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**CARDIFF SCHOOL OF SPORT AND HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY**

MSc Forensic Psychology

Joining Instructions

2018/2019

WELCOME FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Libby Payne

On behalf of the teaching team, I am delighted to welcome you onto the Masters Programme in Forensic Psychology. The Cardiff School of Sport and Health Sciences carries out teaching and research in a large number of different areas of applied psychology. We also have excellent collaborations with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Services (HMPPS) in Wales and many other local forensic settings. You will be able to draw upon these areas of expertise during the taught element of the programme and for your research dissertation.

There are two main themes to the research in the Psychology Department, health and forensic. The Forensic Psychology teaching team has particular expertise in offender motivation, cognitive skills of offenders, forensic mental health, violence, aggression and addiction.

This booklet is intended as an introduction to Cardiff Metropolitan University, the Cardiff School of Sport and Health Sciences, the Applied Psychology Department and the Masters programme. Your **student handbook** and the **Induction Day Programme** will provide you with more detail and I am your first point of contact if you need any further information or advice.

The Induction Programme is provided at the end of this booklet. It will take place on Thursday 20th September and Friday 21st September 2018.

Thank you for choosing to study with Cardiff Metropolitan University and I look forward to meeting you in person in September 2018.

Best wishes

Libby Payne

Programme Director MSc Forensic Psychology

Registered Forensic Psychologist & Chartered Forensic Psychologist

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EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

Forensic Psychology is the practice and application of psychological research relevant to crime, policing, the courts, the criminal and civil justice system, offenders, prison, secure settings, offender management, health and academic settings as well as private practice. It is an area of applied psychology, and, as such, draws on many aspects of other applied disciplines such as occupational, clinical, health and cognitive psychology.

The discipline of Forensic Psychology examines the roles of environmental, psychosocial, and socio-cultural factors that may contribute to crime or its prevention. Specifically, the aim of Forensic Psychology as an academic discipline is to develop and refine social, cognitive and behavioral methods used in the assessment, treatment, or rehabilitation of individuals in the criminal justice system; and techniques that could reduce risk of re-offending by modifying attitudes, behaviours and/or mental health.

The first aim of the programme is to provide students with a thorough and critical academic grounding in the evidence relating to environmental, cultural, cognitive and biological factors that may contribute to a wide variety of forms of offending. The programme will encourage students to consider the role and limitations of causal explanations for offending in the development of offender interventions, services and policy.

The second aim of the programme is to introduce students to the basic professional competencies for working in the many settings where forensic psychology is practiced, including skills related to inter-disciplinary working, risk assessment, ethics, continuing professional development, report writing and differences in practice when working with offenders, victims, the courts and the police.

The programme aims to produce Master's degree graduates with the ability to understand the limitations of the conceptual underpinnings of interventions and assessments used in forensic psychology and who are able therefore to engage in critical evaluation of the evidence base upon which their own practice will eventually be based. Because the programme will specifically avoid providing any formal supervised practice, its aim is to produce reflective scientist-practitioners who will be ready to engage with the final element (stage 2) of the training requirements for becoming a Registered Forensic Psychologist.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme is structured within a modular format and the taught component comprises 7 modules.

There are three 20 credit modules, four 10 credit modules (one of these is part 1 of the dissertation where 10 credits are awarded for successful research plan and ethics proposals), one 30 credit research methods module and the dissertation is awarded 50 credits. Taught elements of the programme extend over two academic years for the part-time route and one academic year for the full time route. In addition to that the dissertation involves independent, supervised research. All modules are core and no optional modules are currently on offer. Table 1 illustrates the modules and their credit values.

In line with BPS standards, all students enrolling on the programme from 2018/9 will need to pass all modules at a minimum pass mark of 50% in order to be eligible for a BPS accredited award.

Table 1: Module descriptions for taught modules.

Module title	Brief description
Forensic Mental Health (20 credits)	This module aims to provide students with a critical examination of the relationship between mental illness, personality disorder, learning disability and criminal behaviour. The module will encourage students to view the mental health needs of offenders in the broadest possible context and to appreciate the inter-disciplinary nature of services available to mentally disordered offenders, difficulties in accessing those services and problems for custodial adjustment presented by specific psychiatric diagnoses.
Theories of Criminal Behaviour (10 credits)	The module aims to examine the contribution made by biological, psychodynamic, evolutionary, cognitive and socio-cultural perspectives to our understanding of the aetiology of criminal behaviour. The primary aim of the module is to provide a critical examination of the dominant theories of crime.
Professional Practice and Offender Management (20 credits)	The focus of this module is the professional practice of forensic psychology. The module builds on the groundwork laid by earlier modules and covers professional skills and the types of interventions that a practicing forensic psychologist may engage in. The topics covered by this module include ethics, report writing, working with other agencies, and working with offenders and victims.

