MSc Security Management (Distance Learning)

Programme Specification

Primary Purpose

Course management 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. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification; however, changes may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, review and update of units and courses. Where this activity leads to significant changes to units and courses, there will be prior consultation of students and others, wherever possible, and the University will take all reasonable steps to minimize disruption to students. It is also possible that the University may not be able to offer a unit or course for reasons outside of its control, for example; the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible. Where appropriate, the University will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

Contents

1. Named Awards

MSc Security Management

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C2298P

3. Awarding Body

University of Portsmouth

4. Teaching Institution

University of Portsmouth

5. Accrediting Body

N/A

6. QAA Benchmark Groups

N/A

7. Document Control Information

August 2015

8. Effective Session

2017-18

9. Author

Professor Mark Button

10. Faculty

FHSS

11. Department

ICJS

Curriculum

12. Educational Aims

- To provide a programme of study for security professionals and those seeking to become security professionals, that enhances their knowledge, skills and professional development; ultimately contributing to the government's agenda of raising standards and professionalism in the security industry.
- To develop students' understanding of the theoretical context of security management in organisations and society.

- To enable students to critically examine the role and function of the security management function.
- To develop students' awareness of strategies to reduce security risks.
- To develop students' knowledge of general management theory and its relevance to security management.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of the application of criminological, risk, psychological and managerial research to the security function.
- To provide opportunities for students to study a range of security related subjects and to write a substantial piece of academic work

13. Reference Points

The programme and outcomes have been developed taking account of:
- The University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Document
- QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in HE
- Framework for the Higher Education Qualifications
- The scholarship and research expertise of academic members of ICJS staff
- Subject Benchmark Statements for Criminology
- ICJS 'Core Values'.

14. General Learning Outcomes

Level 7

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:
- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
  - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level

And holders will have:
- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
  - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
  - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

15. Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge and Understanding of:

A.1 The wide variety of security risks and different strategies that can be used to manage them.
A.2 The competing agencies involved in security management.
A.3 General management theory and strategies applied to the security management context.
A.4 The challenges of crisis and business continuity and the most effective strategies to counter them.
A.5 The application of security, management and criminological research to security organisations.
A.6 A specialist area researched for the dissertation

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) Skills, able to:

B.1 Critically evaluate the organisations and their security strategies an organisational and national level.
B.2 Design research and undertake data analysis and evaluate quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
B.3 Review and evaluate evidence using an ethical approach to develop logical arguments.
B.4 Engage critically with competing academic literature and apply them to the security function.
B.5 Apply relevant frameworks or approaches to understand security policy-making in England and Wales.
B.6 Engage with a range of other associated security, management and criminological issues

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) Skills, able to:

C.1 Apply a range of generic and security specific concepts to security risks.
C.2 Locate evaluate, synthesise and summarise evidence from a wide range of relevant national and international security, managerial and criminological studies.
C.3 Present an informed opinion on the appropriateness of security, business continuity and crisis management policy and strategy within diverse contexts.
C.4 Undertake independent research on complex matters relevant to security management.
C.5 Demonstrate an ability to research independently, to evaluate different kinds of evidence, and to synthesise and evaluate material from a wide range of different sources in producing a research based dissertation.

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) Skills, able to:

D.1 Select and effectively use a range of strategies and resources to explore problems, research different options and formulate valid proposals.
D.2 Develop a broad range appropriate employability skills particularly in communication, information technology skills and problem solving.
D.3 Communicate through a range of forms of written work and online communication.
D.4 Demonstrate a basic knowledge of ICTs, including word-processing, presentation preparation, use of email, online discussion tools, web searching and evaluation of sources, online bibliographic database searching, etc.
D.5 Manage, plan, implement and write up a Dissertation.

16. Learning and Teaching Strategies and Methods

A1-A6 are delivered by a mix of traditional campus based teaching and learning and self-directed study. Two of the core units are delivered by block teaching on campus utilising lectures, seminars, simulations and student presentations. These also combine with the full-time campus students. The rest of the units (bar 1 option) are delivered by open learning materials and online resources which provide essential knowledge and encourage students to engage interactively with the subject materials enabling A1-A6 to be achieved. Students will be directed to further readings and access recommended texts and online texts from the University of Portsmouth Library and other web-based sources. Course level Moodle site, and unit-based Moodle sites provide opportunities to use online resources and for interaction with course subject matter. The dissertation is supported through

regular individual meetings with the dissertation supervisor or one-to-one online tutorials or email-based exchange to guide and direct student to relevant literature to provide the essential knowledge for the research project and to enable A6 to be achieved.

