

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

## **Programme Specification**

BSc (Hons) Professional Policing  
7191

Date of Approval: September 2021

Approved Final Version for  
September 2022

## 1. BSc

**Final award title:** BSc (Hons) Professional Policing

**Level 6 Intermediate award title(s):** BSc Policing

The BSc Policing intermediate award title is achieved by successfully attaining 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 80 credits at level 6. The 80 credits at level 6 can be achieved through any combination of the programme's level 6 modules. **The College of Policing does not license the BSc Policing intermediate award and, therefore, the award is not a pre-join pathway into the police force.**

**Level 5 Intermediate award title(s):** Diploma in Higher Education

**Level 4 Intermediate award title(s):** Certificate in Higher Education

**UCAS code:** L900

**HECOS code:** 100486

**2. Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

**Teaching institution(s):** University of Plymouth

**3. Licencing body(ies):** The College of Policing

**Date of licence renewal:** September 2025

Please note, this Professional Policing degree does not guarantee entry into employment as a police constable or any police staff position. It is tailored towards developing the skills, knowledge, experience and personal confidence students will need to apply for any of the posts offered by the police service. It will also prepare them for other roles in the increasingly pluralised environment of policing in the UK.

Each Police force in England and Wales has its own recruitment process, selection policy, and entry requirements. Upon successful graduation, students who wish to apply to the Police force should check their eligibility against the respective force's website.

## 4. Modes of Delivery

The BSc (Hons) Professional Policing is offered as a full-time, three-year degree course, with no part-time or accelerated pathways. The programme's delivery

comprises a mixture of live lectures, seminars, workshops, and informal discussion groups, focusing on practical, hands-on learning and scenario-based teaching.

## 5. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

The key features of the Professional Policing programme at Plymouth are:

- **Experienced Staff:** The programme is delivered by staff with significant police leadership experience in key specialisms such as firearms and public order command, equality and diversity, and countercorruption. This provides students with unparalleled access to real-life examples of theoretical content to aid and enhance the learning experience.
- **Crime Scene Simulations:** Students are prepared for real-world policing within a supportive environment where they are immersed in realistic, live-action and virtual reality crime scenes and face-to-face suspect interviews with experienced actors.
- **Research Led Teaching:** The College of Policing's curriculum is augmented by staff who have researched and written extensively on many areas of policing, from the history of Chief Constables to police leadership, multiagency partnerships, public order, and the hidden aspects of police corruption and deviance.
- **Student-Centred:** The Professional Policing programme is designed to equip students to take advantage of the wide range of employment opportunities within the broader policing context. The enhancement of students' transferable, employable, and careers skills is woven into the degree's fabric. Opportunities to work with and experience local policing organisations are critical elements to familiarising students with the world of professional policing.

## 6. Facilities and Resources

Below is an outline of the specialist facilities and resources available the programme:

- **Immersive Media Lab,** comprising multiple virtual and augmented reality headsets (VR/AR). These facilities allow students to experience and engage in realistic crime scene scenarios, including using virtual equipment such as cameras, swabs, and UV lighting to examine the scene and collect evidence.
- **Crime Scene Lab** with lifelike forensic mannequins. This facility allows students to be immersed in realistic face-to-face crime scene scenarios, allowing them to work in groups to secure and preserve the scene and physically collect evidence.

- **Police Interview Lab** with audio and video equipment to capture students interviewing trained actors within a crime simulation. The lab has a two-way mirror that allows students to watch the interview unfold in real-time.
- **Interactive Online Crime Simulations** such as Operation Pheidippides and Operation Tandem. These are crime scenarios that students can access asynchronously at home to hone their investigative skills by developing a hypothesis and analysing crime evidence and data in structured scenarios.

Additionally, all students have access to the University’s central facilities such as the Library, IT suites, and social learning spaces. Full details of these can be found on the student portal.

