

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<p>BSc Honours Psychology and Criminology BSc Honours Psychology and Criminology with Professional Experience BSc Honours Psychology and Criminology with International Experience</p> <p>The BSc Honours Psychology and Criminology is a BSc degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<p>Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education</p>
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month	Three years full time, with option to take an additional year of work placement experience or an additional year of study abroad experience. September start.
<u>QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</u>	Psychology QAA Criminology QAA
Professional statutory or regulatory body	This programme is pending Accreditation by the British Psychological Society and will confer eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved, and the empirical project has been passed).

	This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. Anticipated accreditation – September 2020.
Date of course validation/Revalidation	December 2019
Date of programme specification approval	December 2019
Valid for cohorts	2020/21 level 4; 2021/22 levels 4 and 5; 2022/23 levels 4, 5 and 6
Course Leader(s)	Donna Taylor and Andreas Aresti
UCAS code and URL	westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate
Westminster course code	BSPSY04F (FT)
HECoS code	Psychology 100497 (50%) – Criminology 100484 (50%)
UKPASS code (PG only)	

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information: westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning.

Aims of the course

The BSc Honours Psychology and Criminology course has been designed to provide you with a broad contemporary education in Psychology and Criminology within a vibrant global learning environment situated in the heart of London. What you study has been designed to meet the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society. This aspect of the degree prepares you for postgraduate training on the path to becoming a Chartered Psychologist, should you wish to do so.

The study of both psychology and criminology will equip you to understand human motivation and behaviour and apply that insight to legal and criminal contexts. The first year of study builds your knowledge of a range of core topics central to the study of psychology including cognitive, biological, social and developmental psychology. Conceptual and historical issues in psychology are embedded in core modules in both the first and second year to provide you with a broad appreciation of psychology's place in the natural and social sciences. You will also build a strong foundation in criminology, with a broad introduction to criminology as an inter-disciplinary and critical subject area and you will learn about key concepts and theoretical approaches in relation to the study of crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance. Year two builds on the foundations laid in year one.

Year three of the degree course provides you with the opportunity to develop your own interests through an attractive range of option modules that span both psychology and criminology, depending on future career aspirations. We do not assume that all our graduates wish to become Chartered Psychologists.

The BSc in Psychology and Criminology is designed to equip you with knowledge and graduate attributes that are highly sought after by employers such as the Civil Service, Criminal Justice Agencies, Police, Prison and Probation services, and for Teaching and Research. This course is vocationally relevant and includes numerous opportunities to engage with work placement openings within Central London and beyond. Employability and work experience are explicitly embedded within the course with a work experience and volunteering core module at level 5. Graduates who successfully complete this course are numerate and effective communicators and are engaged global citizens equipped to help shape a better future for all.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU).
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 4 course learning outcomes:**Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:**

L4.1 Knowledge and understanding of key introductory concepts, theories and historical issues across the breadth of four core areas of psychology: biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology and core topics in criminology. (KU)

L4.2 Knowledge and understanding of basic psychological and criminological theories and research methodologies, their strengths and weaknesses, and ethical issues relating to research. (KU)

L4.3 Proficiency in summarising the findings of empirical criminological and/or psychological research including identification of the theoretical and methodological frameworks used. (PPP)

L4.4 Ability to communicate ideas and discuss criminological and psychological topics of relevance to current debates clearly and fluently orally, visually and in writing. (KTS)

L4.5 Recognition of patterns of social diversity and inequality and their effects in relation to crime, victimization and responses to crime and deviance. (KU)

L4.6 Ability to gather information on a given topic, with guidance, using a range of resources, and use this information with appropriate regard to the quality of the source, and to principles of information usage including plagiarism and copyright issues. (KTS)

L4.7 Proficiency in the use of statistical analysis software, and the use of productivity tools for writing and for presenting information visually. (KTS)

L4.8 Ability to conduct data analysis using basic analytic techniques in criminology and psychology, and to report the results using appropriate conventions of the disciplines. (PPP)

L4.9 Knowledge of the different sources of information about crime and victimisation, both quantitative and qualitative, and how they are produced – including their location in particular legal, political, social and ideological frameworks – and how they can be interpreted. (KU)

Level 5 course learning outcomes:**Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to:**

L5.1 Analyse and evaluate knowledge about key concepts, theories and selected topics drawn from each of the core areas of both psychology and criminology covered at level 4. (KU)

L5.2 Analyse and evaluate the contribution of both psychology and criminology to contemporary issues including social justice, discrimination and diversity. (KU)

L5.3 Apply multiple perspectives to psychological and criminological problems and to create connections to aspects of everyday experience. (PPP)

L5.4 Identify a range of criminological and psychological quantitative and qualitative research strategies and methods, conduct appropriate data analytic techniques, and draw inferences warranted by these analyses. (PPP)

L5.5 Think and behave ethically, respecting codes of ethical conduct, in the planning and execution of psychological and criminological research. (PPP)

