Buckinghamshire New University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	BSc (Hons) Professional Policing BSc (Hons) Professional Policing with Foundation Year BSc (Hons) Professional Policing with International Foundation Year
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Policing
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	BSc (Hons) Professional Policing
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	6
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma of Higher Education BSc in Policing Studies
Accreditation details:	College of Policing (CoP)
Length of programme:	3 years
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Policing (2022)
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	College of Policing
Course Code(s):	BSPPOLFT, BSPPOLFY
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	01/12/22
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

Policing in England and Wales is undergoing significant transformation, with many professional challenges. The Police Constable is the heartbeat of effective policing and this pre-join degree is a professional academic knowledge-based degree based upon the national curriculum for the Police Constable role. This pre-join degree may also be of interest or benefit to those considering a career in non-Police Constable roles in policing, for those seeking to understand how society is policed, who have an interest in law enforcement or want to enter the wider justice sector.

The degree is achieved prior to the candidate's recruitment to the police service and has a currency of 5 years following graduation for recruitment into policing. It should be noted there are no guarantees of entry to a police force post-completion as there are associated recruitment processes all candidates would be required to undertake when applying to join the police service.

Candidates who subsequently apply to join the service and are recruited as police constables will have acquired all the knowledge base relevant to performance of the role, prior to joining.

Learners will enjoy a programme that champions an ethical, values-based approach to policing through a high-quality, evidence-based educational course that encourages personal reflection and critical thinking whilst preparing learners for employability and continual professional development. The curriculum for this pre-join degree is rigorously mapped against the national learning standards defined by the College of Policing that have been identified as critical to 21st century policing.

This pre-join degree offers learners benefits well beyond the confines of the curriculum itself, embracing the higher-level skills that a degree-based educational approach can import to the profession of policing. Learners who have successfully completed this degree and who progress to become police constables will contribute to the policing profession by being ever more capable problem-solvers, communicators, negotiators and leaders, as well as being increasingly socially and emotionally intelligent individuals in the performance of their professional role. The curriculum provides the essential foundation for the education of such potential police constables of the future.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Develop learners' understanding of how they will be able to engage in lawful, safe and effective front-line policing in the specific professional areas of response policing, policing communities, policing the roads, information and intelligence, and conducting investigations
2. Equip learners with a coherent and detailed knowledge and understanding of the requirements of 21st century policing, including how police organisations function and are managed according to the needs of communities
3. Allow learners to critically evaluate the strategic choices available to police organisations, demonstrating a critical appreciation of how operational and organisational decisions are taken in their economic, social and cultural contexts
4. Provide learners with the knowledge and skills to research, develop, implement and review from an academic perspective evidence-based initiative to improve policing performance and, in so doing, contribute themselves to the evolving evidence base for effective policing

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Communicate an understanding of the legal and professional responsibilities of policing as a profession, and modern policing strategies, moving forward.
K2	Evidence understanding of how policing-related decisions can be made, founded upon critical thinking, in complex professional situations and contexts, demonstrating appropriate knowledge of powers, legislation and Authorised Professional Practice.
K3	Demonstrate knowledge of criminology, with particular emphasis upon community policing and crime prevention.
K4	Define the concepts of effective digital policing, with specific reference to cyber-enabled crime.
K5	Recognise the criminal justice system as relevant to policing.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Examine research skills in order to understand how to put evidence-based policing initiatives into practice.
C2	Evaluate critically evidence-based initiatives in the context of preventative policing and problem-solving.
C3	Appraise application of ethical evidence-based research practices.
C4	Analyse data and link the results to wider social scientific literature.
C5	Differentiate ethical approaches to policing, and how to maintain the highest professional standards in providing a service to the public.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Explore equality, diversity and human rights considerations as a core function of professional practice.
P2	Develop understanding of the concepts of autonomy and professional discretion, as appropriate to policing.
P3	Apply understanding of the fundamental responsibility of the police service to identify and provide professional support to those who are vulnerable and at risk, whatever the context.
P4	Investigate how to support individuals in need of public protection.
P5	Determine national strategies in relation to countering terrorism.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Engage in continual self-reflection, evolving strategies to improve your own professional knowledge.
T2	Plan effectively for your personal and professional development in a work-related context.
T3	Demonstrate enhanced communication and interpersonal skills.
T4	Perform effectively in team tasks, development and dynamics.
T5	Demonstrate responsibility for your actions and continually reflect upon your impact on others.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development 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.

