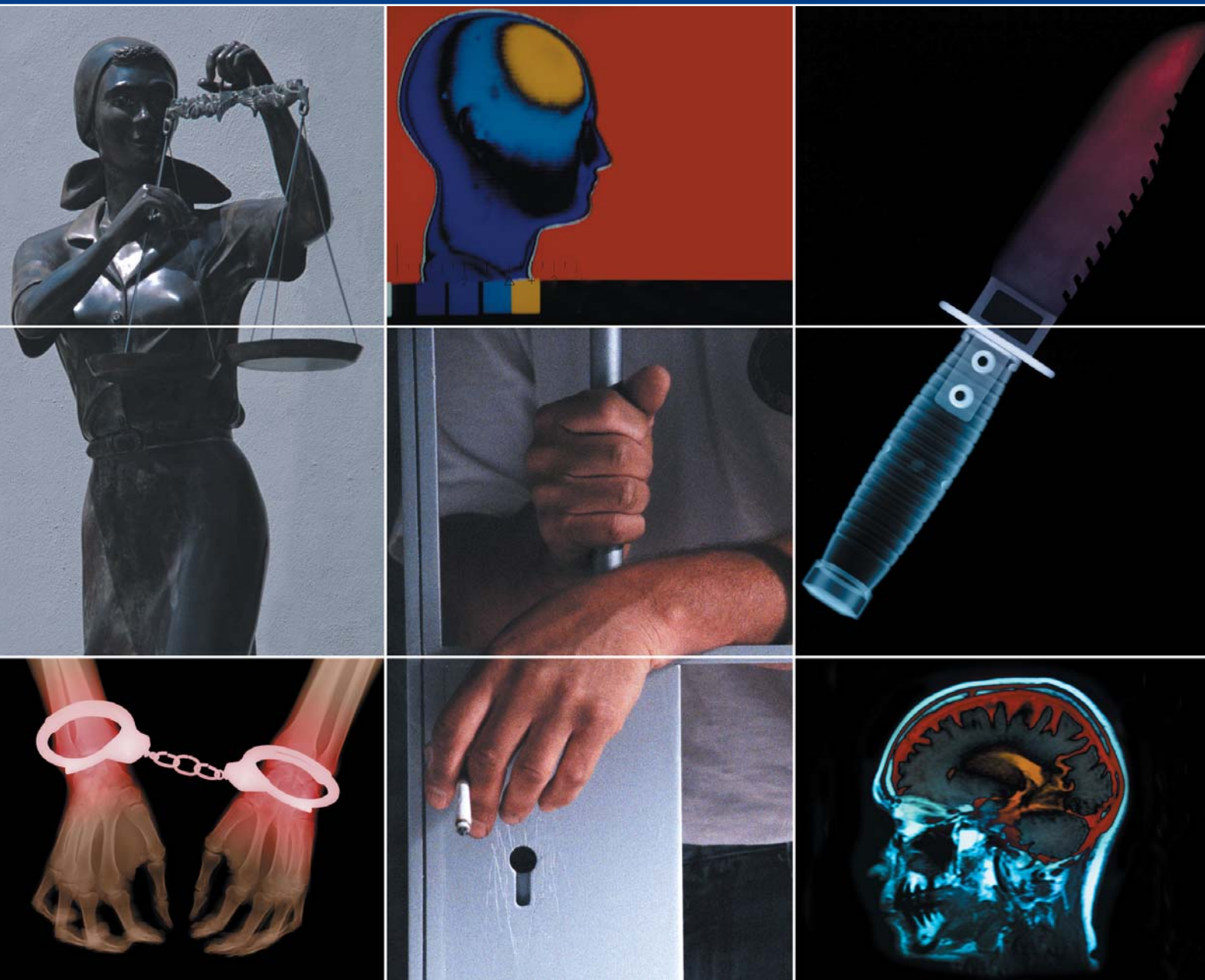


School of Psychology - Forensic Section

MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology

MSc/Postgraduate Diploma
in Forensic & Legal Psychology



2009 Entry



University of
Leicester

DISTANCE LEARNING

Message from the Director of Forensic Psychology

Thank you for considering the Forensic Distance Learning Courses on offer at the School of Psychology here at the University of Leicester. We see our teaching role as providing postgraduate and professional education of the highest possible quality in the field of forensic psychology. To do this, we believe that our courses should possess two characteristics. Firstly, they need to inform students about the most important and up-to-date thinking and research. Secondly, and equally important, courses need to provide an appreciation of how research and ideas can be applied to help resolve real-life problems.

The courses we provide are informed and enriched by the research, consultancy and professional activities of our staff (as described overleaf). Our staff have been involved in advisory and consultancy roles within the Prison Service, for the Police, the Ministry of Justice, the Northern Ireland Office, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Scottish Executive, and the Department of Health. This university has pioneered the development of distance learning courses in forensic psychology in the UK as well as running successful conventional campus-based courses. We are one of the biggest providers of postgraduate training in forensic psychology.

We hope that you find this brochure helpful and informative. If you have any further queries or require any other information then do not hesitate to contact us.

