COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Cybercrime (DL)

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Course Title	*MSc Cybercrime*
Final Award	*MSc*
Exit Awards	*e.g. CertHE, DipHE. Please state if exit awards have a different course title.*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P3599PTD*
Mode of study	*Part time*
Mode of delivery	*Distance Learning*
Normal length of course	*2 years*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*from September 2024 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Criminology and Criminal Justice*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-criminology-and-criminal-justice*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/msc-cybercrime-distance-learning*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*NCSC Provisional certified Master's degree for Incorporating Cyber Security* *https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/ncsc-certified-degrees#section_4*
[Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level](#)	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To provide opportunities for students to study the subject of cybercrime in depth
- To enhance students research skills and understanding of ethics to be able to identify appropriate methodologies for research
- To write a substantial piece of work (project report or academic thesis)
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career opportunities

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

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A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	Gain subject specific knowledge appropriate to the field of Cybercrime	Online seminars, use of reading lists, Moodle sites	Essays, reports, presentations, opportunities for formative assessment
A2	Explain theoretical and methodological underpinnings of Cybercrime	Online seminars, use of reading lists, Moodle sites	Essays, reports, presentations, opportunities for formative assessment
A3	Gain a grounding in the broader context of cybercrime and cybersecurity	Online seminars, use of reading lists, Moodle sites	Essays, reports, presentations, opportunities for formative assessment
A4	Research planning, design and research ethics	Online seminars supervision meetings Moodle sites	Essays, reports, presentations, proposals, research-based dissertation or major project, opportunities for formative assessment
A5	Appropriate research methods applicable to the completion of the research project	Online seminars, supervision meetings Moodle sites	Essays, reports, proposals, research-based dissertation or major project, opportunities for formative assessment and feedback throughout the supervision process

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Engage critically with competing theories and approaches and apply them to cybercrime and cybersecurity contexts	Online seminars and Moodle content prompt critical engagement with the literature	Essays, reports, presentations and proposals which all require bibliographic research and critical analytical and evaluative skills. Use of case studies in formative and summative assessments
B2	Apply relevant frameworks or approaches to understand relevant policy making	Online seminars, use of reading lists, Moodle sites	Essays, reports, presentations and proposals which all require bibliographic research and critical analytical and evaluative skills. Use of case studies in formative and summative assessments
B3	Critically appraise the value of theoretical perspectives and research evidence collected in Cybercrime studies	Online seminars and Moodle content prompt critical engagement with the literature	Essays, reports, presentations and proposals which all require bibliographic research and critical analytical and evaluative skills
B4	Examine the nature of diversity and apply to practical justice action in diverse communities	Online seminars and Moodle content prompt critical engagement with the literature	Essays, reports, presentations and proposals which all require bibliographic research and critical analytical and evaluative skills
B5	Synthesise and contribute to the creation of new knowledge	Online seminars, use of reading lists, Moodle sites	Essays, reports, presentations and proposals which all require bibliographic research and critical analytical and evaluative

		skills. The culmination of this knowledge will be presented in the research-based dissertation or major project

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Apply a range of generic and criminology/criminal justice specific concepts to cybercrime/ cybersecurity contexts and behaviours.	Online forum discussions and seminars to encourage application of general theories to relevant specific strategic and operational issues grounded in the students' own experience	Essays, reports, presentations, which will expect a demonstration of an understanding of cybercrime specialism issues and the application of theory to contemporary contexts
C2	Locate, evaluate, synthesise and summarise evidence from a wide range of relevant national and international sources	Online forum discussions and seminars to encourage application of general theories to relevant specific strategic and operational issues grounded in the students' own experience	Essays, reports, presentations, which will expect a demonstration of an understanding of cybercrime specialism issues and the application of theory to contemporary contexts
C3	Undertake independent research on complex matters relevant to cybercrime/cybersecurity	Online forum discussions and seminars to encourage application of general theories to relevant specific strategic and operational issues grounded in the students' own experience.	Essays, reports, presentations, proposals, which will expect a demonstration of an understanding of cybercrime specialism issues and the application of theory to contemporary contexts

		Supervision meetings	
C4	Demonstrate an ability to research independently, to evaluate different kinds of evidence and to synthesis and evaluate material from a wide range of sources in producing a research-based dissertation or major project	Moodle support on research methods and ethics, with additional support for Learning Development Tutors. Supervision meetings	Essays, reports, presentations, proposals, which will expect a demonstration of an understanding of cybercrime specialism issues and the application of theory to contemporary contexts. Culminates in research-based dissertation or major project

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	Select and effectively use a range of strategies and resources to explore problems, research different options and formulate valid proposals	Online forum discussions, seminars and tutorials	Coursework where students must locate appropriate materials from a range of sources (directed and undirected) and use them to communicate effectively after evaluating their utility, accuracy and currency
D2	Communicate through a range of written work and online communication	Online forum discussions, seminars, tutorials, engagement with Moodle activities	Assessments involve essays, reports, presentations, proposals. As part of the engagement with staff, students are also expected to make appropriate and professional use of email
D3			

	Demonstrate a good knowledge of ICT, including word-processing presentation preparation, use of email, online discussion tools, web searching and evaluation of sources, online bibliographic database searching and data analysis tools	Engagement with Moodle	All coursework assessments must be word-processed and students are expected to seek academic and technical sources of help and advice from a range of sources at different stages of the programme
D4	Take charge of one's own learning (planning and managing own time), reflecting and evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses for future learning (and developing as appropriate)	Online forum discussions, seminars tutorials, dissertation tutorials	The system of deadlines and associated penalties for late submission ensures student planning of time and academic tasks, encouraging personal responsibility for own learning

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides the following:

- The course is managed by a Course Leader.
- A Course Induction programme introduces the student to the University and their course.

- Each student has a nominated Personal Tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance. This role will then be taken over by the dissertation/major project supervisor once allocated.

- Within SCCJ there are also Learning Development Tutors for both academic skills and research support, and Student Engagement Officers for further academic and pastoral needs.

- Guest lecturers are employed widely across many modules, so students benefit greatly from being taught by current practitioners and experts in the field and from industry.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for *Criminology*
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- The School of Criminology and Criminal Justices' Core Values

Changes to your course / modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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