**Template C4**



**Programme Specification**

**Title of Course:** *BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology*

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| Date first produced | 23/02/2024 |
| Date last revised | 26/02/2025 |
| Date of implementation of current version | 01/09/2025 |
| Version number | 13 |
| Faculty | Faculty of Business and Social Sciences |
| Cross-disciplinary |  |
| School | School of Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences |
| Department | Department of Psychology |
| Delivery Institution | No partner |

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

**SECTION 1:** **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| Award(s) and Title(s): | BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology |
| Exit Award(s) and Title(s): | Cert HE Forensic Psychology  Dip HE Forensic Psychology  Ordinary Degree Forensic Psychology |
| Course Code  *For each pathway and mode of delivery* | UPFPY1FPY01  UFFPY1FPY01 |
| UCAS code  *For each pathway* | n/a |

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| Awarding Institution: | Kingston University |
| Teaching Institution: | No partner |
| Location: | Penrhyn Road |
| Language of Delivery: | English |
| Delivery mode: |  |
| Learning mode(s): | Part-time  Full-time  With Professional Placement |
| Minimum period of registration: | Part-time - 6  Full-time - 3  With Professional Placement - 4 |
| Maximum period of registration: | Part-time - 12  Full-time - 6  With Professional Placement - 7 |
| Entry requirements | Kingston University typically uses a range of entry requirements to assess an applicant's suitability for our courses. Most course requirements are based on UCAS Tariff points, usually stipulated as a range, and are sometimes coupled with minimum grades in specific relevant subjects. We may also use interview, portfolio and performance pieces to assess an applicant's suitability for the course. We recognise that every person's journey to Higher Education is different and unique and in some cases we may take into account work experience and other non-standard pathways onto University level study.  Additionally, all non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements.  Please see our course pages on the Kingston University website for the most up to date entry requirements |
| Regulated by | The University and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students. |
| Programme Accredited by: | British Psychological Society |
| Approved Variants: | In accordance with BPS Regulations, the project/dissertation module must be passed and cannot be compensated for any accredited award. An accredited award at UG Level is a 2:2 or above on any accredited route. Modules PS4001 and PS5001 cannot be trailed. |
| Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course? | No |

**SECTION 2: THE COURSE**

1. **Aims of the Course**

Understanding the causes and consequences of crime is an intriguing, challenging, and rewarding venture; discovering how to prevent crime from happening is even more so. These are the sorts of issues addressed in forensic psychology and what societal questions students will undertake during their studies. The Forensic Psychology programme covers all the core areas of psychology required by the British Psychological Society (BPS) while providing in-depth applications of psychology to the understanding of criminal behaviour. Students in the Forensic Psychology programme may also take selected criminology modules where available to enhance their understanding of crime and the legal process from a broader perspective. This multidisciplinary combination provides Forensic Psychology students with the knowledge and confidence to tackle some of the most complex issues facing our communities by addressing the individual and societal contexts that promote criminality.

The course is designed to develop a strong theoretical and applied knowledge base in Forensic Psychology while also providing students with some of the most employer-valued skills to ensure that our graduates are able to achieve great things in an increasingly competitive job market. These work skills include teamwork, communication, time and task management skills, data analysis, problem solving, and critical evaluation. Employability skills will be further developed by the opportunity to engage in work and research experience. As a Kingston University course, we are also committed to ensuring that our graduates emerge with the future skills identified in our Town House Strategy, which include innovation, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

The BSc in Forensic Psychology is accredited with the BPS to confer Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC). Students will be ideally placed to undertake further training professional training to become accredited forensic psychologists or apply for a host of related careers in the police, probation, or legal services or in other areas of psychology.

Modules in the first year (Level 4) introduce students to Forensic Psychology, Approaches & Professional Skills in Psychology, Introduction to Psychology, and Research Methods. Modules in the second year (Level 5) focus on BPS required areas of psychology such as cognitive and biological psychology, developmental, social, and an advanced research methods module. Forensic Psychology students also take a tailored module, Forensic Mental Health, and Criminal Behaviour, to help focus psychological knowledge to aspects of criminal behaviour. In their final year (Level 6), students study a core 15 credit module in personality and individual differences, a core 15 credit university future skills “Apply” module and are able to apply their forensic psychological knowledge and research skills in the context of a research under the supervision of a forensic psychology staff member (whenever possible). The Forensic Psychology programme also has its own core module, Psychology of Interventions and Cyber Behaviour, which explores aspects related to investigative practices and technology-facilitated crimes. Students are able to choose their remaining module from available options in Psychology or Criminology.

As part of the School of Law Social and Behavioural Sciences, the Psychology programme intersects well with other social science disciplines. The modular scheme enables students to benefit from cross disciplinary approaches.