Professor Ray Bull

Director of Forensic Psychology Postgraduate Programmes

School of Psychology



School of Psychology - Forensic Section

The School of Psychology is one of the longest established University Psychology Departments in Britain. The School has substantial undergraduate teaching commitments and research interests which span many of the major fields of psychology.

The Forensic Section of the School of Psychology remains one of the largest groups of Forensic Psychologists in the UK and Europe. Our research expertise include work on the interviewing of suspects and witnesses, the identification of false allegations, false memory, interventions with offenders, police line-up procedures, sexual violence, bullying, male and female victims of crime, client-perpetrated violence within male sex work, understanding and perceptions of physical forensic evidence (e.g. DNA), decision-making of jurors and police, and the role of attachment and dysfunctional experiences of anger in violence and aggression.

Staff within the Section have taken on consultancy roles advising police forces and agencies and have carried out evaluations for the Northern Ireland Office and the Ministry of Justice. Section staff currently sit on the children's panel of the British Board of Film Classification and are listed in the Directory of Expert Witnesses which is maintained by the British Psychological Society. The Section also has strong international and local connections with other Universities, medium secure units, Youth Offending Teams and Police Departments. The Head of Section, Professor Ray Bull, received in 2005 an official Commendation from the Metropolitan Police Service for "Innovation and professionalism whilst assisting a complex rape investigation which supported a successful prosecution". Academic staff within the Section are members of the Forensic Research Centre which is also based at the University. The aim of the centre is to promote and develop research in the forensic area from a multidisciplinary perspective.

The University of Leicester

The School of Psychology - Forensic Section is located alongside other major research and postgraduate centres in one of the foremost universities in the United Kingdom. The University was founded in 1921 as a University College preparing students for the external degrees of London University. Since 1957 it has been an independent University and has grown considerably. Over 10,300 full time students now study in the University spread across the five faculties of Arts, Science, Social Sciences, Law and Medicine. A large number of other students are registered on a variety of distance learning courses.

The University of Leicester is now a leading academic institution held in high regard with links throughout the world. There are excellent facilities including a newly renovated, state-of-the-art library with over a million books and a special expertise within the library which caters solely for Distance Learning students. The Computer Centre provides comprehensive computational support and training and there are outstanding welfare, sports and social provisions.

The University is situated on the southern side of the City of Leicester. The City itself is set in the attractive countryside of the East Midlands, in the centre of England, with good road and rail links to most parts of the country. Leicester is a thriving city with good amenities, which include a variety of sporting locations and facilities, a cosmopolitan selection of restaurants, and an array of cultural and entertainment venues.

The University of Leicester has established an international reputation in a number of areas. This includes space research, the development of genetic fingerprinting, and the study of policing, crime and disorder.



Staff at the Section

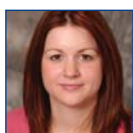


Professor Ray Bull

Professor Ray Bull is Director of Forensic Psychology Postgraduate Programmes. His major research topic is investigative interviewing. He was commissioned by the Home Office to write with others the 2002 Government document Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings, which in part updated the Government's 1991 Memorandum of Good Practice which Ray co-authored. He has been commissioned by the Government to develop relevant training packages and has advised a large number of police forces overseas on these topics. He has published his research in a number of quality research journals and has written and edited many books. In June 2008 Ray received the 'Award for Distinguished Contributions to Academic Knowledge in Forensic Psychology' from the BPS, and in July 2008 he received an 'Award for Life-time Contribution to Psychology and Law' from the European Association of Psychology and Law.

Dr. Robyn Holliday

Robyn Holliday joined the Forensic Section in August 2008 as a Senior Lecturer in Psychology. Her research spans early childhood to old age and is theoretical and applied. Major research interests are developmental trajectories in suggestibility and memory illusions, identification, and forensic interview protocols for victims and witnesses, and decision-making.

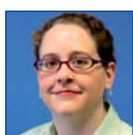


Ms. Ruth Hatcher

Ruth Hatcher is the Course Leader for the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology and the PG Dip/MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology. Her major research area is the evaluation of interventions for offenders: she has worked on both Home Office and Northern Ireland Office funded national evaluations of offender interventions. Ruth is close to completing her doctorate which investigates the issue of attrition from offending behaviour programmes. Ruth has also conducted research into the impact of working with forensic populations, the issues of bullying and victimisation within prisons, and, with colleagues, has developed an Offender Management Feedback Questionnaire which measures offender experiences and satisfaction in relation to their community sentence.

Dr. Vincent Egan

Vincent Egan is a Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology. His major research interest is the application of generic individual differences models to antisocial and criminal behaviour. After clinical training in Leicester he worked at a local regional secure unit, where he specialised in the assessment, management, and treatment of personality disordered offenders, and the evaluation of risk associated with offenders who have extreme and unusual behaviours. He was Director of the Post Graduate Forensic Psychology Courses at Glasgow University for six years. He has assessed several hundred sexual offenders both for the NHS and the legal system, often advising on their disposition, management, whether their treatment has been effective, and whether they are manageable in the community.

