

University of the West of Scotland

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session: 2023/24

Last modified: 23/03/2023 14:42:02

Status: Published

Named Award Title:	MSc Forensic Mental Health
--------------------	----------------------------

Award Title for Each Award:	MSc Forensic Mental Health
-----------------------------	----------------------------

Date of Validation:	November 2021
---------------------	---------------

Details of Cohorts Applies to:	
--------------------------------	--

Awarding Institution/Body:	University of the West of Scotland
Teaching Institution:	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination:	English
Award Accredited By:	
Maximum Period of Registration:	
Mode of Study:	Part Time
Campus:	Distance/Online Learning

School:	School of Health and Life Sciences
Programme Board	Mental Health Nursing & IP
Programme Leader:	Yvonne Murray

Admission 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 Qualification

Standard entry: Applicants should normally possess an appropriate undergraduate degree in a health related field.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Admission is permitted with relevant previous academic credit and/or prior learning. This will be in accordance with the University of the West of Scotland Regulatory Framework.

Non standard entry: Applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient professional or practice based experience to undertake their chosen study, 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 course at UWS. The one condition of students being accepted via these routes is a pass rate in excess of 60%.

Further desirable skills pre-application

For International students who do not have English as their first language, an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6 or above (5.5 in each component) is acceptable as evidence of proficiency in English. The English language test should be current, that is, passed no more than 2 years prior to the date

of admission onto the programme. A more extensive list of UWS accepted language qualifications is available at: <http://www.uws.ac.uk/english-language/>.

General Overview

The MSc Forensic Mental Health programme is focussed on improving the knowledge and skills of practitioners, for example: nurses; doctors; allied health professionals; social workers; people working in criminal justice; police officers and prison officers, across forensic mental health services. The programme is designed for use by people working in the NHS, private and voluntary sectors, in addition to Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Police Service.

This programme will be delivered as a part time distance learning/on-line programme (within timescales noted in The Regulatory Framework). The programme consists of core modules set within a framework of interrelated themes, that is, 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)

The module descriptors at SCQF level 11 (SCQF, 2012) have been used to outline a framework for the MSc Forensic Mental Health programme. Being guided by QAA Scotland's 'Facets of Mastersness' (QAA Scotland., 2013) the educational focus of the programme is on students building on existing knowledge and skills in order that they continue to develop both academically, personally and professionally. This supports the concept of lifelong and career long learning, which stresses that learning is a continuous process of development, supported by meaningful study, reflection on personal and professional experiences and shared learning.

Students from this programme will have the 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.

Full discussion of pathways of further study will be enabled through the use of the student's Personal Development Plan / or suitable alternative processes, in collaboration with their Manager in their own setting. The programme will also endeavour to encourage student exposure to Level 12 study options, for example, Doctoral Level study.

Teaching and Learning

The UWS programme a variety of teaching and learning approaches and thus facilitate the development of cognitive skills that enhance professional practice and development. To enhance student success, the programme will provide stimulating and transformative learning within a flexible and personalised curriculum which offers a selection of relevant core modules. It will only be delivered by distance learning.

Student activities will include online discussions, problem based-learning, tutorials and independent study that will involve considering different world views and looking at real-life, real-world problems. This provides a student centred approach to learning and can assist in making learning effective. In addition, the learning associated with the use of these activities may contribute to students' employability skills which will be transferrable and beneficial to the world of work. The assessment strategy will ensure there are multiple points to access formative and summative feedback to enable students to feedforward to improve their academic skills as the module and programme progresses.

