

Programme Specification

BSc Psychology with Criminology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: C8M9

UFPYWCR

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Psychology with Criminology with Professional Placement - 4 years (UCAS Code: CM89)
Accreditation	British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartership
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Psychology; Criminology

Programme information and content

This programme provides a solid grounding in the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology as a social, cognitive, forensic, and biological science to help us explain human behaviour, integrating with wider sociological and criminological concepts, approaches, and methodologies. It will support students to consider key contemporary and historical issues at an individual and systemic level.

In Psychology, you will develop knowledge of psychological concepts and their supporting evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society (BPS) accreditation for Graduate Basis of Chartership (GBC). You will learn about historical and cutting-edge research – its methods, applications, and unresolved issues, and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out yourself, with staff research expertise providing stimulation, guidance, and high-quality facilities.

In Criminology, you will develop knowledge of a range of criminological concepts, approaches, and methodologies, supporting you to develop a critical understanding of processes of criminalisation and victimisation, the causes and organisation of crime, crime management and prevention, the interrelationship between crime, social inequalities, and rights, punishment, and media representations of crime.

By completing modules in both Psychology and Criminology, students will engage with key questions from each discipline and explore how they relate to one another. This interdisciplinary study encourages students to consider how psychological theories of behaviour inform criminological questions about offender motivations, criminal justice processes, and rehabilitation, providing a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between individual behaviour and broader social issues.

Throughout this programme, you will have the opportunity to develop various skills, in particular relating to research methods, written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, self-awareness, personal effectiveness, use of IT, critical thinking and problem-solving, project management and reporting, as well as encouraged to explore further opportunities available outside the curriculum, which will prepare you for further study and the world of work.	
Part 1:	Part 1 introduces the core concepts, theories, and approaches employed in Psychology and Criminology. You will build your knowledge of the British Psychological Society core domains and develop your understanding of criminological theories and the workings and limitations of the criminal justice system.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will build on the foundations established in Part 1 by deepening your engagement with psychological and criminological theories. You will receive focussed training on practical skills such as conducting and reporting experiment, including collecting and analysing data. Additionally, you will study of crime and criminal justice through justice policy and research methodology.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students can complete a placement year between Parts 2 and 3.
Part 3:	In Part 3, you will apply your knowledge to more specialist areas by choosing from a range of research-led modules in Psychology and Criminology led by experts in those fields. You will also design and implement your own research project in Psychology. The projects will be based in Psychology but with a focus that relate to criminology or forensic psychology.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Psychology with Criminology

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and evidence in six core domains of psychology: individual differences, biological, cognitive, development, and social psychology, and conceptual and historical issues in psychology.
2	Demonstrate an understanding of a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within criminology and critically evaluate their applicability to real life problems. This includes evaluating the criminal justice system and allied agencies, and considering the impact on groups in society
3	To effectively integrate knowledge from different fields of psychology, criminology, and cognate areas
4	To explain the practical applications of psychological and criminological theory and research to contemporary and socially relevant issues
5	To develop a critical understanding of the societal, cultural, and legal contexts in which psychological and criminological knowledge is applied

6	To develop awareness of ethical, social and global issues in research and professional practice in forensic psychology and criminology.
7	To use evidence-based reasoning and/or data to argue and critically evaluate a claim
8	To demonstrate practical research skills in relation to data collection, data management and analysis, using a broad variety of quantitative and qualitative methods
9	To critically evaluate the design and conduct of psychological and criminological research
10	To demonstrate transferrable skills including teamwork, independent work, concise written and oral communication, the use of IT skills to write, present and visualise information

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
Placement By the end of the Placement Year programme, students will have contextualised their academic learning in a placement role relevant to their programme of studies and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Part 1 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW1ICJ	Introduction to Criminal Justice	20	4
LW1ICR	Introduction to Criminology	20	4
PY1DMH	Debates in Mental Health	20	4
PY1IPR	Introduction to Psychological Research	20	4
PY1LAL	Learning about Learning	20	4
PY1PAB	The Person and the Brain	20	4
PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1PAB & PY1LAL are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).			

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW2ACT	Advanced Criminological Theory	20	5
LW2CCJ	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice	20	5
PY2CBP	Cognitive and Biological Psychology	20	5
PY2DAL	Development across the lifespan	20	5
PY2RMP	Research methods in Psychology	20	5
PY2SID	Social Psychology and Individual Differences	20	5

PY2CBP, PY2DAL, PY2RMP & PY2SID are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY2PRP	Professional Placement	120	2

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY3AFPC	Applied Forensic Psychology and Criminology (AFPC)	20	6
PY3FATP	Forensic Psychology: Applying Theory and Practice	20	6
PY3P	Project	40	6

PY3P is required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

Students must select a further 20 credits of modules from the list available from the School of Law. Students may select a further 20 credits from either the Psychology and Clinical Language Science or the School of Law. Students may not select LW3CDS Criminology Dissertation.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

Students may undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

Study Abroad:

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Students will have the opportunity to learn from academic staff who are passionate about teaching and experts in their field. Our strategy to teaching and learning is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, support, and opportunities to apply their learning to thrive in a global workplace.

Students are required to attend programme sessions and engage in independent learning activities, such as engaging in readings, preparing for sessions, using available staff drop-in hours, and maintaining contact with their academic tutor.

Students will experience a diverse range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the subjects they will study and the overall aims of the programme. In Part 1 and Part 2, modules are taught in a variety of ways, including interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, and lab classes. All the core teaching materials will also be available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, in which everything such as lecture and seminar slides, screencasts, to external supporting materials are stored. Blackboard also features forums and online discussion boards where students can ask questions and discuss ideas. At Part 3 there continue to be interactive lectures and seminars.

The Research Methods teaching is supported by a mixture of interactive workshops, practical and specialist drop-in sessions. Throughout the programme students will complete practical research work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or pairs (Part 2 and Part 3 project). Each module's assessable learning outcomes are typically assessed by a mixture of authentic assessments and formal examination. Authentic assessments include, essays, project reports, reflective writing, oral and poster presentations, portfolios, and continuous assessment questions. Contact hours vary in each year of the degree. Hours depend upon each student's module combination; information about module contact hours can be in the relevant module description. Most modules are delivered and assessed within one semester (either semester 1 or 2). A small number of modules that include the delivery of research methods and professional skills are delivered throughout both semesters. Throughout all years of taught content, we scaffold our students' practical, transferable, and intellectual skills development enabling students to grow and further develop. Students will

also learn about different careers in Psychology and Criminology throughout their modules and will be encouraged to reflect on how they are developing transferrable skills across the programme.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

Accreditation details British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC). To qualify for BPS GBC, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Pass PY1IPR + PY1DMH + PY1LAL + PY1PAB with a minimum of 40% (see progression rules for further details).
2. Pass PY2RMP + PY2CBP + PY2SID + PY2DAL with a minimum of 40% (see progression rules for further details); except when they have taken Study Abroad (see above for details)
3. Pass PY3P with a minimum of 40%
4. Gain at least a Lower Second-Class Honours degree.

Assessment

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1LAL, PY1PAB).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree).

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) obtain marks of at least 40% in all modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY2RMP, PY2CBP, PY2DAL, PY2SID).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard
0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

You will incur some additional costs during your programme of study. A wide range of resources to support your learning, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. For some modules, we will recommend that you purchase a copy of the textbook, and there may be other books/resources which it would be convenient for you to buy. We recommend that you budget between £125 to £225 per year.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Psychology with Criminology for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

1 July 2026

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