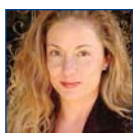


Dr. Cara Laney

Dr. Cara Laney joined the Forensic Section in 2007, after completing her PhD in false memory at the University of California. Her research interests include many varieties of memory – false memory, emotional memory, and the memory implications of making judgements. She is also interested in eyewitness testimony, jury decision-making and various cognitive phenomena, including change blindness.

Dr. Melanie Takarangi

Melanie is a Lecturer in Forensic Psychology. She joined the Forensic Section in April 2008, after completing her PhD at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Melanie's main research interests are characteristics of crime-supportive thinking, memory for crime-related experiences, and perceptions of crime and risk. She is also interested in attitudes towards wrongful conviction and punishment, media portrayal of crime and criminals, the relationship between alcohol and crime, and legal implications of memory distortion.



Dr. Heather Flowe

Heather Flowe joined the Forensic Section in September 2008 as a Lecturer. One line of Heather's research focuses on face processing in criminal identification lineups. In addition to laboratory research on lineups, Heather has conducted field and archival research studying the behavior of actual eyewitnesses in criminal cases prosecuted in the United States. Other recent lines of research include examining the role that victim characteristics play in the prosecution of rape cases, as well as determining the factors that affect decision making in the criminal justice system.

Ms. Joanna Jamel

Joanna Jamel is the Senior Teaching Assistant. She is currently completing her doctoral research which focused on male rape survivors from a number of perspectives, such as the evaluation of police service provisions, client perpetrated sexual assaults against male escorts, and the print media representation of sex crime. Her research interests focus on the specialist policing response to rape, sexual violence, male sex work, rape victim resistance strategies, and trans-phobic hate crime.



Ms. Lisa Smith

Lisa Smith is a Teaching Assistant, and she joined the Forensic Section in 2006. Prior to relocating to the UK Lisa was the Program Coordinator for the Ontario Provincial Police Victim Assistance Program, and still holds a position on the Board of Directors for the Program. She is currently undertaking a PhD looking at the perceptions and understanding of physical forensic evidence throughout the Criminal Justice System and how this affects the decision making processes of offenders, and those within the police, and court system.

Ms. Emma Sleath

Emma Sleath joined the Forensic Section in December 2005 and works as a Teaching Assistant. Her main research interests centre on rape victim blame and factors which affect this, such as rape myth acceptance. She is also interested in the effectiveness of police training in working with rape victims. She is currently undertaking a PhD within these research interests.



Other academic staff in the Forensic Section:

Ms. Claire Bloxsom; Ms. Avril McAlees

Administrative staff

Miss Christine Rouse-Sturgess; Miss Aimee Jones; Mrs Mina Mistry; Miss Helen Tedder; Ms. Jacqui Egan

The Courses

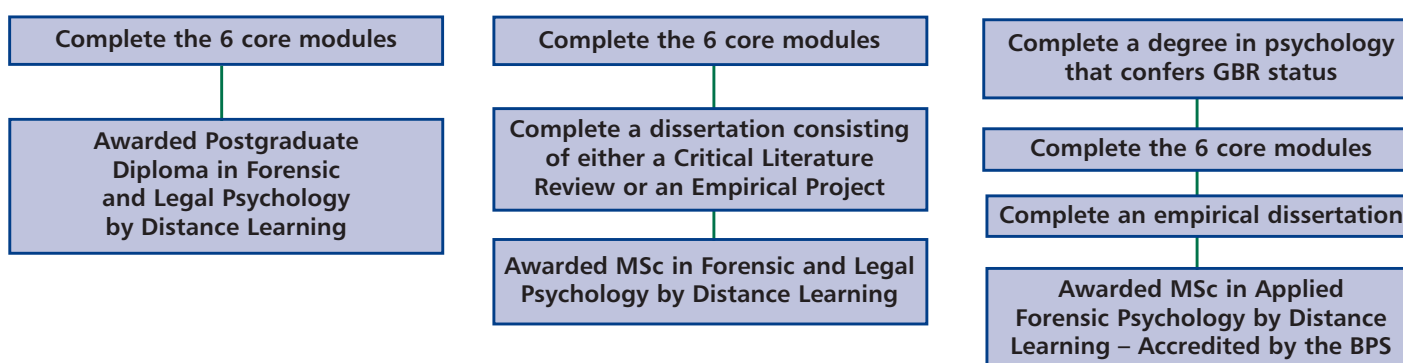
The School of Psychology - Forensic Section at the University of Leicester runs two Distance Learning courses in Forensic Psychology. These are:

- MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology (by Distance Learning)
- MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology (by Distance Learning)

Q. Why Two Courses?

The two courses are quite similar, but are designed for students with slightly different career paths in mind. The MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology by Distance Learning is accredited by The British Psychological Society (BPS) and so successful completion of this course represents a vital step in the process of qualifying as a Chartered Forensic Psychologist (see “Becoming a Chartered Forensic Psychologist” below). At present this course is unique, being the only distance learning course in Forensic Psychology accredited by The BPS.

The MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology by Distance Learning follows a similar syllabus to the accredited course, but differs in two respects. Firstly, students on the Forensic and Legal Psychology course have the option of registering for either an MSc or a Postgraduate Diploma. Students opting for the Postgraduate Diploma complete six modules but they do not undertake a dissertation. Secondly, students who choose to register for the MSc undertake the six core modules along with a dissertation. However, unlike students on the accredited course, they are offered a choice of dissertation types. Students can opt for a Critical Literature Review or an Empirical Research Project.



Q. Which course is right for me?

If you are aiming to become a Chartered Forensic Psychologist you should apply for the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology.

If you would like to undertake an MSc in a forensically relevant subject, but either your first degree is not in psychology (or is Psychology but does not confer Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR), or you do not want to become a Chartered Forensic Psychologist, then you should apply for the MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology.

If you work in a forensic setting, and have professional qualifications and experience (e.g., work as a police or prison officer) and/or would like to complete further study in the area of forensic psychology, but do not want to undertake a dissertation, you should apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology.

If you are not based in the UK and are not intending to work as a forensic psychologist in the UK, then the BPS accreditation is of little relevance to you and you should apply for either the MSc or Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology.

Q. Does my first degree confer Graduate Basis Registration of the BPS?

Unfortunately, we can't answer this question for you. You will need to speak to the institution that awarded your first degree and to the BPS. For some degree courses GBR is dependent on the particular combination of modules you completed, so you may need to provide the BPS with an official transcript of your degree. It is important not to confuse GBR with membership of the BPS. Some first degrees in psychology are sufficient to allow graduates to become members of the BPS but do not confer GBR. The situation is particularly complex for people with non-UK degrees. The BPS recognises some non-UK degrees but not others. If you would like to apply for the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology, but are unsure about the status of your current qualifications, please contact the BPS directly before applying to the course. (You may also like to consult the BPS website at www.bps.org.uk.)

Please note, the BPS accreditation of our MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology is contingent on students having obtained a first degree that confers GBR before starting the MSc. This means that you must ascertain whether your first degree confers GBR before you start the MSc. You will not be able to start our MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology before obtaining GBR.

Q. How long is the Course?

Both of the MSc distance learning courses are two year courses. Students studying for either MSc are required to complete a number of study modules and a dissertation. The Diploma is also a two year course. Diploma students are only required to complete the study modules. Students starting in Autumn 2009 may expect to submit their dissertation in July 2011 and if successful graduate in February 2012.

Course Aims

The principal aim of these courses is to equip students with a sound knowledge and understanding of a broad range of topics in forensic and legal psychology. This knowledge includes not only an appreciation of theory and fact, but also an awareness of the strengths and limitations of research evidence, as well as its applications. A particular aim of the courses is to make learning available to those who are unable or do not wish to pursue more conventional, campus based courses in higher education.

In addition, the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology by Distance Learning aims to allow students to meet one of the requirements of becoming a Chartered Forensic Psychologist without having to give up full-time employment to follow a campus-based course. Our courses are Distance Learning and there are no requirements to visit Leicester at any point in the course.

Approach to Study

The Distance Learning courses comprise of specially prepared self-study materials that are provided in a variety of formats, thereby allowing students who lead busy professional lives and who may find it difficult to attend university, to study in a way that fits with their work and domestic commitments. We have chosen to deliver our materials mainly online as our students tell us that this allows them to study in the most flexible way, making use of time such as that spent travelling to and from work. Blackboard (our Virtual Learning Environment) offers students an opportunity to interact with each other throughout the course, in order to minimise feelings of isolation which are common on distance learning courses.

Q. How much time do I need to spend studying?

Prospective students commonly ask how long they should spend studying. It is difficult to give a precise figure, as study-time will vary from student to student. However, as a general rule, students should expect to spend 14 hours per week studying for the course across the two years. The advantage of a distance learning course is that it allows flexibility to determine when and where you should study.

Some prospective students express concern about not having studied formally for some time. In the Section we are aware of this and therefore provide students with a down-to-earth Study Support Guide, plus the option of submitting a practice essay for feedback before the first module assignment is due.

Module Structures

Students studying the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology must complete the six core modules as well as an empirical dissertation. Students studying the MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology must also complete the six core modules as well as a dissertation. Students studying the Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology must complete only the six core modules. These are:

Core Modules

- The Psychology of Criminal Behaviour
- Psychology, the Legal System and Criminology
- Research Methods in Forensic Psychology
- Psychology and Investigation
- Psychology and The Courtroom
- Management and Treatment of Offenders

Psychology of Criminal Behaviour

An introduction unit that explores the link between psychology and the legal system. This subject area also covers criminology issues relevant to psychologists. Substantive areas include:

- What is Forensic Psychology?
- Definitions and Prevalence of Crime
- Criminal Behaviour
- Cognition and Crime
- Social Factors
- Moral Reasoning
- Personality and Offending
- Understanding Violent Offenders
- Offending Pathways