Module descriptors are all available to students via the UWS public website Programme Specifications and Module Descriptors (PSMD) link, which can be viewed at: <http://psmd.uws.ac.uk/>. Modules within the suite available have presentations with voiceovers, interactive exercises and links to additional study materials, all of which are designed to stimulate student learning.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

UWS Graduate Attributes aim to prepare graduates who will be Universal, Work ready and Successful. 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' this programme develops graduates with new knowledge and skills to be able to effectively work with Mentally Disordered Offenders. In addition, it ensures they are able to critically reflect on issues, be able to decide on appropriate assessments / interventions -based on sound evidence- and are well prepared for more advanced roles within their respective organisations.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

This programme does not include opportunities for work-based learning, 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. The focus is predominantly on a theoretical masters, but there are examples of skills based practice throughout the programme.

Engagement

In line with the Academic Engagement Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

Equality and Diversity

Further information on the institutional approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/uws-commitments/equality-diversity-inclusion/>

At UWS and within the School of Health and Life Sciences we are committed to advancing and promoting equality and diversity in all of our activities and aim to establish an inclusive culture, free from discrimination and based upon the values of fairness, dignity and respect.

We do this by promoting equality, valuing diversity and communicating the importance of dignity both at work and study. We are committed to enhancing wellbeing; see <https://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/supportingyour-health-wellbeing/> and have the structures, leadership and support in place to embed equality. For further information, see <https://www.uws.ac.uk/aboutuws/uws-commitments/equality-diversity-inclusion/>

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

A. PG Cert

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11139	Mental Disorder and the Law	20	✓			
11	NURS11136	Forensic Risk Assessment and Risk Management	20		✓		
11	NURS11163	Managing Mental Health through CJS	20			✓	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Criteria for Progression and Award

Successful completion of 60 credits from year one, or 40 credits from year one and at least 20 from year two (excluding research Health and Social Care) is required for the award of Post Graduate Certificate Forensic Mental

11	NURS11140	Problem Behaviours	30	✓			
11	MIDW11003	Research for Health & Social Care	20		✓		
11	NURS11137	Forensic Treatments and Interventions	10			✓	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Criteria for Progression and Award

Successful completion of year 2 core modules (Problem Behaviours, Research for Health and Social Care, and Forensic Treatments and Interventions) in addition to year 1 core modules, are required to exit with the award of Post Graduate Diploma Forensic Mental Health.

Distinction will be awarded in line with UWS Regulatory Framework.

In order to progress with MSc Forensic Mental Health, students should achieve 120 credits before they progress to the MSc Dissertation (HLS).

Should the student fail to achieve 120 credits - after all attempts have been made - they can exit with a Post Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health if at least 60 credits have been achieved from year 1 modules, or 40 credits from year one and 20 credits from year two modules - excluding the Research Health and Social Care Module.

C. 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11010	MSc Dissertation (HLS)	60	✓	✓	✓	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Students undertaking the MSc Dissertation (HLS) will engage with the on-line materials. It is a significant component of the MSc programme and develops and encourages the student to pursue under supervision, a sustained programme of individual autonomous work related to the field of forensic mental health culminating in the development of a robust research protocol.

Research Protocol

The protocol will be presented within the prescribed word limit. An academic supervisor will support the student in defining their search strategy, developing and identifying a research question and identify, critically appraise, select and synthesize quality empirical literature relevant to that question.

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Criteria for Award

On successful completion of the Research MSc Dissertation (HLS) along with Year 1 and 2 modules, the student will be awarded MSc Forensic Mental Health.

Distinction will be awarded in line with UWS Regulatory Framework.

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 an exit award of PgCert/ PgDip in Combined Studies.

Changes

Changes made to the programme since it was last published:

Updated Programme Overview to reflect withdrawal of Drugs and Alcohol Module from Year 1 and change of credits for Managing Mental health through the CJS from 10 to 20 credits

P.G. Cert Core Modules: Deleted Drugs and Alcohol module, Managing Mental Health through the CJS 10 credit module deleted and Managing Mental Health through CJS 20 credit module added

P.G. Dip Core Modules: Update Forensic Treatments and Interventions module from T2 to T3 delivery

Engagement: Deleted text relating to professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements.

Version Number: 1.04