



Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2024/25	Last Modified	September 2024
Named Award Title	MSc Forensic Mental Health		
Award Title for Each Award	MSc Forensic Mental Health		
Date of Approval	November 2021		
Details of Cohort Applies to	All new and existing cohorts		
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			
Maximum Period of Registration			
Duration of Study			
Full-time	Not available	Part-time	3 Years
Placement (compulsory)	No Placements		
Mode of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part-time		
Campus	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Divisional Programme Board	Mental Health Nursing Midwifery Health		
Programme Leader	Y Murray		

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:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications:

Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Non-standard entry: Applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient professional or practice based experience to undertake the programme, for example, two years experience working in a mental health or forensic mental health context where they are required to provide written reports.

A potential progression route exists from the Short Forensic Module at New College Lanarkshire, Motherwell Campus and from the Graduate Certificate in Personality Disorder programme at UWS. The one condition of students being accepted via these routes is a pass rate of 60% or above.

Further desirable skills pre-application

In the case of a candidate whose native language is other than English, a Qualification Minimum Requirement applies. Details are available on UWS web site: www.uws.ac.uk. Information on other English language test scores is available from Admissions

General Overview

The MSc Forensic Mental Health programme is focussed on improving the knowledge and critical thinking of practitioners across forensic mental health services, for example: nurses; doctors; allied health professionals; social workers; people working in criminal justice; police officers and prison officers.

Students from this programme will build their capacity to understand the systems and processes forensic patients pass through, and promote improved delivery of care and treatment for this population across forensic mental health services.

This programme is delivered as a part time distance learning programme accessible through online learning platforms and resources (within timescales noted in The Regulatory Framework). The programme consists of core modules set within a framework of interrelated themes, relating to the assessment, treatment and management of patients within a forensic mental health context.

For the award of MSc Forensic Mental Health, students must have successfully completed the core modules for each year:

- Year 1: Mental Disorder and the Law (20 Credits), Forensic Risk Assessment and Risk Management (20 credits), and Managing Mental Health through the Criminal Justice System (20 credits)

Year 1 total: 60 credits

- Year 2: Problem Behaviours (30 credits), Forensic Treatments and Interventions (10 credits), Research for Health and Social Care (20 credits)

Year 2 total: 60 credits

- Year 3: M.Sc. Dissertation (HLS) (60 credits)

Year 3 total: 60 credits

Exit points:

- M.Sc. Forensic Mental Health (All year 1, 2 and 3 modules - total 180 credits),
- Post graduate Diploma in Forensic Mental Health (All year 1 and 2 modules - total 120 credits),
- Post Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health (60 credits from year 1 and/or year 2)

Typical Delivery Method

Distance Learning - Delivery of this programme is fully online

Any additional costs

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

UWS Graduate Attributes aim to prepare graduates who will be Universal, Work ready and Successful (Graduate Attributes - uws.ac.uk). Therefore through studying the MSc Forensic Mental Health programme at UWS, students will develop attributes across three dimensions which encapsulate the breadth of the learning experience at University level, i.e. Academic; Personal; and Professional.

Therefore within the context of forensic mental health and social care, this programme develops graduates who are innovative; motivated; research minded and future leaders. In addition, it ensures students are socially responsible; critical thinkers; analytical and innovative. They will aim to be both enterprising and transformational in their professional approach, enabling them to make a unique contribution to change and development within their work area.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

No work based learning or placements in this programme, however, it is anticipated that the assessment strategy will allow students to contextualise learning to current and/or future professional employment within the field of forensic mental health.

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:

Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled online sessions, online discussions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on Aula, and complete assessments, submitting these on time.

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](#).

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

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)	
Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Critically understand the concepts and principles of mental disorder and the relationship to offending.
A2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theory and practice of risk assessment and risk management of forensic patients.
A3	Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of criminal justice systems engagement with people with mental health problems.
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of homicide inquiries.
B2	Apply critical knowledge of violence risk assessment, sexual violence, domestic violence and stalking risk assessments.
B3	Examine the knowledge and skills required by a range of professionals in the review of patient care.
B4	Draw conclusions from comparisons of national and international criminal justice services.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Using a range of advanced skills including academic writing and referencing skills, analysis and interpretation of complex information and the use of appropriate ICT skills to aid dissemination of information.
C2	Demonstrate knowledge of effective communication skills required for the subject area, including effective use ICT and numeric skills to present and disseminate information.
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Apply critical knowledge of civil and criminal legislation and processes.
D2	Demonstrate critical awareness of ethical issues linked to mental health legislation.
D3	Apply critical knowledge of current literature and practice within one's own domain of work to make informed judgements of best practice.
D4	
D5	

Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Apply a critical understanding of the roles and contributions of a range of professionals in risk assessment and risk management initiatives.
E2	Demonstrate considerable, autonomy and initiative in all professional activities.
E3	Demonstrate an ability to work collaboratively with, and take responsibility, for one and others work.
E4	Demonstrate leadership in transformational activity.
E5	

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11139	Mental Disorder and the Law	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	NURS11136	Forensic Risk Assessment and Risk Management	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	NURS11163	Managing Mental Health through CJS	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

On successful completion of the three programme core modules (60 credits SCQF Level 11) students may exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate Forensic Mental Health.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of contemporary theory, principles and concepts in relation to research design and methods.
A2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theories and principles of personality disorder, sexual and violent behaviours in forensic mental health services.
A3	Extensive and critical knowledge of some specialized areas of treatment for forensic patients.
A4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theories and principles of treatments and interventions within forensic mental health settings.
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Relate key components of research design and methods principles to one's own domain of work.
B2	Apply critical knowledge to clinical situations, for example at multi-disciplinary team reviews.
B3	Demonstrate an understanding of the main research paradigms and evaluate their appropriate use and limitations.
B4	Plan and execute the analysis and presentation of the findings of a case study.
B5	Use of a range of skills and techniques as appropriate to the discipline.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Make effective use of information retrieval systems and use information technology applications.
C2	Evaluate a range of appropriate methods and tools to facilitate appropriate quantitative or qualitative data collection and analysis.
C3	Demonstrate skills of critical thinking and writing.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Develop creative and original responses to presenting problems and issues in relation to ethical principles and research governance.
D2	Critically reflect upon and appraise complex situations to make informed judgements that underpin the effective design of research projects to enhance organisational decisions.
D3	Critically analyse the links between diagnoses and treatment and management approaches.
D4	Utilise a wide range of software to support and enhance a robust study for example I.T. facilities, library, databases and Moodie to locate, retrieve, evaluate and incorporate evidence into practice.
D5	Critically evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	

E1	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in academic activities.
E2	Demonstrate leadership in relation to generating a vision for research in the work setting.
E3	Work in ways that are reflective, critical and analytical to facilitate and enhance research and effective clinical developments, taking responsibility for own work.
E4	Deal with complex ethical issues related to research in primary care settings.
E5	

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11140	Problem Behaviours	30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	MIDW11003	Research for Health & Social Care	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	NURS11137	Forensic Treatments and Interventions	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

Students who successfully complete 120 credits including all programme core modules as detailed at PG Certificate and PG Diploma level may be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma Forensic Mental Health.

SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters	
Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of contemporary theory, principles and concepts in relation to systematic review of the literature and/or research design.
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Relate key components of research design and methods principles to one's own domain of work.
B2	Demonstrate creativity in the application of theoretical concepts to enhance an evidence-base for work or practice within the primary care contexts.
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Select and apply appropriate methods and tools to facilitate appropriate quantitative or qualitative data collection and analysis.
C2	Design the presentation of information for dissemination across appropriate levels and areas of the professional audience and organisational contexts.
C3	Synthesise work into a well-designed dissertation document.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Critically reflect upon and appraise complex situations to make informed judgements that underpin the effective design of research projects to enhance organisational decisions.
D2	Demonstrate creativity in the application of theoretical concepts to enhance an evidence-base for work or practice within the health and social care contexts.
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Demonstrate leadership in relation to generating a vision for research in the work setting, engagement of self and others in contributing to research, and the promotion of professional excellence and effectiveness in the primary care context.
E2	Work in ways that are reflective, critical and analytical to facilitate and enhance research and effective clinical developments.
E3	
E4	

E5	
----	--

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11010	MSc Dissertation (HLS)	60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Masters

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

Students who successfully complete 180 credits SCQF Level 11 including all core modules as detailed in this programme specification are eligible for the award of MSc Forensic Mental Health.

Regulations of Assessment