Psychology, the Legal System and Criminology

Psychological factors associated with crime such as cognition, and personality will be explored, as well as psychological theories of offending. Substantive areas within this topic include:

- Alternative Explanations of Crime
- Introduction to the Legal System
- Penology
- Criminology
- Feminist Explanations of Crime
- Biological Explanations of Crime
- Political Explanations of Crime
- Victimology

Psychology and Investigation

Psychological issues related to crime investigation are covered in this part of the Course. Substantive areas within this topic include:

- Criminal Investigative Analysis
- Memory and Interviewing
- Evaluating Evidence
- The Psychology of False Confessions
- The Police
- Forensic Authorship Attribution

Psychology of the Courtroom

Eyewitness testimony, expert testimony, and the decision making processes of judges and juries provide the focus for this part of the course. Substantive areas include:

- Reasoning and Decision Making
- Eyewitness Memory
- The Vulnerable Witness in Court
- Jury Behaviour
- Expert Psychological Testimony
- Making Legal Decisions about Children
- Memory Retrieval in the Courtroom
- State of Mind and its Assessment

Management and Treatment of Offenders

A description and evaluation of psychological approaches to the treatment and/or management of offenders is given. Substantive areas within this topic include:

- Offending Behaviour Programmes
- Models of Treatment and Management
- Risk and Needs Assessment
- The Treatment of Young Offenders
- The Treatment of Mentally Disordered Offenders
- The Treatment of Violent Offenders and Sex Offenders
- Treatment or Punishment?

Research Methods in Forensic Psychology

A description and evaluation of how research is conducted in forensic psychology and of the various technical, ethical and philosophical issues which can arise. Substantive areas within this topic include:

- Research - The Development of Skills
- Applied Issues in Forensic Research
- The Literature Review
- Understanding Statistical Thinking
- Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology
- Survey Methods
- Experimental Methods
- Evaluating Intervention

Dissertation

Candidates for the MSc degrees will be required to submit a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic. Further details on this will be contained in the Dissertation Handbook which will be distributed to students towards the end of their first year.

For students registered for an MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology, this research project can take the form of an extensive literature review, or a piece of empirical research. Students registered on the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology MUST undertake an empirical dissertation.

Course Materials

Students are provided with a variety of course materials, the most substantive of which are the modules. The modules are specially written for the course, and are presented in electronic format. They are accompanied by readings and study materials taken from relevant journal articles and book chapters which can be accessed via Blackboard (see below), the University's Virtual Learning Environment. Students currently receive two forensic psychology core textbooks, a research methods textbook, a statistics textbook and a Study Support Guide. In addition, MSc students receive a Dissertation textbook and Handbook.

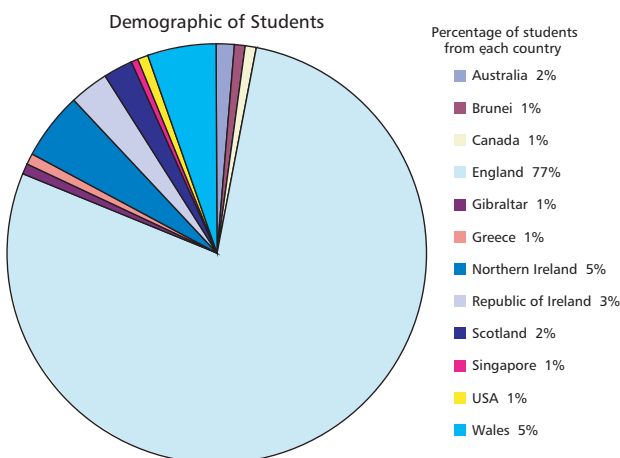
Support Facilities

Students are provided with high quality support for their academic, personal and social needs. In a recent QAA review of the teaching and student support provided by the School of Psychology, including the Forensic Section, full marks (24/24) were awarded by the external assessors. The support provided to students on the distance learning courses includes:

