

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
BSc (Hons) Police Studies with Criminal Investigation BSc (Hons) Police Studies with Criminal Investigation with Foundation Year	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BJ1PSC1 BJ1PSC4 (with Foundation Year)
UCAS Code:	L4M9
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours, BSc (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Full Time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3 years full-time 4 years full-time (with Foundation Year)
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	

Brief Description of the Programme

Throughout this course, students will study contemporary policing challenges and criminal justice processes, with a focus upon criminal investigation. This degree is for students with an interest in policing who want to explore the wide-ranging career opportunities on offer within and beyond the criminal justice field.

Alongside the demands of operational and investigative policing, students will enjoy a curriculum that covers a wide range of areas such as criminal law and justice, social science related research, operational policing priorities, miscarriages of justice, and major crime investigations. Students will explore the legal and moral responsibilities of an investigator, forensic considerations, human rights considerations, in addition to the challenges presented by cyber-related crime and safeguarding the vulnerable from exploitation. Significant police reforms are examined including the code of ethics, professionalism and legitimacy. The programme has been examined against the current Subject Benchmarks for Criminology (2019).

Building on our strong links with Thames Valley Police, students may apply to be a volunteer Special Constable while studying for their degree. Selection to perform this role is subject to a selection process and criteria owned by Thames Valley Police and vacancies are subject to their resourcing requirements. Other valuable volunteering opportunities in non-operational areas of policing or the wider criminal justice system and community initiatives are encouraged via our Bucks University Placement Plus Framework which aims to develop students' future employability, self-confidence and resilience via experience of authentic work related/work-based learning opportunities are a key feature within all levels of the programme.

Whilst there are no guarantees of entry into a Police Force following graduation from this programme, many of our graduates have successfully commenced rewarding careers as either

Police Officers or non-warranted Police staff, and many others have followed careers within the wider criminal justice system and well beyond. This course may be considered by potential applicants interested in working in a wide range of areas including: Youth Justice, Child and Youth Protection, Probation, Police or Prison Services, Research, Private Security, Intelligence services, Home Office, Advocacy, Drugs Prevention, Local Government and Civil Service. Successful completion of the course will position students to undertake postgraduate studies in a variety of criminal justice, policing and other subjects.

Programme Aims

- 1 Give students a comprehensive grounding in the knowledge and skills necessary for those aspiring to employment within the police, intelligence agencies, civil service and the wider criminal justice system.
- 2 Provide an inclusive, current and versatile curriculum of study, which reflects the needs of both Policing and wider criminal justice practitioners and stakeholders.
- 3 Prepare students for employment or for postgraduate study by fostering an environment in which students are encouraged to: develop academic skills; challenge knowledge; apply theory to practice; develop critical awareness, analysis and reasoning; solve problems; synthesise and evaluate information; and engage in research.
- 4 Encourage students to undertake research projects which are related to either policing or the criminal investigation framework

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the concepts and characteristics of policing and criminal investigation as an area of academic and applied study
K2	Critically demonstrate an awareness of the changing nature of policing and criminal investigation
K3	Critically demonstrate an understanding of the external (PESTEL) factors that drive changes within policing and criminal investigation, alongside organisational, cultural and ethical factors that impact upon policing and criminal investigation related processes and outcomes.
K4	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of social science research methods and theories and their application to policing and criminal investigation.
K5	Challenge theories and concepts which are used to understand policing and criminal investigation.
K6	Review critically current research and primary sources (for example, referenced research articles and/or original materials appropriate to policing and criminal investigation).

K7	Critically reflect on the relationship between relevant theory and practice in work-based contexts
K8	Critically reflect on their learning from work-based experiences in terms of how it relates to the Bucks Graduate Attributes
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Deploy accurately established techniques of critical analysis and enquiry within policing and criminal investigation.
C2	Review and use evidence systematically
C3	Evaluate critically arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data to make judgements, frame appropriate questions and propose solutions to a problem
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	
S1	Analyse and evaluate the critical importance of both diversity and equality issues within policing and criminal investigations.
S2	Analyse the nature and characteristics of contentious issues within policing and criminal investigation and examine and evaluate their impact and legacies.
S3	Analyse the relationships between policing and criminal investigation, and the communities and environments in which it takes place
S4	Evaluate critically the changing role of the state in both policing and criminal investigation
S5	Recognise the moral, ethical and legal issues associated with the operational delivery and development of policing and criminal investigation
S6	Analyse and evaluate the issues and principles of legitimacy, accountability, and social responsibility in the context of policing and criminal investigation.
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
L2	Plan effectively for their personal and professional development in a work-based context
L3	Apply learning from work-based experiences to their future developmental goals and career plans

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.