B1-B6 will be achieved through a range of structured activities throughout the programme of studies which will encourage and prompt critical engagement with course literature and/or materials, competing interpretations and experiences. Example activities include tutor and student-led seminars and online seminars, student presentations, discussion, questioning and interaction. These activities may be face-to-face or online (asynchronous with distance learning students).

C1–C5 are delivered to enable the student to acquire practical, professional and subject skills through: taught core and optional units to expand further their academic knowledge of contemporary issues and professional practices, small group work in seminars to discuss and debate contemporary issues, and a tutor supported dissertation based on a research question and design developed by the student. Students are encouraged to continue developing employability skills through paid employment or volunteer placements with the relevant agencies.

The majority of coursework assignments will expect students to locate appropriate materials from a range of sources (directed and undirected); to evaluate their utility, accuracy and currency and to use them to communicate effectively in a wide range of written and discursive formats (D1-D6). All assignments must be word-processed and students are expected to seek academic and technical sources of help and advice from a number of sources at different stages of the programme (D2-D4). All students are required to take personal responsibility for their learning throughout and to plan and deliver assignments within a framework of paced-study and appropriate deadlines (D6).

17. Assessment Strategy

A1-A5 will be assessed through a range of essays, short assignments and case studies. A6 will be assessed by a dissertation.

B1-B6 will be assessed through essays, short assignments, presentation slide/briefs and case-study coursework, which will require deployment of a range of critical analytical skills and bibliographic research and evaluation skills. Dissertation criteria will require demonstration of B1-B6.

C1-C5 will be assessed through the core of coursework assignments which will require the application of academic research to theoretical, practical and policy-analysis-based aspects of security and related issues in England and Wales and beyond. C5 will be assessed through the Dissertation.

D1-D6 will be assessed through the coursework requirements for each unit. D5 is assessed through the dissertation. The system of deadlines and associated penalties for late submission ensures student planning of time and academic tasks and encourages personal responsibility for own learning (D6).

18. Course Structure, Progression and Award Requirements

See Unit Web Search[1] for full details on the course structure and units
- 180 credits are required to achieve a Masters degree. Standard University rules apply and the regulations must be consulted for a full description of exit awards.
- The programme operates on a part time 2 or year full time basis.
- Units are 30 credits (with the exception of the 60 credit dissertation).
- One credit is equivalent to 10 notional learning hours.

19. Employability Statement

Many students/candidates are employed before they are accepted on this course. ICJS has a range of links with local and national employers within the security and criminal justice sector which enhance our teaching, research and knowledge transfer activities. Our curriculum is also informed by the

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[1] www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch

contributions of former practitioners on our academic staff. Personal Development Planning is made available to all students through the personal tutoring.

Students are introduced to 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 our annual study school. 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 and the ICJS Linked in network.

As part of Induction 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 60 credit dissertation/project and group research/project skills in core units.

For all 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. These are open to distance learning students.

All these activities will be supported by the Tutoring 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.

Course Management

20. Support for Student Learning

- The Course is managed by a Course Leader.
- Extensive induction programme introduces the student to the University and their course.
- Each student has a personal tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance.
- University support services include careers, financial advice, housing, counselling etc.
- The Academic Skills Unit (ASK).
- The Additional Support and Disability Advice Centre (ASDAC).
- Excellent library facilities.
- The University of Portsmouth has consistently been awarded an excellent rating for student support and guidance in a number of Quality Assurance Agency inspections.
- Student course and unit handbooks provide information about the course structure and University regulations etc.
- Feedback is provided for all assessments.
- Personal Development Planning (PDP) for all awards.

21. Admissions Criteria

A. Academic Admissions Criteria

Normally a first degree (2.2 minimum) in a relevant subject
or
Exceptionally a strong profile of relevant professional experience and/or training within a security, police, military or security management department and demonstration of academic ability to achieve postgraduate level

Candidates with appropriate qualifications and experience will be eligible to apply for RPL on this course. All recognised courses are recorded on the RPL tariff.