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 learner 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 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.

At Level 4 learners are introduced to the significant legal and ethical responsibilities (K1/2, C5) that the role of Police Constable holds through a thorough introduction to core professional policing principles including ethics, equality, diversity and human rights (P1). Learners will examine theoretical criminological concepts (K3) with a focus on practical application, alongside the growth of plural policing (P3-5). Learners' will also focus upon developing their academic study skills and enhancing their future employability opportunities through focused reflective practice (T1/5).

At Level 5 topics such as vulnerability, risk, professional standards (T2) and public protection (P4/5) will guide learners towards ever more ethical professional policing practice (K2, C5, P1/3, T1/2). Learners will develop their knowledge relating to the investigation of more complex and serious crimes (P5), with ethical behaviour and decision making always at the forefront (K2, C3/5). Operational policing priorities are examined, and evidence based policing research knowledge is developed alongside the application of ethical evidence-based research practices and further reflective practice to support employability (K5, P2, C1-4, T1/2/4/5).

At Level 6 learners will explore complex and strategic policing issues, alongside operational policing challenges that front-line policing teams are typically responding to, and the conduct of ethical criminal investigations including the moral, ethical and legal considerations (K1, C3/5). Level 6 also sees learners undertake a detailed evidence based policing research project which will demonstrate understanding of evidence based and empirical research methods and how Policing may benefit from both Social Sciences related research and evidence-based policing (K4, C4, P1/3).

4. Entry Requirements

The University's general entry requirements will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

- UCAS Tariff score between 88-112

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our accreditation of prior learning (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Foundation Year[1]	**Core modules:** Ways of Learning about the Social World Preparing for Success Knowledge and Creativity Preparing for Success Self-development and Responsibility Inquiry Based Learning **Option modules:** No option modules are available at this level.	**N/A.** No credit is awarded at this Level.
Level 4	**Core modules:** LAW4014 An introduction to Professional Policing (20) LAW4022 Criminal Justice Legislation (20) LAW4023Professional Policing Standards (20) LAW4039 Pluralised Policing (20) LAW4024 Policing Processes (20) LAW4040 Policing Concepts (20)	**Certificate of Higher Education**, awarded on achievement of 120 credits at Level 4
Level 5	**Core modules** LAW5021 Professional Standards and Community Policing (20) LAW5022 Public Protection (20) LAW5023 Operational Decisions, Risk & Crime Considerations (20) LAW5024 Operational Policing Priorities, Performance and Delivery (20) LAW5051 Evidence Based Policing (20) LAW5029 Evidence Based Policing Research Methods (20)	**Diploma of Higher Education**, awarded on achievement of 240 credits, including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5

[1] Modules on the Foundation Year only apply to learners who are enrolled on the "with Foundation Year" programme.

Level 6	**Core modules:** LAW6027 Conducting ethical criminal investigations – best practice (20) LAW6029 Conducting ethical criminal investigations - professionalisation (20) LAW6028 Operational policing challenges (20) LAW6036 The strategic context of policing & complex challenge (20) LAW6030 Evidence-based policing research project – preparation and implementation (40)	**Ordinary Degree**, awarded on achievement of 300 credits, including 60 credits at Level 6 and 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5 **Honours Degree**, awarded on achievement of 360 credits, including 120 credits at each of Levels, 4, 5 and 6

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 changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

Our approach supports the learners in undertaking their ongoing extended written or work-based project.

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 learners to learn the skill of being self-directed through recommended reading and later independent research as they progress through their programme at level 5 and 6.

Learners are regularly invited to evaluate their learning and ongoing representation of the student voice is valued at all levels. BNU 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 learners. Whilst they exercise care in approaching certain highly emotive, sensitive or challenging subjects, they are also mindful of BNU services that learners can be signposted should they show signs of distress or require additional support. Staff and learners work within a BNU 'learning agreement' promoting mutual dignity, courtesy, and respect.

Assessment

Licensed PCDA/DHEP qualifications require assessments which integrate the requirements of the specific policing environment of the learner, demonstrable links to the National Policing Curriculum (NPC), along with the requirements of the academic accreditation provider for the assessment. Where applicable, such assessments for licensed programmes should map the theoretical learning to professional practice with new constables also achieving both Independent Patrol Status (IPS) and Full-Occupational Competence (FOC). This strategy will be delivered by way of, essays, reports, presentations, portfolios, projects.