Foundation Level (Optional for students on degree programmes)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
FY008	Ways of Learning about the Social World	N/A	C	Yes
FY026	Preparing for Success Knowledge and Creativity	N/A	C	Yes
FY027	Preparing for Success Self-development and Responsibility	N/A	C	Yes
FY028	Inquiry Based Learning	N/A	C	Yes

Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC433	Social Sciences & Policing Practice	30	C	Yes
LC450	Introduction to Policing	30	C	Yes
LC453	Criminal Law and Justice	30	C	Yes
LC454	Police Crime and the Media	15	C	Yes
LC455	Introduction to Cyber Crime	15	C	Yes

Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC550	Research Methods	30	C	Yes
LC562	Criminal Investigation. Past to Present	30	C	Yes
	Please choose 60 credits from the list below:			
LC552	Policing: Concepts, Theories and Practice	15	O	Yes
LC553	Crime Prevention and Reduction	15	O	Yes
LC573	Forms of Crime: Crimes of the Powerful	15	O	Yes
LC574	Forms of Crime: Crime in Late Modernity	15	O	Yes
LC556	Special Constabulary	30	O	Yes
LC582	Policing Priorities and Legitimacy.	30	O	Yes

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LC650	Operational Policing	30	C	Yes
LC658	Criminal Investigation Systems	30	C	Yes
LC659	Criminal Investigations: Scope of the State	30	C	Yes
	Please choose 30 credits from either:			
LC661	Dissertation	30	O	No
LC686	PlacementPlus Work-Based Project	30	O	No

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

Building on our strength as an established provider of high-quality policing related degrees, this programme will offer a varied and dynamic supported learning experience at our University campus. This degree will be delivered by student attendance at the University campus. Teaching and learning methods have been developed based on our extensive experience over the years of working in partnership with Thames Valley Police, our local police force. All of our Policing Lecturers have relevant practical policing experience having previously served in a range of police forces at various levels and specialisms. This enables learning to be delivered with a continual focus on the practical operational demands and realities of policing.

This programme provides a developmental approach for students from Foundation level through to level 6. Our Bucks University Placement Plus framework is embedded in specific individual modules at all levels across the Programme and aims to develop student's employability, self-confidence and reliance via experience of authentic, work-related/ work-based learning opportunities. During the Foundation Year, students will be exposed to a variety of summative and formative assessments whilst developing the academic skills to be a successful student at University. At level 4 the core modules introduce students to important social sciences, criminal law and policing related knowledge, enabling students to have a solid grounding and become immersed in subject material that forms the foundation to their learning experience. Modules are delivered through a blended learning through a combination of;

- 1-hour lectures supported by;
- 2-hour seminars which are typically semi structured and interactive in their nature and may include formative exercises such as;
 - Simulated role play type scenarios carried out in our Code of Practice suite – which includes a simulated bedsit area, custody area and interview facility
 - Research based activities
 - Classroom based discussion
 - Individual tutorials
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Guest speaker inputs from a range of expert professional practitioners provide a valuable additional learning experience and operational insight. There is emphasis on guided learning with an aim for students to learn the skill of being self-directed through recommended reading and later independent research as they journey through their programme at level 5 and 6.

At level 5 students further develop their ability in drawing from a wider range of literature sources and apply theoretical knowledge to practical problems or cases, showing deeper understanding as the complexity of the subject and issues covered in the modules increase. Students are supported to make module choices based on their interests, development needs, potential career paths and preferences. The core Research Methods module significantly develops student's research knowledge and confidence in planning and undertaking their final year work-related project/dissertation at level 6.

At level 6 students will be seen to develop an abundance of independent learning skills whilst studying their core modules alongside either the optional dissertation or the work-based project. Lecturers increasingly take a facilitative approach to enable students to critically analyse theory, arguments and ambiguities, data, policy and practice within the discipline area(s), interpreting, synthesising and evaluating information from a wide range of sources. This approach further supports the students in undertaking their on-going dissertation or work-based project.

Students are regularly invited to evaluate their learning and ongoing representation of the student voice is valued at all levels. Bucks has a highly active Students Union who engage constructively with the programme team.

The team are mindful that the material and scenarios used as part of the indicative content is potentially sensitive, challenging and difficult for some of their students. Whilst they exercise care in approaching certain highly emotive, sensitive or challenging subjects, they are also mindful of Bucks services that students can be signposted to should they show signs of distress or require additional support. Staff and students work within a Bucks 'learning agreement' promoting mutual dignity, courtesy and respect.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

Students should anticipate additional costs associated with the purchase of recommended books of £200. There are no compulsory study trips.