The aims of the programme are:

* To promote an enthusiasm for and knowledge of the discipline of psychology.
* To develop an understanding of the core areas of psychology, as defined by the BPS, and achieve GBC while also exposing students to a range of approaches, applications, and skills directly relating to forensic psychology.
* To provide students with a sound knowledge base in the discipline of forensic psychology.
* To introduce students to the significance of the interdependence of theory and evidence and of the relevance of forensic psychology to real world problems.
* To foster competence in the skills of psychological reasoning.
* To enable students to critically evaluate theories and debates in forensic psychology.
* To enable students to design and execute empirical research.
* To provide students with generic and transferable skills in written and oral communication, independent learning, teamwork, information technology, and numeracy.
* To raise students’ awareness of ethical issues and their appropriate resolution in psychological research.
* To offer students an undergraduate course leading to good career opportunities in a number of forensic and psychology based settings.
* To offer students the foundation to continue to study for professionally controlled postgraduate qualifications.

1. **Programme Learning Outcomes**

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They have been aligned to the levels set out in [‘Sector Recognised Standards in England’ (OFS 2022).](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/53821cbf-5779-4380-bf2a-aa8f5c53ecd4/sector-recognised-standards.pdf%22)

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| **Programme Learning Outcomes** | | | | | |
|  | **Knowledge and Understanding**  On completion of the course students will be able to: |  | **Intellectual Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |  | **Subject Practical Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |
| A1 | Demonstrate (a) knowledge and understanding of a range of psychological theories and approaches which cover key aspects of psychology, and (b) to gain additional knowledge and understanding of a range of specialist approaches relating to forensic psychology which go beyond the standard key areas. | B1 | Demonstrate (a) comprehensive knowledge of psychology with (b) areas of in-depth specialisation in forensic psychology. | C1 | Write an appropriate review of the literature, and present and evaluate research findings to a higher level of proficiency. |
| A2 | Appreciate the role of research in the development of psychological thought applying psychology research competencies, and a wide range of research methodologies and statistics. | B2 | Integrate ideas and findings across the multiple perspectives of psychology and in particular forensic psychology and recognise distinct psychological approaches to relevant issues. | C2 | Carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection (experiments, observation, psychometric tests, questionnaires, interviews) and analyse data using statistical methods. |
| A3 | Demonstrate more extensive knowledge of the way in which forensic psychology and psychology as a whole, has an impact upon society and individuals. | B3 | Critically review evidence, including issues of reliability, validity, and significance, and to investigate contradictory information. | C3 | Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments. |
| A4 | Gain additional knowledge and understanding of the ethical considerations and their importance in psychological practice and research. | B4 | Analyse and transform new and/or abstract data and concepts towards a given purpose independently, and to design novel solutions. | C4 | Demonstrate detailed knowledge on the use of a variety of general and specific library resources to source appropriate information. |
| A5 | Demonstrate additional knowledge of the historical and philosophical development of psychology and forensic psychology as an academic discipline. | B5 | Develop and sustain an argument independently in written and oral formats. |  |  |

1. **Future Skills Graduate Attributes**

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will engage students in developing their Future Skills Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness
10. **Outline Programme Structure**

Core modules provide a comprehensive coverage of the key areas of psychology in accordance with BPS and subject benchmarks. Optional modules allow students to specialise and further augment their understanding in the areas of their choice.  Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and in the module canvas pages.

Note: As per [GR5](https://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/howtheuniversityworks/policiesandregulations/#blockid21000) within the general regulations, the University aims to ensure that all optional modules listed below are delivered. However, for various reasons, such as demand or staff availability, the optional modules may vary from year to year or between teaching blocks. Students will be informed of the availability of option modules through the Online Module Selection process.

## BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology

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| **Level 4** | | | | | | | |
| **BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology** | | | | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** | **Pre-requisites** | **Full Time** | **Part Time** |
| Approaches and Professional Skills in Psychology | PS4008 | 30 | 4 | Year Long |  | 1 | 1 |
| Introduction to Forensic Psychology | PS4005 | 30 | 4 | Year long |  | 1 | 2 |
| Introduction to Psychology | PS4009 | 30 | 4 | Year long |  | 1 | 2 |
| Psychology Research Methods 1 | PS4001 | 30 | 4 | Year long |  | 1 | 1 |

Exit Awards at Level 4

This programme allows students to trail 30 credits when progressing to Level 5, with the exception of PS4001 which must be passed before progression.

Students exiting the course at this point who have successfully completed 120 credits at level 4 or above are eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Forensic Psychology.

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| **Level 5** | | | | | | | |
| **BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology** | | | | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** | **Pre-requisites** | **Full Time** | **Part Time** |
| Brain, Behaviour and Cognition | PS5003 | 30 | 5 | Year long |  | 2 | 4 |
| Forensic Mental Health and Criminal Behaviour | PS5010 | 30 | 5 | Year long |  | 2 | 4 |
| Psychology Research Methods 2 | PS5001 | 30 | 5 | Year long | PS4001 | 2 | 3 |
| Social and Developmental Psychology | PS5012 | 30 | 5 | Year long |  | 2 | 3 |

Exit Awards at Level 5

This programme allows students to trail 30 credits when progressing to Level 6, with the exception of PS5001 which must be passed before progression.

Students exiting the programme at this point who have successfully completed 120 credits at level 5 or above are eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education in Forensic Psychology.