Psychological Assessment and Interventions (20 credits)	This module focuses on different models of offender rehabilitation and assessments and interventions used across a number of contexts. A range of topics will be covered demonstrating the broad application of psychology to offender rehabilitation in the Criminal Justice System. These topics include: (1) assessment of risk and treatment need and protective factors; (2) interventions for a range of offending behaviours; (3) factors affecting response to treatment.
Legal Psychology (10 credits)	This module covers psychology as it may be applied to the law, and the central focus of the module is evidence. A range of topics will be covered, demonstrating the broad application of psychology within the legal system. These topics include the interviewing of suspects and witnesses, vulnerable victims, offender profiling and deception detection.
Addiction and Psychological Vulnerabilities (10 credits)	This module informs students about different factors that may contribute to psychological vulnerability in offenders and victims. A variety of topics will be covered, including issues around the concept of vulnerability and the protection of vulnerable adults, including factors which may increase a prisoner's vulnerability (e.g. youth, learning disability, older prisoners, and women).
Research Methods and Design (30 credits)	The aim of this module is to extend students knowledge and experience of quantitative & qualitative research methods. Topics include: randomised control trials, ANOVA, ANCOVA, MANOVA, Power analysis, Regression, Non parametric methods, interviews, discourse analysis, grounded theory, reflective analysis and psychometric evaluation.

Programme Study Time

A student's study time is broken into three elements: class contact, directed study and independent study. Class contact time is normally made up of lectures, seminars, practical classes and tutorials. Each module is delivered across the academic year for a set number of hours per week. This makes up the students' class contact time.

Directed study time is defined as time where the students prepare for forthcoming lectures, plan seminar deliveries and read relevant research literature that is directed by the module tutor(s).

When appropriate, independent study time includes time when the students engage in additional problem-solving or research based activities that are related to a given module but where the activities are not directed by the module tutor(s). This includes all work towards assessments.

Modes of attendance

Timetables will be given out during the induction day on **Thursday 20th September 2018**. Full-time students will be expected to attend Cardiff Metropolitan University **2 days a week on a Thursday and a Friday**. Part-time students will be expected to attend Cardiff Metropolitan University for one day per week, on Thursdays during year 1 of their study and on Fridays during year 2 of their study.

Teaching and Learning methods.

Teaching and learning methods include: workshops, analysis workshops, research based teaching materials, lead lectures, seminars, self-directed learning through the use of study packs and on-line material, student presentations, guest speakers and computer based learning.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods include coursework essays, needs analyses and design of interventions, research reports, case studies, critiques, writing proposals and a research dissertation. During the induction day programme on **Thursday 20th September 2018** you will be given details of the assessment programme and the requirements to progress and achieve an award. At the start of each module the dates and specifications of programme assignments will be detailed.

Reading lists

Although no prior reading is expected before the start of the course a general reading list is below which some students might find useful. Detailed reading lists will be provided at the start of each module.

General Reading List for Applicants to the MSc Forensic Psychology Programme

Bonta, J. & Andrews, D. A. (2017) *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct (6th Edition)*. Oxon: Taylor & Francis.

Brown, J., Shell, Y, & Cole, T. (2015) *Forensic Psychology: Theory, Research, police and Practice*. Sage.

Browne, K.D., Beech, A.R. & Craig, L. A, & Chou, S. (2017) *Assessments in Forensic Practice: A Handbook*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Crichton, D.A. & Towl, G. J. (2015) *Forensic Psychology (Second Edition)*. Chichester: Wiley

Day, A., Casey, S., Ward, T., Howells, K. & Vess, J. (2010). *Transitions to Better Lives: Offender Readiness and Rehabilitation*. Devon: Willan Publishing.

McGuire, J.,& Duff, S. (2018) *Forensic Psychology: Routes Through The System*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Sturmey, P. & McMurrin, M (2011). *Forensic Case Formulation*. Chichester:Wiley

Winstone, J. (2016). *Mental Health, Crime and Criminal Justice: Responses and Reforms*. Palgrave Macmillan.

USEFUL JOURNALS

International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology

Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology

Legal & Criminological

Psychology, Crime & Law

Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health

Enrolment

Enrolment is an essential process that confirms your status as a Cardiff Met student and also gives you access to Cardiff Met IT systems, payment of fees, and, importantly, enables you to obtain your Student MetCard.

You can complete the online Self-Enrolment process from any computer through the Cardiff Met Self Service system once you have received your **Enrolment Email**.

On receipt of your Enrolment Email, please begin your Self-Enrolment by going to the www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/enrolment webpage and following the step-by-step guidance provided. Access to the Enrolment section of the Cardiff Met Self Service system will require you to login with a username and password. **Please input the same username and password you originally used to apply with.** Guidance is provided for forgotten usernames/passwords. Please note that in order to Self-Enrol, your status with Cardiff Met must be **Unconditional Firm (UF)** i.e. all conditions met and place accepted.