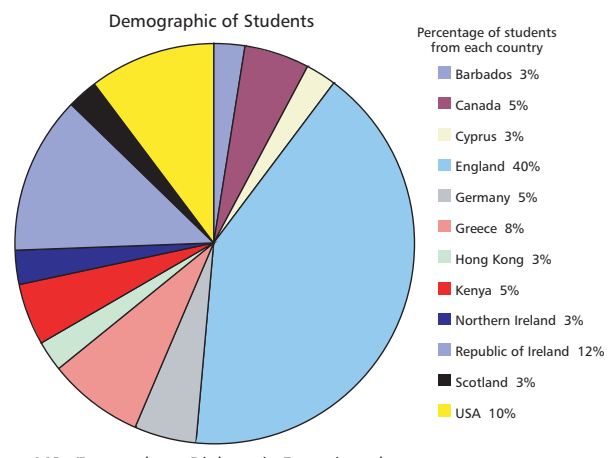
- A virtual learning environment called Blackboard. Students will be required to access online services and materials provided by the Section as an aid to their studies. These are provided via the Blackboard virtual learning environment. Blackboard provides direct access to sources of information such as course materials and web links, as well as provision for student interaction and peer support via discussion forums. As such, access to the Internet is necessary and a high-speed Internet connection is recommended.
- A single dedicated e-mail address through which staff can be contacted.
- The Study Support Guide for the Distance Learner which offers guidance on issues including time management, reading strategies, note taking, and essay writing.
- The University of Leicester Library operates a unique facility designed to support distance learning students. Once registered with the Library students can access electronic databases and on-line journals, undertake literature searches and order reprints of articles. Many of these services can be requested directly using the website (see p.11 for more details).
- Teaching Assistants are the main point of contact for student enquiries to the Forensic Section and can be contacted directly by phone, fax or e-mail or a personal visit by appointment.
- The Section offers two study days per year. These consist of an induction day where workshops are provided on being a Distance Learning student. A second day focuses on dissertations, including preparing for, and the writing of the dissertation. Attendance at these study days is optional rather than compulsory, as we do not want to disadvantage students who would not be able to travel from abroad. Having said this, however, several overseas students regularly travel to these study days and enjoy the experience.
- In addition, the Section usually hosts two conferences a year on Forensic Psychology topics which practitioners and academics attend but which students are also encouraged to attend. Attendance at these days is optional. The cost of attending them is not included in the course fees although a competitive student delegate rate is offered. Previous topics covered at these conference days have been 'Sexual Offending: New Approaches, New Perspectives' and 'Forensic Psychology: Investigating, Identifying and Interviewing', and 'Intervening Psychologically with Offenders'.

Overseas Students

Each year we have several applications from overseas students. Currently we have students in the USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Kenya, Ireland, Australia and Greece. The nature of the courses mean that it is feasible for these students to study in the same manner as UK based students. The library offers excellent facilities to support the studies of overseas students. The figures below give an indication of the geographical locations of our students:



MSc. in Applied Forensic Psychology 2004 - 2006



MSc./Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology 2004 - 2006

Library Service for Distance Learners

The library offers a range of information services to support distance learners. These include enquiry services, document delivery, access to the online catalogue, Internet Services, literature searches, information skills support, postal book loans (UK only) and access to other libraries (UK only).

Distance Learners can contact the library by phone on: +44 (0) 116 252 5051 or by email on libdist@leicester.ac.uk

If you want to make an appointment to see a member of staff then it is advisable to phone or email to arrange a suitable time. The Information Librarian for Psychology is Jenny Hills.

Distance Learners in the UK may borrow up to four books at a time by post. Items will be issued for six weeks unless recalled by another reader. Some books are also available electronically.

The library will supply photocopies of journal articles or extracts of books by post. Students are given the allowance of 40 photocopy requests for the duration of their course. This can be used for articles that are held in the library within the University of Leicester library. Students are also allowed up to 15 requests per year for articles that we do not hold and therefore have to be obtained from other libraries. These document delivery services are available to all Distance Learning students. In addition, Leicester E-Link contains over 18,000 e-journals and provides access to full-text journal articles online, which all students can access.

The Distance Learning Library homepage <http://www.le.ac.uk/li/distance/index.htm> provides full guidance on all the services as well as links to subject information and various electronic resources. The library's online catalogue has a special interface for distance learners, which provides the facilities to request books or articles via web-based forms.



Stamford Hall has been a venue for our study days

Admission criteria for entry onto the Courses

Courses:

MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology:

All applicants for this course must have a good Honours degree (2:1 or higher) in Psychology that confers GBR of The British Psychological Society.

MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology:

All applicants for direct admission to the MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology must have a good Honours Degree (2:1 or higher) in Psychology or a related discipline (e.g. Criminology, Law, Sociology, Social Science).

Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology:

Applicants not satisfying the requirements for direct entry onto the MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology will be considered for entry onto the Diploma. This includes applications supported by professional qualifications and experience. Applications to transfer from Diploma to MSc status can be made at the end of the first year of the Course on condition of satisfactory performance.

References:

As selection for the MSc/Diploma is on the basis of written application only, references are extremely important. Applicants are asked to provide two references at least one of which should be from an academic institution at which you studied. Furthermore, for applications to the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology this referee must be either from the institution that awarded your GBR accredited degree or you must provide other evidence from the BPS of your GBR status. The nominated referees must be in a position to comment, preferably from experience, on your academic ability and potential with regard to distance learning. References should be submitted on the form provided: references not on our form are acceptable only when signed by the referee and written on the appropriate headed paper. Applicants should note that it is their responsibility to pursue outstanding references and that we will not process an application until we have received both references. The acknowledgement card enclosed with the application form will be sent back to the applicant once we have received both references.

