Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session	2025/26	**Last Modified**	30/04/2025
Named Award Title	BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology		
Award Title for Each Award	BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology BA Criminology & Psychology DipHE Criminology & Psychology CertHE Criminology & Psychology		
Date of Approval	20/06/2024		
Details of Cohort Applies to	Intake September 2025		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		Not accredited	
Maximum Period of Registration			
Duration of Study			
Full-time	4 years	**Part-time**	8 years
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Social Sciences**		
Programme Leader	Dr Colin Atkinson		

Admissions Criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

SQA National Qualifications:

TBC

Or GCE

TBC

Or SQA National Qualifications / Edexcel Foundation

TBC

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

TBC

Further desirable skills pre-application

TBC

General Overview

The programme aims to equip students with the key knowledge and skills from two contributing popular and interconnected social science disciplines – Criminology and Psychology. Students will then synthesise and apply these disciplinary insights to significant social debates in areas where they come together, such as forensic criminology, and culminating in their final year Criminology & Psychology dissertation.

Students on the BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology programme will undertake modules shared with the BSc (Hons) Psychology and BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice programmes, to ensure they obtain a strong grasp of both disciplines. They will also come together as a distinct cohort for seminars contextualised to their integrated programme, to ensure the learning experience is synergic across disciplines and students have their own course community and sense of belonging.

Criminology

The Criminology component of the programme enables students to study criminological theory, research and policy, in the context of process and institutions. Students will develop comparative knowledge and understanding of Criminal Justice between Scotland, the United Kingdom, Europe, and beyond, including the global south. Students will build a rich body of knowledge and practice in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crime, the workings of the criminal law and criminal court system, and the treatment of people with convictions.

Psychology

The primary aim of the Psychology component of the degree is to enable student to develop an understanding of how and why people act in the way that they do. Students will focus on the application of psychology to real-world settings and problems, such as mental and physical health, education and young people and the world of work. They will develop an understanding of the research and investigation process through the collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Through this, students will develop employability skills and an awareness of how psychology helps us to understand the workplace.

Programme structure
Level 7 comprises two Criminology modules – Criminal Behaviour & Deviance, and Scottish Criminal Justice. These two modules will introduce students to criminology theory and criminal justice institutions. They will also study two Psychology modules – Applying Psychology, and Investigating Psychology. Students complete their first year with a module in Offender Profiling & Crime Analysis, which brings the two disciplines together, and a module focused on academic, personal and professional development (ASPIRE).

In Level 8, students deepen their understanding of criminology theory in the Criminology Foundations module, and select one of three Criminology options from Deconstructing Crime & Criminality, Crime Media & Culture, and Introduction to Policing. They will extend their knowledge of Psychology as a discipline through the Understanding Psychology Past & Present module, which they will undertake alongside Biological & Developmental Psychology. There are also two research methods modules in the second year which introduce students to quantitative and qualitative research.

In Level 9, students will undertake a core module on research design. This builds on the methods modules from Level 8 and looks ahead to the dissertation at Level 10. In addition to this core module, students will select five option modules with at least two from each discipline. This level of flexibility will give students the opportunity to personalise their learning journey.

In the final year at Level 10, students will complete a dissertation, alongside core modules in Victimology and Forensic Psychology. Two further option modules will be selected in addition to these core modules, one from each discipline.

Typical Delivery Method
On campus.

Any additional costs
No.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning
Students will undertake the ASPIRE module at Level 7, which introduces them to academic, personal and professional development (APPD), which will create the basis for success in the student's course.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details
There is one optional work-related learning module at Level 10 – Work Related Learning (Psychology). In addition, students will develop academic and research skills that will equip them for success during and beyond their programme of study. They will also develop their appreciation of the real-world issues and challenges in this significant and growing area of study.

Attendance and Engagement
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

Ideally, students will attend all scheduled learning events (lectures, seminars, workshops etc), complete assigned out-of-class tasks, and submit all assignments. The programme team will

of course apply a reasonable, proportional and common-sense approach to gauging engagement levels, and students will be provided with the fullest support to enable their engagement.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

In line with the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012, the curriculum and delivery of proposed programmes are designed to promote the general equality duty, namely to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The programme engages deeply with issues of equality, diversity and inclusivity across its curriculum, and provides myriad opportunities for learners to reflect on and enact equalities practices as part of their learning.

The programme is globally informed, and sensitively enables students to draw intellectual connections and contrasts across cultural boundaries.
The programme encourages applications from the widest possible range of social backgrounds, and takes seriously the responsibility to proactively make the learning experience accessible to all.