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| **Level 6** | | | | | | | |
| **BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology** | | | | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** | **Pre-requisites** | **Full Time** | **Part Time** |
| Future Skills Apply | AX6001 | 15 | 6 | 2 |  | 3 | 5 |
| Personality and Individual Differences | PS6021 | 15 | 6 | 1 |  | 3 | 5 |
| Psychology Research Project | PS6000 | 30 | 6 | Year long | PS5001 | 3 | 6 |
| The Psychology of Investigations and Cyber-Behaviour | PS6016 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 5 |
| **Optional Modules** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Advanced Developmental Psychology | PS6002 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Advanced Issues in the Psychology of Thinking | PS6008 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Applied Psychology with Work Experience | PS6022 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Critical Social Psychology: Memory, Narrative and Representation | PS6004 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Genocide and Crimes against Humanity | PO6007 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Neuropsychology and Neuro-rehabilitation | PS6003 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Occupational Psychology | PS6013 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| The Psychology of Health and Well Being | PS6005 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |
| Transnational Crime | CM6027 | 30 | 6 | Year long |  | 3 | 6 |

Exit Awards at Level 6

Level 6 requires the completion of the 90 credits of core modules and an additional 30 credits from the options list.

Students exiting the programme without completing the full 120 credits but have successfully completed 60 credits at level 6 or above are eligible for the award of an Ordinary Degree.

1. **Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

This course uses a range of teaching and assessment methods which have been designed to support students’ learning and achievement of the learning outcomes. The course has been developed with reference to the Kingston University Academic Framework which sets-out core principles relating to Course and Credit Structure (including Module delivery Structure and Pattern, and Learning Hours and Learning Formats); Curriculum Design (inclusion Learning Design Principles and Inclusive Curriculum); and Future Skills. In addition the course is designed to meet the British Psychological Society (BPS) standards.

Teaching and Learning on the course consist of Scheduled Learning and Teaching and Guided Independent Study (self-managed time). Scheduled Learning and Teaching includes the following, and the format for each module is set out in the module specification:

* Laboratory Sessions
* Lectures
* Seminars
* Tutorials
* Workshops
* Placements

Guidance for students on the use of independent study time is communicated through the ‘Succeed in your module’ section on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and through other communications during the course.

In addition to the core Scheduled Learning and Teaching activities for the course, the University may offer students additional optional opportunities for learning. Examples of these include Study abroad and Work-based learning.

The course will provide students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills relating to at least two United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). We are committed to empowering students with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and address the UN SDGs: each course is thus also required to prepare students for at least two of the SDGs (not including Quality Education, which all courses must deliver).

1. **Support for Students and their Learning**

Students are supported through a range of services that provide academic and wider support. These include:

* A Module Leader for each module
* A Course Leader to help students understand the course structure
* Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support
* Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
* Student Voice Committee – to ensure the views of students are heard
* Kingston University’s Virtual Learning Environment
* Student support facilities that can provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support
* Disabled student support
* The Kingston Students’ Union
* Student Development and Graduate Success
* Psychology facilities (including a range of laboratories, equipment and software supported by a Psychology technician)

1. **Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course**

The University has policies and procedures for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

* Continuous Monitoring of courses through the Kingston Course Enhancement Programme (KCEP)
* Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs), the National Student Survey (NSS)
* Internal and external moderation of graded assignments
* The BSc Forensic Psychology course is accredited by the British Psychological Society. The BPS monitors development of the programme, while ensuring its quality.

1. **External Reference Points**

External reference points which have informed the design of the course. These could include:

* PSRB standards
* QAA Subject benchmarks
* Other subject or industry standards

1. **Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules**

This table maps where programme learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the **core** modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

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| **Module Code** | | **Level 4** | | | | **Level 5** | | | | | **Level 6** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **PS4001** | **PS4009** | **PS4005** | **PS4008** | **PS5012** | | **PS5010** | **PS5001** | **PS5003** | | **CM6027** | **PO6007** | **PS6016** | **PS6021** | **PS6003** | **PS6000** | **AX6001** | **PS6005** | **PS6004** | **PS6022** | **PS6008** | **PS6013** | **PS6002** |
| **Knowledge & Understanding** | A1 | S | S | S |  | S | | S |  | S | |  |  | S | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A2 | S | S | S |  | S | | S | S | S | |  |  | S | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A3 |  | S | S |  |  | | S |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A4 | S | S | S |  |  | | S | S |  | |  |  |  | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A5 |  | S |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Intellectual Skills** | B1 | S | S | S |  | S | | S | S | S | |  |  | S |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B2 |  | S | S |  | S | | S | S | S | |  |  | S |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B3 | S | S | S |  | S | | S |  | S | |  |  |  |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B4 | S | S | S |  |  | |  | S |  | |  |  |  | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B5 | S | S | S |  | S | | S | S | S | |  |  |  | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Practical Skills** | C1 | S |  |  |  |  | | S |  |  | |  |  | S | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C2 | S | S |  |  |  | |  | S |  | |  |  | S |  |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C3 | S | S |  |  |  | |  | S |  | |  |  |  | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C4 | S |  | S |  | S | | S | S | S | |  |  |  | S |  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.**

**Additional Information**