L5.6 Appraise critically political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in light of criminological and psychological theories and evidence. (KU)

L5.7 Critically examine the values, practices and processes of governance, including human rights and social injustice that underpin the treatment of lawbreakers within criminal justice systems. (KU)

L5.8 Work collaboratively to a task brief that sets out an aim, without specifying in detail the means of achieving this aim. (KTS)

L5.9 Communicate ideas around crime, victimisation, responses to crime and deviance and representation of crime clearly and fluently orally, visually and in writing in a range of formats, and study with a high degree of supported independent learning. (KTS)

**Level 6 course learning outcomes:
Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to:**

L6.1 Apply psychological and criminological theories and evidence to domains of professional practice. (KU)

L6.2 Formulate and investigate criminological and psychological questions across a range of specialist areas of study. (KU)

L6.3 Consolidate and extend a body of knowledge in psychology or criminology through the planning and execution of independent primary research, under supervision. (PPP)

L6.4 Generate and explore hypotheses and research questions, and to identify and mitigate ethical issues relating to an independent research project. (PPP)

L6.5 Evaluate competing explanations within criminology and psychology and draw logical conclusions. (PPP)

L6.6 Adapt your communication style in order to communicate ideas clearly and fluently to diverse audiences. (KTS)

L6.7 Gather appropriate qualitative or quantitative information to address criminological and/or psychological questions in relation to crime, victimisation, responses to crime and deviance, and representations of these. (PPP)

L6.8 Work independently, show signs of intellectual originality and become producers of criminological and psychological knowledge and to be equipped to become reflective, self-managed lifelong learners. (KTS)

L6.9 Frame and develop lines of enquiry that demonstrate the complexity and inter-connectedness of social phenomena. (KTS)

How will you learn?

Teaching and learning in Psychology and Criminology at Westminster is designed to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course and to fulfil your potential. We encourage you to become active learners who take increasing responsibility for your own learning as you move through the levels with appropriate support. You will develop a broad knowledge of concepts, theories and contemporary issues in psychology and criminology and of the links between the two disciplines. Your first year provides a broad foundation to psychology and criminology and supports your transition into higher education by facilitating the development of subject specific and key transferable skills that will be important during your degree and subsequent career. Your second year will draw together strands of psychology and criminology to give you a deeper understanding of the complementary ways in which these disciplines interconnect. In your final year you will focus on applying this knowledge to complex real-world issues through the development of your own research project under staff supervision. A range of psychology and criminology option modules available in the final year ensure that you can tailor your degree to specific interests related to your career aspirations.

You will be taught in a wide variety of settings. Lectures are used to impart core knowledge in the majority of modules, which are designed to capture your interest and excite your curiosity. Seminars in smaller groups are used to consolidate your learning through discussion or participation in other activities. Practical classes and laboratory workshops help you to develop skills in data collection and analysis. Supervised group work in seminars provides opportunities to work together in developing key transferable skills to enhance understanding and employability. Technology is used to enhance learning and you will make extensive use of Blackboard, our virtual learning environment.

We make full use of our location in Central London and our various links with outside organisations to enhance your student experience and learning opportunities. A number of modules facilitate off-site learning, with visits to the theatre and museum, and field walks. Your experience will be further enriched by opportunities for research participation and work-based learning. We have links with a number of local Magistrates Courts and the Central Criminal Court, HMP Pentonville and HMP Whitemoor, Feltham YO1, and the Metropolitan Police, all of which offer opportunities for educational visits and/or work placements.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers students a variety of assessment methods which aim to nurture as well as assess your academic development. Assessment helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. There are many different forms of assessment for our modules including traditional academic assessments as well as assignments designed to resemble real-world tasks that you might encounter in your professional life. Assessment methods include coursework essays, debates, criminal-justice policy analyses, individual and group presentations, examinations, statistical analyses and the final year research dissertation. The assessments all aim to enhance your learning, not merely to test it. They help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study initiative.

Synoptic learning links work on more than one module, and so encourages you to demonstrate your deeper and more connected grasp of the subject as a whole. You will also be given formative assessments in every module, which means you will be given guided work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those summative assessments, like all other assessments, will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the

strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

All written coursework in this course is submitted online via our Blackboard system, marked online and detailed feedback is returned online. Each individual form of written assessment is marked using an agreed marking rubric, to help ensure clarity for you, the student in terms of what is expected of you, and consistency of marking standards for the teaching team.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers (L5.2, L5.3, L5.7, L6.5, L6.8)
- Literate and effective communicator (L4.3, L5.9, L6.6)
- Entrepreneurial (L5.8, L6.8)
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities (L4.5, L5.2, L5.7,
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware (L5.5, L5.7, L6.1, L6.4)