The programme complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Using appropriate platforms, learning materials will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content.

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 7 Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate an appreciation of the foundational theories of criminology
A2	Demonstrate an appreciation of psychological theory
A3	Demonstrate knowledge of criminal justice institutions and processes
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Use evidence and apply introductory techniques to conduct analysis of data
B2	Apply theoretical ideas to social issues
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate scholarly findings effectively in different formats
C2	Deploy foundational ICT techniques
C3	Communicate constructively with peers
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Demonstrate foundational evaluation skills
D2	Demonstrate awareness of evidence and data
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Take ownership of own learning
E2	Demonstrate a commitment to own academic, personal and professional development
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 7 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
7	CRIM07006	Offender Profiling & Crime Analysis	20	☐	☒	☐	
7	CRIM07005	Criminal Behaviour & Deviance	20	☒	☐	☐	
7	CRIM07002	Scottish Criminal Justice	20	☒	☐	☐	
7	PSYC07009	Applying Psychology	20	☒	☐	☐	
7	PSYC07008	Investigating Psychology	20	☐	☒	☐	
7	APPD07001	ASPIRE	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules All modules are core at Level 7							

Level 7 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 7
Criteria for Progression and Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of Certificate of HE Criminology & Psychology, at least 120 credit points from the core modules within the programme specification must be achieved.

Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26)

In line with Regulation 3.13, students may progress to Level 8, provided

- they have gained at least 80 credits in the current level; and
- they undertake the re-assessment (or choose to retake the module while studying at the next level); and
- they meet all prerequisites in the next level of study; and
- they have undertaken the full set of modules as identified in the programme specification at their current level

A School Board of Examiners is empowered to grant an award in Combined Studies where a student has met the credit requirements for an award in line with SCQF credit minima (see Regulation 1.21) but cannot continue on the named award. (Reg 1.61).

SCQF LEVEL 8 Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of qualitative and quantitative research
A2	Demonstrate awareness of the evolution of psychology as a discipline, including some of its key theoretical features
A3	Demonstrate discerning understanding of at least one contemporary area of criminology
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply theoretical approaches to make sense of complex criminological issues
B2	Apply psychological theories and models effectively
B3	Apply research techniques to given scenarios
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate scholarly outcomes effectively to different formats to a range of audiences
C2	Demonstrate competence in ICT skills relevant to set tasks
C3	Utilise appropriate academic conventions when presenting scholarly work
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Evaluate the strengths and weakness of theoretical models
D2	Critically evaluate different forms of data
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Demonstrate familiarity with ethical requirements when conducting quantitative and qualitative research
E2	Critically reflect on own academic practice
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 8 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
8	SOCY08021	Foundations of Qualitative Research	20	☒	☐	☐	
8	CRIM08002	Criminology Foundations	20	☒	☐	☐	
8	PSYC08013	Quantitative Research Skills in Psychology	20	☒	☐	☐	
8	PSYC08015	Understanding Psychology Past & Present	20	☐	☒	☐	
8	PSYC08007	Biological & Developmental Psychology	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 8 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
8	CRIM08007	Crime & Inequality	20	☐	☒	☐	Select one from this list of two options
8	CRIM08011	Crime, Media & Culture	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

Students should select one module from the list of two Criminology electives.

If a student runs out of attempts at any of these elective modules they can select another option from the list.

Exceptionally, students may be able to select other modules from the BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice and/ or BSc (Hons) Psychology programmes, with the agreement of the BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology Programme Leader.

Level 8
Criteria for Progression and Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of Diploma of HE Criminology & Psychology, at least 240 credit points from the core and optional modules must be achieved of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 8 or above.

Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26)

In line with Regulation 3.13, students may progress to Level 9, provided

- they have gained at least 80 credits in the current level; and
- they undertake the re-assessment (or choose to retake the module while studying at the next level); and
- they meet all prerequisites in the next level of study; and
- they have undertaken the full set of modules as identified in the programme specification at their current level

A School Board of Examiners is empowered to grant an award in Combined Studies where a student has met the credit requirements for an award in line with SCQF credit minima (see Regulation 1.21) but cannot continue on the named award. (Reg 1.61).