English Language Requirement:

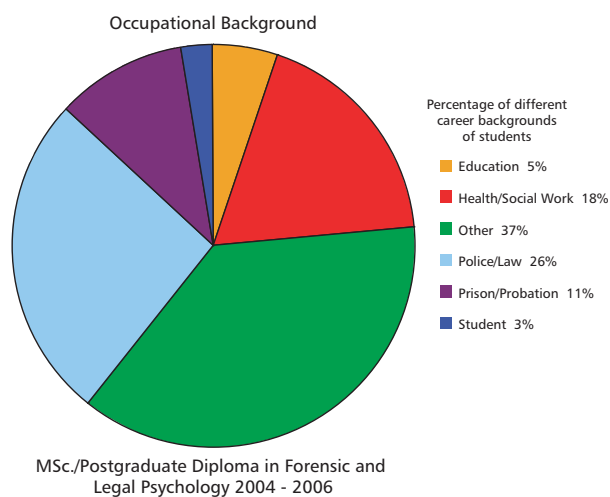
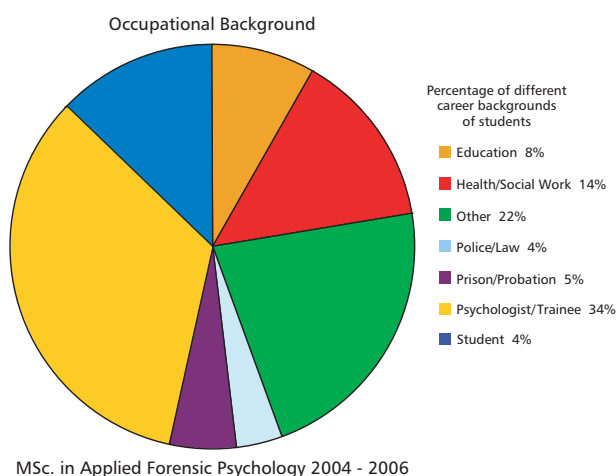
Applicants whose first language is not English and who have not lived in a country where the first language is English for at least three years immediately prior to the commencement of the Course are required to provide evidence of a minimum standard of English language ability. The usual requirement is a score of 6.5 or above in the British Council's IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test, or its equivalent (e.g., a score of 575 in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), including a score of 4.0 in the Test of Written English (TWE).

Where one of the above qualifications has not recently been obtained, or where, for any other reasons, there is doubt about an applicant's English language ability, the University reserves the right to set a special test of competence, validated by its English Language Teaching Unit.



Career Prospects

Many of the students who are currently studying on the distance learning courses are professionals working in forensic and legal settings (as shown below), who have chosen these courses as a means of achieving personal development, as well as further developing their careers. In addition, the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology allows students to complete one of the steps required to become Chartered Forensic Psychologists. For other students the MSc or Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic and Legal Psychology allows them to access, or advance careers in forensically related jobs.



Course Alumni

Previous students who have completed the Forensic Psychology Masters courses at the University of Leicester report the positive impact it has had in terms of their professional development and career enhancement:

"In 2007, I completed the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology via distance learning. It was well worth the effort, particularly at the dissertation level where I learned a lot about research ethics and research design structure. The Leicester team was excellent at developing a supportive network for distance learning students, which included an e-forum and information circulars. Marked assignments offered constructive guidance and the course content is definitely useful in a wider setting. Indeed, its reach extended into work I conducted on the psychological experiences of Iraqi police recruits as part of my dissertation. There was encouragement and support by the Leicester team to publish that research, which led me further into the area of war trauma and its psychological consequences. I now serve as an advisor for the Norway-based Children and War Foundation. At present, I am conducting a study on the mental health needs of displaced Iraqis that will offer solutions for reducing anxiety and distress levels developed from evidence-based interventions. The MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology was the springboard for this work."

MSc Applied Forensic Psychology, 2007 graduate

"My decision to enter into the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology (distance-learning) was driven by a need to take my qualifications to the next level and to make better sense of my practice as a clinician. At the time of starting the program I worked as co-ordinator of a prison treatment unit for sex offenders. The program allowed me to consolidate my knowledge base, providing a clearer framework from which to operate. The distance-learning option, whilst requiring good organization of time and clear commitment, provided me with the flexibility I needed to work around my young family and work commitments. I was also located in a rural location with the problem of accessing education close by. The modules that formed the main part of the masters were clear, readable and well structured. The ease by which material could be accessed via the distance learning library services, made reading beyond the modules straightforward and made researching for assignments workable. Since graduating, I have changed my job and now work within a community health setting where part of my role involves facilitation of a program for male perpetrators of family violence. I have carried forward my learning from the masters program despite the changes in role and organizational framework, particularly in relation to best practice principles."

MSc Applied Forensic Psychology, 2007 graduate

Becoming a Chartered Forensic Psychologist

For those seeking to obtain Chartered Forensic Psychologist status through The British Psychological Society, we understand that current BPS regulations require that three steps must be completed:

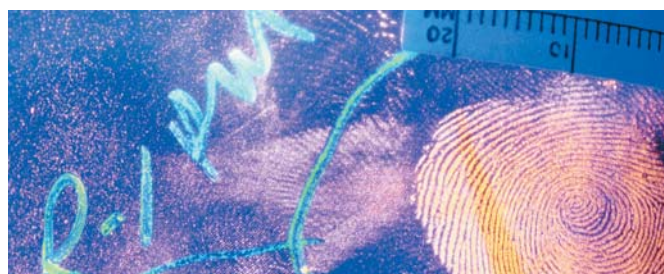
- 1. A qualification that confers the Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) of the BPS;
- 2. An appropriate MSc qualification in forensic psychology that is accredited by the BPS **OR** a Pass in Stage I of the BPS Diploma in Forensic Psychology;
- 3. A minimum of two years' experience under the supervision of a Chartered Forensic Psychologist (Stage 2 of the BPS Diploma in Forensic Psychology).