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad / Work Based Learning (Hours)
Foundation Year	360	840	0
Year One	360	840	0
Year Two	360	840	0
Year Three	290	910	0

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

Assessment methods for this Programme are designed to demonstrate that students have achieved the outcomes for the modules they are studying. Formative assessment is a key feature of the programme, enabling early feedback to be given on progress and to help apprentices improve performance. Formative exercises may be group or individually based and may include oral presentations including poster type presentations, and simulated task-based exercises within our code of practice suite.

Academic achievement will normally be demonstrated through completion of pieces of coursework, such as essays, case studies, reflective practice-based reports, journals and action plans, or by sitting formal examinations or time-constrained assessments. The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

- Time-constrained assessment (TCA) - TCAs can take several different forms and for this programme will typically be either seen in advance and require written answers to written questions;
- Reflective Reports, Journals and Action Plans – these form part of the assessment methods at level 4 & 5 to ensure that students are confident in reflecting upon and developing their own employability related needs.
- Essay or written assignment - an essay is one of the most well-known types of academic written exercise and written assignments will also include reports which typically review case studies. Written assignments are used across all levels of our programme and permit students to write in depth about a particular topic or question. Students will be expected to draw upon and reference a wide range of evidence or sources (e.g. reference books, journal articles and other scholarly sources) to support their answers.
- At Level 6 students undertake a detailed written dissertation or work-based research project - as earlier detailed within the programme structure

Classification

Calculation of final award:	Level 5 - 33% Level 6 – 67%
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For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

This programme will typically be appropriate for students with an interest in policing who want to explore the wide-ranging career opportunities on offer within and beyond the criminal justice field. Whilst a good number of our graduates from this programme have successfully gained employment as either Police Officers or Police staff, many others have followed careers within the wider criminal justice system and well beyond. This course should be considered by potential applicants interested in working in a wide range of areas including: Youth Justice, Child and Youth Protection, Probation, Police or Prison Services, Research, Private Security, Intelligence services, Home Office, Advocacy, Drugs Prevention, Local Government and Civil Service.

Typical entry requirements will be a UCAS Tariff score of 80 including a minimum of two full A-levels (or equivalent). Every application is considered on an individual basis.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?	No
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Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

Whilst there are no guarantees of entry into a Police Force following graduation from this programme, some graduates may wish to join a police force a Police Constable typically via the Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP) during which newly appointed police officers undertake further studies for a post graduate diploma in professional policing practice during their 2 years' probation.

Other graduates may choose to pursue a police staff role within policing other than as a warranted Police Constable, whilst others may apply their transferable skills to other professions and workplaces. The opportunities are numerous and include (but are not limited to) private security, risk management, event organisation, probation, prison service and a wide variety public serving enterprises. Alternatively, some graduates may choose to immediately further develop their Higher Education learning to Masters level and beyond.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Buckinghamshire New University
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	Criminology (2019) (QAA 2454 Oct.19)
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	Institute of Professional Policing (IPP) Sub-committee
Date Published / Updated:	July 2020
Date programme re-approval required:	2026

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

No exit award is available for students who withdraw at the end of the Foundation Year.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Certificate of Higher Education in Policing Studies
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4
Learning Outcome	
<p>Present a structured argument with regards to key concepts of policing. Evaluate subject specific debates with regards to socio-political and legal contexts. Evaluate policing from a social science perspective. Interpret official statistics with a recognition of advantages and disadvantages of the data collection methods. Describe key concepts of 'policing' with regards to the wider criminal justice system.</p>	

Name of Exit Qualification:	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Diploma of Higher Education in Policing Studies
Credits requirements:	240 credits
Module requirements:	120 credits at Level 4 120 Credits at Level 5
Learning Outcome	
Level 4 as above.	
Level 5: Show a knowledge and critical understanding of the key theories underpinning police practice. Apply their knowledge, with a recognition of their knowledge limitations, to wider socio-political debates. Effectively analyse and communicate the strengths and weaknesses of social science research methods. Demonstrate a knowledge of key principles in relation to both policing and specifically criminal investigations	

Name of Exit Qualification:	Ordinary Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	B.Sc. Degree in Policing Studies
Credits requirements:	300 credits
Module requirements:	120 credits at Level 4 120 Credits at Level 5 60 credits at Level 6
Learning Outcome	
Level 4 as above.	
Level 5 as above.	
Level 6 – completion of a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6 from modules LC650, LC658 and LC659: Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and theories underpinning both policing and criminal investigations. Critically evaluate arguments with consideration to socio-political, legal, and ethical frameworks in relation to policing and criminal investigation. Apply methods and techniques to manage their own learning in order to apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary debates of policing and criminal investigation. Evaluate critically the role of the police in relation to criminal investigations.	