## 7. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmark for [Criminology](#) (2019).

## 8. Programme Structure

Level 4 introduces students to the structure and function of policing in Britain, first responders, and community policing and builds students' ability to engage in problem-solving policing, underpinned by the importance of evidence-based and intelligence-led policing. The year also equips learners with knowledge of criminological theory.

<b>Level 4</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
PPD4001 Introduction to British Policing 20 credits	PPD4004 Getting the Grease to the Squeak 20 credits
PPD4002 First Responders 20 credits	PPD4005 Moving Beyond the 'Bobby on the Beat' 20 credits
PPD4003 The Importance of Knowledge in Policing 20 credits	PPD4006 Why Crimes Occur and How to Prevent Them 20 credits

Level 5, Semester 1 is designed to immerse students in the process of putting together a case to present in a Crown Prosecution Service charging meeting. They will start by arriving at a crime scene and learning how to harvest evidence and interview suspects. Students will learn how to develop and investigate a hypothesis to present to the Crown Prosecution Service that is supported by the evidence they have discovered. In Semester 2, the journey extends to using the national Decision Model to make critical decisions and the impact of equality and diversity on unconscious bias in that process. Students will also prepare their research skills in readiness for their final year dissertation.

<b>Level 5</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
PPD5001 Crime Scenes and Suspect Interviews 20 credits	PPD5004 Managing Critical Incidents 20 credits
PPD5002 No Witness, No Justice 20 credits	PPD5005 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights 20 credits
PPD5003 Delivering Justice 20 credits	PPD5006 Research and Methodology Skills 20 credits

The dissertation runs across both semesters and encourages students to engage with real-world policing research issues through links with the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner. Students will also apply their thinking skills to advanced and emerging areas of policing such as counter-terrorism, safeguarding the vulnerable, police corruption, and digital policing.

All three years will incorporate the development of communication skills, personal confidence building, CV enhancement activities and employability skills to prepare them for the varied careers available in the policing sector.

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
PPD6000 Dissertation 40 Credits	
PPD6001 Working Together to Keep People Safe in a Democracy 20 credits	PPD6003 Keeping People Safe in the Digital Age 20 credits
PPD6002 Understanding and Managing Vulnerability 20 credits	PPD6004 Who Guards the Guards Themselves? 20 credits

## **9. Programme Aims**

The Professional Policing programme aims to:

- Provide students with an integral and cohesive understanding of how to engage in lawful, safe and effective frontline policing in the specific professional areas of response policing, policing communities, policing the roads, information and intelligence, and conducting investigation.

- Develop knowledge and analytical skills through applied teaching that reflects and integrates scholarly research activity, allowing students to research, develop, implement and review, from an academic perspective, evidence-based initiatives to improve policing performance.
- Provide students with comprehensive knowledge and understanding of criminological theories, methods and paradigms applicable to the study of harm, deviance and crime, and the policy, politics and practice of criminal justice.
- Develop a range of personal and employable skills that equip students as reflective employees and life-long learners.
- Provide students with opportunities to frame their learning in a policing context without the need to be engaged in frontline policing. This could include the use of case studies, simulations, etc.
- Produce individuals who can critically view the world and interrogate it through robust methodological approaches.

## **10. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

Each of the programme's Module Learning Outcomes are mapped both to the below Programme Learning Outcomes and to the National Policing Curriculum as licenced by the College of Policing. Please click [here](#) to view the minimum content for each learning outcome of the National Policing Curriculum.

### **10.1 Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. A comprehensive knowledge of policing, crime, deviance, and harm and society's responses to them, including criminal justice approaches and how responses differ according to the changing values and relationships between individuals, groups, and public and private agencies at different national and international levels.
2. A sophisticated understanding of the criminological theories and perspectives that are used to examine, analyse, and evaluate complex policing problems, policies, and practices.
3. The ability to discuss policing topics with an appreciation of critical theory, evidence, and relevance to current debates, specifically looking to the future development of evidence-based policing.