Contact Hours

Modules are delivered through blended learning with a combination of:

Workshops or lectures supported by seminars which are typically semi structured and interactive in their nature and may include formative exercises such as:
  o Simulated role play type scenarios carried out in our Code of Practice suite – which includes a simulated bedsit area, custody area and interview facility
  o Research based activities
  o Classroom based discussion
Individual tutorials

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Academic Assessment Regulations

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below

Buckinghamshire New University

- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
SEPARATE MAPPING DOCUMENT AVAILABLE DUE TO SPECIFIC COLLEGE OF POLICING LICENCE REGULATIONS ALSO																				
Apply an in-depth understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of policing, criminal justice, and criminology to their current or future professional responsibilities	X	X	X	X																
Understand and evaluate the application of criminal law to policing					X	X	X	X												
Apply in-depth knowledge and understanding of safe, lawful and effective policing		X			X				X	X										
Understand a range of policing specialisms such	X		X						X	X										

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
as response, community, roads, information and intelligence, and the conduct of investigations																				
Select and apply appropriate contemporary policing strategies to complex and interrelated contexts			X		X	X	X								X			X		
Apply broad knowledge and understanding of digital policing and technology-related crime		X	X																	
Understand and adopt an ethical approach, reflecting the highest professional values and standards of the police service			X						X		X		X	X		X	X			
Take personal responsibility for promoting equality, diversity, inclusivity and human rights			X						X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Synthesise specialist interrelated contemporary theories, ideas and	X		X					X	X	X		X					X			

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
methods which can be adopted to provide support to victims, witnesses, the vulnerable, and those at risk																				
Adopt specialist interrelated contemporary theories, ideas and methods to prevent and detect crime, deal with suspects and offenders			X						X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Critically evaluate and apply evidence-based research to the complexities of policing				X	X		X	X				X		X					X	
Select and apply specialist strategies, methods and evidence-based research to the complexities of problem solving			X	X	X	X								X	X			X	X	
Make informed decisions in complex, unpredictable and interrelated situations, founded upon critical thinking and the evidence-base				X	X	X	X	X	X				X			X		X	X	

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Act within selected guidelines and apply professional discretion		X	X						X				X		X	X	X	X	X	
Understand and apply the skills of conflict management		X					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Apply an in-depth understanding of leadership, team and partnership-working			X				X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X				
Understand and apply techniques to ensure the wellbeing and resilience of self and others in all situations			X						X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Actively engage in continual self-reflection, evolving strategies to improve own practice.								X					X		X	X	X	X	X	
GENERIC SKILLS Accurately deploy a range of established techniques for the design, collection, analysis and interpretation of research	X			X	X	X	X													

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Organise and communicate interrelated information to a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences	X	X			X		X	X							X					
Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts to identify possible solutions	X				X	X		X				X		X	X			X		
Act autonomously and take responsibility for achieving personal and/or group tasks in complex contexts													X		X	X		X	X	
Appreciate the current political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal and ethical discussions impacting the discipline	X		X							X	X						X			
Understand contemporary debates with regard to equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability			X						X		X						X			

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Understand the impact of culture on working practices												X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Apply a range of innovative methods and techniques learned to employment				X				X				X	X	X		X	X	X		
Select and apply a range of digital skills and techniques in the workplace			X																	
Actively engage in self-reflection, to identify and address own learning needs													X	X	X	X	X	X		
Understand the importance of engaging with continuing professional development.													X	X	X	X	X	X		

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 4																				
An Introduction to Professional Policing	X	X								X	X					X				
Criminal Justice Legislation	X	X																		
Professional policing standards	X									X						X				X
Pluralised policing			X								X									
Policing Processes	X		X																	
Policing Concepts			X												X					
Level 5																				
Professional Standards and Community Policing	X				X											X	X	X		
Public Protection												X	X	X						
Operational Decisions, Risk & Crime	X																			
Operational Policing Priorities, Performance and Delivery	X																X	X	X	
Evidence Based Policing Research Methods						X	X	X	X									X		

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 6																				
Conducting ethical criminal investigations – best practice	X									X	X		X			X				
Evidence-based policing research project – preparation and implementation	X			X		X	X	X	X											
Conducting ethical criminal investigations - professionalisation	X											X				X				
Operational policing challenges	X											X	X							
The strategic context of policing & complex challenge	X				X							X	X							