All students on the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology will satisfy Step I and successful completion of the MSc will satisfy Step 2. After completion of the MSc, individuals may gain supervised experience in a range of settings, including the Prison Service, Probation Service, NHS and secure hospitals in the private sector with mentally disordered offenders, police, and courts. Information about how this period of supervised practice should be structured can be obtained from the Division of Forensic Psychology of The BPS. Their webpage is available at: http://www.bps.org.uk/dfp/dfp_home.cfm

Costs of the Courses

The course fee encompasses study guides, handbooks, textbooks, modules, personal tutors, supervisors, comprehensive feedback on all work and free attendance of the the Section's study days. The fees for the 2009 entry for Home and EU Nationals are £4,425 per year. The fee for non-EU students is £4,725 per year.

The Section's conferences are not included in this cost. As indicated earlier, these events are optional and do not form part of the course's assessment.



Funding your Studies

An obvious concern for potential students is how to fund the course. The Forensic Section does not itself have any grants or scholarships available for the courses, but we do have some guidelines and suggestions for students looking to finance their studies.

An increasingly popular option for UK students is a Career Development Loan available from some UK banks: Barclays, the Co-operative, the Clydesdale, and the Royal Bank of Scotland. These loans can enable you to borrow up to 80% of your course fees, and repayments do not begin until after you graduate. You pay interest on the loan at a preferential rate after you complete your studies, and it is our understanding that repayments are tax deductible. Special terms can be available for the unemployed.

You could also speak to your employer, explaining how your qualification will be a sound investment for your organisation. Many students already on the courses are funded either in full or part by their employers. This is particularly common for those students who work in prisons, the probation services or with the police, areas where the employers recognise the benefit of having qualified staff.

Professional associations can also be a good source of grants and loans at preferential rates. Assistance is also available from trusts, charities and foundations. Both The Grants Register (published by Macmillan, ISBN 1403992584) and The Charities Digest (published by Waterflow Information Services, ISBN 185783061X) provide information on these sources of funding. They are both available from any university or good public library.

If you're from overseas try contacting your government's Ministry of Education for details of scholarships. The British Council which is the UK's international organisation for educational and cultural relations has offices in 110 countries and can also advise on sources of funding. Copies of the guide 'Sources of Funding For International Students' can be obtained from the British Council.

Finally, you should still send in your application even if you are waiting for confirmation regarding funding. In the past, some people have held off applying until their source of funding was confirmed, only to find that the Course was already full by the time their application reached us. On the other hand it is important to have the funding for your course organised well in advance of the course start date. The University will not accept your registration without adequate demonstration that you can pay your fees.

How to apply

You must decide which course you wish to apply for and then tick the appropriate box on the application form. Two Reference Request Forms and a reference acknowledgement card are also enclosed.

- Complete the appropriate form and sign it. You must include details of two referees, one of whom must be from an academic institution. If you are applying for the MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology, one of your referees must be from the institution that awarded your GBR degree.
- Write your name and address on the acknowledgement card enclosing a stamp if based in the UK. We will return this card to you once we have received both of your references.
- Attach four passport-sized photographs of yourself to the form. These photographs should have your full name and the name of the course on the reverse side.
- Complete Section A of both Reference Request forms, and give one of these forms to each of your referees. Your referees should complete their forms and either send them directly to us at the address shown on the form, or back to you in a sealed envelope. You are then responsible for forwarding them with your application to the Section.

Send the completed application form, photographs and acknowledgement card to the address shown to the right. Applications for the October start date can be received all year round, however, once our courses are full for the coming academic year, offers will be made for the following academic year.

Course Administrator **School of Psychology - Forensic Section**

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appliedpsych@le.ac.uk

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<http://www.le.ac.uk/psychology>

Entry to these courses is subject to the current Postgraduate Regulations of the University, a copy of which can be obtained on application to the Graduate Office. (Tel: +44 (0) 116 252 2293)

Other Courses offered by the School of Psychology

In addition to the courses described in this brochure, the School of Psychology also hosts a campus based MSc in Forensic Psychology (also accredited by The BPS). If you would like details about the campus based course please telephone +44 (0) 116 252 2481. We also offer distance learning courses in Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders (telephone number +44 (0) 116 252 2423) and Occupational Psychology and the Psychology of Work (telephone number +44 (0) 116 252 2469). The School of Psychology, Clinical Section offers a three year postgraduate Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (Pam Sawyer +44 (0) 116 223 1648). A campus-based MSc. in Psychological Research Methods is also available (Dr. Kevin Paterson +44 (0) 116 229 7179).



**University of
Leicester**

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this brochure is accurate at the time of going to press.
Please check for specific information direct with the School of Psychology.