### **10.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Use a range of research strategies and methods, assess the appropriateness of their use, and identify an appropriate strategy for specific research problems within policing studies.
2. Critically appraise political and social processes of victimisation and criminalisation in light of criminological theories and policing responses.
3. Synthesise complex criminological theory with applied policing knowledge to provide an analytical account of social diversity and inequality and their effects on crime, victimisation, and responses to crime, deviance, and social harm.

### **10.3. Key and transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Demonstrate good communication skills in written and oral contexts in a variety of appropriate academic formats and in individual and group settings, including the capacity to present conclusions convincingly.
2. Utilise and manage information effectively and ethically from a range of sources to solve policing problems.
3. Work autonomously to produce set tasks and to develop new ideas using robust methodological approaches.

### **10.4. Employment related skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Show career awareness that will enable lifelong learning.
2. Reflect on own practice and development to inform personal and professional development within a harm-minimisation framework.
3. Be flexible in applying policing and criminological skills in a range of workplaces, seek out employment opportunities, and prepare/deliver effective CVs and interviews.

### **10.5. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Identify appropriate research strategies for specific policing research problems.
2. Summarise and analyse quantitative and qualitative empirical data about crime, deviance and harm and responses to them to evaluate competing theories and produce evidence-based policing responses.
3. Recognise the ethical implications of research into policing questions and identify appropriate solutions.

## 11. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the grading system until 2017).

All applications for undergraduate courses are made through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). UCAS will ask for the information contained on page 2 of this Programme Specification, including the UCAS course code and the institution code. Please visit the UCAS website to apply for this course and for more information about applying, including application deadline dates. The University of Plymouth offers advice and guidance on all aspects of the application process. Further information can be found [here](#).

<b>Entry Requirements for BSc (Hons) Professional Policing</b>	
A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are A level/AS level/Vocational A level: 104-120 points
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Grade Pass MMM - DMM in any subject.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subject, including GCSE English and Maths grade 4 or above or equivalent with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	Accept as add on points; in addition to 2 A Levels
Scottish Qualifications Authority	104-120 points
Irish Leaving Certificate	Obtain H4, H4, H4, H4, H4 - H3 H3 H4 H4 H4 (all at Higher level)
International Baccalaureate	26-30 overall to include 4 at in any subjects at Higher Level. English accepted within Higher Level = 4+ (A1) or 5 (A2/B) Standard Level = 5+ (A1) or 6 (A2/B) If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

## 12. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 .
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
<b>BSc Policing</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 80 credits at level 6. The 80 credits at level 6 can be achieved through any combination of the programme's level 6 modules. The College of Policing does not license the BSc Policing intermediate award and,

	therefore, the award is not a pre-join pathway into the police force.
<b>BSc (Hons) Professional Policing</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

**13. Non Standard Regulations**

N/A

**14. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme**

N/A

**Appendices**

**Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules**

**Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes**

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)															Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding			Cognitive & intellectual skills			Key & transferable skills			Employment related skills			Practical skills				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3		
Level 4	PPD4001	x			x			x			x			x			N	C1 100%
	PPD4002	x									x			x			N	C1 100%
	PPD4003	x			x							x					N	C1 100%
	PPD4004	x			x									x			N	C1 100%
	PPD4005	x												x			N	P1 100%
	PPD4006	x						x							x		N	C1 100%
		x			x			x			x	x		x	x			
Level 5	PPD5001		x							x			x		x		N	C1 100%
	PPD5002		x						x				x		x		N	C1 100%
	PPD5003		x						x				x				N	P1 100%
	PPD5004		x						x							x	N	C1 100%
	PPD5005		x			x				x	x						N	C1 100%
	PPD5006				x					x				x	x		N	C1 100%
			x		x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Level 6	PPD6000			x			x			x	x					x	N	C1 100%
	PPD6001			x			x		x								N	C1 100%
	PPD6002			x			x		x								N	C1 100%
	PPD6003			x			x						x				N	C1 100%
	PPD6004			x			x			x			x			x	N	C1 100%
Level 6 LOs				x			x		x	x			x			x		
Confirmed Award LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		