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students. To enhance employability, the University has implemented a Work Based Placement policy which requires all students to complete 35 hours of vocational experience. This vocational experience is provided in the core level 5 module 'Volunteering and Employability in a Psychological or Criminological Setting'. At the University of Westminster, we pride ourselves on having built up a large and diverse range of exciting work placement and volunteering opportunities to cater for all possible interests of our students. We currently offer placements with the Old Bailey, local Magistrates Courts, Victim Support, the Samaritans, Feltham YOI, Pentonville Prison, Whitemoor High Security Prison, Metropolitan Police and Civil Service. We are continually striving to add to our list of potential placements for students to explore. We encourage students to disclose any information related to disability or impairment so that, if necessary, effective adjustments can be put in place to ensure the student can fully participate in the placement learning experience.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. To this end, career development skills are embedded in all courses and opportunities for part-time work, placement and work-related learning activities are widely available to students. Additionally, staff maintain knowledge of labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will continue to inform the service delivered to students. Moreover, staff continue to widen and strengthen University links with employers in all sectors relevant to the curriculum design and encourage their participation in other aspects of the University's career, education and guidance provision. Your British Psychological Society accredited Psychology and Criminology degree provides a broad range of skills and thus, career opportunities are very diverse. For example, subject to achieving a First or Upper Second-class degree, graduates may pursue MSc study and future careers in: forensic psychology, educational psychology, teaching or academic research. A significant proportion of those who study Psychology obtain postgraduate degrees and/or pursue careers other fields, e.g. human resources, advertising and marketing. The BSc Psychology and Criminology degree aims to create graduates who are highly sought after in the civil service, criminal justice agencies and the police.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Credit Level 4					
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS	
4CRIM001W	The Criminological Imagination	Core	40	20	
4CRIM003W	Controversies in Criminal Justice	Core	20	10	
4PSYC007W	Introduction to Social and Developmental Psychology	Core	20	10	
4PSYC008W	Introduction to Biological and Cognitive Psychology	Core	20	10	
4PSYC009W	Introduction to Psychological and Criminological Research Methods	Core	20	10	
<i>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</i>					
Credit Level 5					
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS	
5CRIM001W	Radical Criminology	Core	20	10	
5PSYC020W	Psychological and Criminological Research Methods	Core	20	10	
5PSYC019W	Further Social and Developmental Psychology	Core	20	10	
5PSYC022W	Further Biopsychology and Cognition	Core	20	10	
5PSYC021W	Volunteering and Employability in a Psychological or Criminological Setting	Core	20	10	
Students are required to select ONE option from the following set of four.					
5CRIM002W	Globalisation, Crime and Control	Option	20	10	
5CRIM003W	Race, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10	
5CRIM004W	Gender, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10	
5CRIM005W	Youth, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10	
<i>Award of Diploma of Higher Education available</i>					
Optional Sandwich Year Credit level 5 leading to BSc Psychology and Criminology with Professional Experience					
5PSYC023W	Psychology or Criminology Placement Year	Option	120	60	
Optional Sandwich Year Credit level 5 leading to BSc Psychology and Criminology with International Experience					
5PSYC024W	Psychology or Criminology International Study Year	Option	120	60	
Credit Level 6					
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS	
6PSYC017W	Project in Psychology or Criminology	Core	40	20	
6PSYC007W	Forensic Psychology	Core	20	10	
Students are required to select ONE psychology module and TWO criminology modules from the following					
6CRIM003W	Punishment and Modern Society	Criminology	Option	20	10
6CRIM004W	Human Rights and Global Injustice	Criminology	Option	20	10
6CRIM006W	Media and Crime	Criminology	Option	20	10
6CRIM007W	Issues in State Crime	Criminology	Option	20	10
6CRIM009W	Immigration, Crime and Control	Criminology	Option	20	10
6PSYC003W	Occupational and Work Psychology	Psychology	Option	20	10

6PSYC005W	Psychology of Counselling and Psychotherapy	Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC006W	Health Psychology	Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC008W	Clinical Psychology	Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC013W	Psychology of Education	Psychology	Option	20	10
<i>Award of BSc Honours available.</i>					

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot do your first choice of modules.

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

This programme is currently pending accreditation by the British Psychological Society and will confer eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved, and the empirical project has been passed. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. (Anticipated accreditation date – September 2020).

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The course runs in the School of Social Sciences which is a part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The degree has two designated Course Leaders whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who are available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. During March of the second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your level 6 option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff.

Individual modules each have a Module Leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module Leaders are available during term-time in their office hours or by appointment.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies.

All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. At Level 4 (first year of study) your personal tutor will be one of the seminar leaders on one of your 'core' modules, so that you will have the opportunity to meet him or her on a weekly basis.

At levels 5 and 6 your personal tutor will be a member of the Psychology and Criminology course team.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at westminster.ac.uk/blackboard.

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at westminster.ac.uk/student-advice. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at westminster.ac.uk/students-union.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2019. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

Copyright of University of Westminster 2019 ©