as an alternative to the traditional dissertation. Finally, we are committed to providing opportunities for students to study a **language** as part of preparing students for the global labour market and as part of our commitment to internationalisation.

From September 2015, students will be given the opportunity to study abroad through the Erasmus Scheme. This will provide students with a wealth of learning and personal development that will take place in their third year of study, returning to the University of Portsmouth to complete their final year. Students will benefit from gaining an international perspective during their year abroad and develop their academic and personal skills and knowledge that is hoped to positively influence their final year of study.