SCQF LEVEL 9 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate critical understanding of at least one specialist area of knowledge within Criminology & Psychology
A2	Demonstrate integrated knowledge of contemporary criminology and criminal justice
A3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theories and methods of at least two areas of psychology
A4	Demonstrate critical understanding of research design
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply criminological principles and theoretical approaches to explain complex social phenomena
B2	Adeptly deploy laboratory and experimental techniques within at least one field of psychology
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate advanced scholarly findings effectively in different formats to a range of audiences
C2	Deploy advanced ICT techniques and skills relevant to set tasks
C3	Communicate advanced findings to diverse audiences
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Make professional judgements on research questions and provide justifications
D2	Critically analyse contemporary criminological approaches
D3	Critically analyse contemporary issues through a psychological lens
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Demonstrate the ability to manage ethical and moral questions in a research context
E2	Exercise autonomy and initiative when conducting scholarship
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 9 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	SOCY09056	Designing Your Dissertation Project	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 9 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	CRIM09005	Penology & Prisons	20	☒	☐	☐	Select at least two from this list of four options
9	CRIM09021	Contemporary Studies in Criminal Justice	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	CRIM09025	Youth & Gang Violence	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	CRIM09020	Criminal Careers	20	☐	☒	☐	
9	PSYC09011	Social Psychology	20	☒	☐	☐	Select at least two from this list of three options
9	PSYC09018	Individual Differences	20	☐	☒	☐	
9	PSYC09017	Cognitive Psychology	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules Students must select at least two modules from the Criminology list and at least two from the Psychology list – adding up to a total of five options. Exceptionally, students may be able to select other modules from the BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice and/ or BSc (Hons) Psychology programmes as options, with the agreement of the BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology Programme Leader.							

Level 9
Criteria for Progression and Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of BA Criminology & Psychology, at least 360 credit points from the core and optional modules must be achieved of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 9 or above.

Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26)

Students may progress to SCQF level 10 with up to 20 credits deficit (Reg 3.14).

A School Board of Examiners is empowered to grant an award in Combined Studies where a student has met the credit requirements for an award in line with SCQF credit minima (see Regulation 1.21) but cannot continue on the named award (Reg 1.61).

SCQF LEVEL 10 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate critical and integrated knowledge and understanding of contemporary debates across the landscape of criminology and psychology
A2	Demonstrate specialist knowledge of forefront developments in victimology
A3	Demonstrate specialist knowledge of forefront developments in forensic psychology
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply a range of specialist research methods and methodologies
B2	Demonstrate professional expertise in information handling and analysis
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate complex and rich research findings in formats that reflect sensitivity to audience and impact
C2	Deploy advanced ICT techniques and skills relevant to complex tasks
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Demonstrate originality when formulating and executing a research project
D2	Provide sophisticated interpretations and analyses of complex social issues
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise significant autonomy in research and scholarly practice
E2	Demonstrate reflexivity and efficacy when managing own academic projects
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 10 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	CRIM10014	Dissertation (Criminology & Psychology)	40	☒	☒	☐	
10	CRIM10012	Victimology	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	PSYC10044	Forensic Psychology	20	☒	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules The Dissertation runs across term one and term two.							

Level 10 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	CRIM10010	Working in Criminal Justice	20	☒	☐	☐	Select one from this list of four options
10	CRIM10003	Comparative Justice	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	CRIM10011	Critical Policing Studies	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	CRIM10013	Security in a Global Age	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	PSYC10032	Applied Cyberpsychology	10	☐	☒	☐	Select one from this list of three options
10	PSYC10028	Work Related Learning (Psychology)	10	☒	☐	☐	
10	PSYC10028	Work Related Learning (Psychology)	10	☐	☒	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

Students should select one option module from the Criminology list and one option module from the Psychology list.

Work Related Learning (Psychology) runs in both terms as separate deliveries. Students may only pass it once.

Exceptionally, students may be able to select other modules from the BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice and/ or BSc (Hons) Psychology programmes as options, with the agreement of the BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology Programme Leader.

Level 10
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

In line with the Regulatory Framework regulation 1.21, for the award of BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology, at least 480 credit points from the core and optional modules must be achieved of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 10.

No Distinction is awarded at Honours level (Regulation 3.25).

A School Board of Examiners is empowered to grant an award in Combined Studies where a student has met the credit requirements for an award in line with SCQF credit minima (see Regulation 1.21) but cannot continue on the named award. (Reg 1.61).

Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework.

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).

For students studying BA, BAcc, or BD awards the award will be BA Combined Studies.

For students studying BEng or BSc awards, the award will be BSc Combined Studies.

Version no: 1 (2025-26)

Change/Version Control

What	When	Who
New template	April 2025	C Atkinson