English Language Criteria

For those applicants where English is not their first language, IELTS 6.5 with no component below 6.0. A formal exemption process is in place at Admissions stage for relevant cases.

B. Disability

The University makes no distinction in its admissions policy with regard to disability and will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments in order to make it possible for students to study at Portsmouth on a course of their choice.

22. Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

A. Mechanisms for Review and Evaluation

- Course Leader's Annual Standards and Quality Evaluative Review.
- Head of Department's Annual Standards and Quality Evaluative Review.
- Unit and Course Level student feedback considered at Board of Studies.
- Unit Assessment Board consideration of student performance for each programme.
- Annual Standards and Quality Reports to Board of Studies, including consideration of Subject and Award External Examiner Reports.
- Periodic Programme Review.
- Student Representatives and Student/Staff Consultative Committees.
- National Student Survey.
- Staff Performance and Development Review.
- Peer Review and Development Framework.
- Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee.

B. Responsibilities for Monitoring and Evaluation

- Unit Co-ordinators for unit content and delivery.
- Course Leader for day-to-day running of course.
- University Contact for day-today running of course.
- Board of Studies with overall responsibilities for operation and content of course.
- Head of Department and Associate Heads
- Associate Dean (Academic).
- Associate Dean (Students).
- Quality Assurance Committee.
- Unit, Award and Progression Board of Examiners.

C. Mechanisms for Gaining Student Feedback

- Student Representation on Board of Studies
- Student Staff Consultative Committees
- Unit and Course level student feedback questionnaires
- University participates in external student surveys, e.g. National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) and International Student Barometer (ISB)

D. Staff Development Priorities

- Academic staff undertake activities related to research, scholarship, teaching and learning and student support and guidance.
- Annual staff performance and development reviews match development to needs.
- Managers undertake a variety of management development programmes.
- New academic staff required to undertake a Higher Education teaching qualification.
- All academic staff encouraged to seek Higher Education Academy membership.
- Academic staff undertake initial and continuing professional development within the Academic Professional Excellence Framework (APEX) programme which is aligned with the Higher Education Academy (HEA)'s UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF)
- Support Staff are encouraged to attend short courses in areas such as minute taking, and specific IT packages.

23. Assessment Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth academic regulations will apply to this programme (*see Assessment and Regulations*[2]).

24. Role of Externals

Subject External Examiners who will:
- Oversee unit assessment and usually attend Unit Assessment Boards
- Review unit assessment strategy
- Sample assessment artefacts
- Present report to Unit Assessment Boards

Award External Examiners (usually also a Subject External Examiner) who will:
- Oversee and attend Award/Progression Boards
- Scrutinise and endorse the outcomes of assessment
- Ensure that the standard of the award is maintained at a level comparable with that of similar awards elsewhere in the United Kingdom

25. Indicators of Standards and Quality

A. Professional Accreditation/Recognition

Students who complete this course are entitled to at least Graduate Membership of the Security Institute and if they have appropriate experience Full Membership.

B. Periodic Programme Review (or equivalent)

The review took place on 2nd February 2015

The Periodic review confirmed:

Fitness of Purpose of Curriculum

Annual Monitoring and Review Processes Effective.

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[2] www.port.ac.uk/departments/services/academicregistry/qualitymanagementdivision/assessmentandregulations/

C. Quality Assurance Agency

QAA Higher Education Review, March 2015, judgements about standards and quality meet UK expectations (*for full report see [Higher Education Review of the University of Portsmouth, March 2015](#)*[3]).

D. Others

None.

26. Further Information

Further information may be found in:

- Student Handbook
- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Document
- University of Portsmouth Prospectus
- [University of Portsmouth](#)[4] and [Institute of Criminal Justice Studies](#)[5] websites

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[3] www.qaa.ac.uk/en/ReviewsAndReports/Documents/University%20of%20Portsmouth/University-of-Portsmouth-HER-15.pdf

[4] www.port.ac.uk/

[5] http://www.port.ac.uk/institute-of-criminal-justice-studies/