

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

<b>Basic Course Information</b>		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Social Sciences/City
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	DPsych in Forensic Psychology, Part-time
4.	Normal Duration:	2.5 years
5.	UCAS Code:	

### 6. **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The DPsych in forensic psychology is a research based professional doctoral course for practicing forensic psychologists and aims to develop reflective researching practitioners. Mandatory entry requirements include evidence of Chartership as Forensic Psychologist with the British Psychological Society and/or Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration as a forensic psychologist.

The course aims to:

- provide you with an opportunity to explore the complex relationships between knowledge, theory and practice in forensic psychology *and* to explore the complex relationship between understanding the sector and changing it;
- enable you to develop as reflective researching practitioners in the field of forensic psychology through the synthesis of practice with research;
- develop your ability to design and implement independent and original research at the boundaries of knowledge of forensic psychology;
- give you an opportunity to develop their judgement, foresight and problem analysis by applying theoretical and philosophically tuned skills to the research material.
- enable you to undertake critical investigation and evaluation of a forensic psychology topic in order to develop the intellectual and personal adaptability to be able to inform organisational and societal change.
- Create a structure for you to develop communication skills and to communicate effectively with both academics and practitioners from the world of education and the communities in which people live, and to act as interpreters between the two.
- nurture professional development by facilitating reflection on the contribution of research to professional practice.

#### **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

**Knowledge and understanding**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Display critical investigation and evaluation of a topic from an advanced body of literature relevant to forensic psychology practice.
- Display an independent and original contribution to forensic psychology knowledge to inform professional practice.
- Critically reflect on the acquisition of new knowledge to inform forensic psychology practice.
- Draw on practice experience and knowledge to inform research at the current limits of the forensic psychology field.
- Display advanced understanding of research methods with its application to forensic psychology practice.
- Systematically acquire an advanced body of knowledge, which is at the forefront of professional forensic psychology practice

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Conceptualise, design and implement appropriate applied research methodologies and adjust project design in light of unforeseen problems or contradictions
- Make informed judgements on the results of research and communicate ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Generate, interpret and apply new knowledge, techniques and skills in the forensic psychology professional field
- Exercise personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations in a professional environment, with a high level of responsibility for others.
- Reflection on personal developments and lessons learned through the completion of doctoral applied research.
- Reflect on the developments on own practice and the wider practice and future of forensic psychology.
- Reflection on the contribution provided as an active member of the wider professional forensic psychology community and links with both professional and academic communities.

**Teaching and learning methods**

There are no mandatory teaching elements in this course but there will be optional DPsych research workshops provided. These workshops will combine teaching with practical application and consideration of the student's own research. Although the workshops and additional training are optional, if placed within the Individual Learning

Plan (ILP) for a student, students are expected to attend the workshop during their registration on the course. There is also provision for specialist training which can be applied for by students throughout the course

Students will also be provided a supervision team, of at least 2 staff who will provide academic supervision across the course modules and assessments.

Students will be also directed to appropriate web addresses, specialist texts and primary literature by supervisors and workshop lecturers. Students must also undertake extensive independent studies without direction from staff as part of your independent learning time. This will involve independent reading in the appropriate topic areas and undertaking applied research projects.

### **Assessment methods**

The DPsych utilises a variety of methods of assessment to capture the researching practitioner focus on the course. The assessments include research projects, a structured evaluation report and a reflective commentary. The thesis portfolio assessment is completed through Viva Voce examination.

The indicative content of the thesis portfolio may include :

1. A structured evaluation of a contemporary topic in forensic psychology;
2. A dissertation based on primary research;
3. Individual Learning Plan and Reflections on Progress.

Students may be awarded an MProf in Forensic Psychology at any point from the end of year 2 of the course. Students who wish to withdraw before completion of the DPsych, if meeting the criteria for the MProf award, may submit for examination for this award.

### **Course structure and curriculum**

The DPsych in Forensic Psychology consists of 540 credits with 180 level 7 credits awarded as APL, at admission, for completion of an MSc in Forensic Psychology (or equivalent).

A further 60 level 8 APL credits can be awarded on evidence of D level research competence which will exempt students from Module 1.

The course comprises 2 modules and includes an individual learning plans. These plans are reviewed regularly and include your written reflections on development.

#### **Module 1 : Foundations in Research (60 credits)**

This module aims to develop research competence suitable to undertake the DPsych thesis portfolio.

The aims of the module are:

- Research a topic or issue in forensic psychology at Doctoral level
- Understand how the process of research and analysis can be utilised to structure developments in forensic psychology professional practice
- Conceptualise, design and implement appropriate research methodologies and adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems and contradictions
- Nurture professional development as a reflective researching practitioner in the field of forensic psychology

- Exercise personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in undertaking research in complex and unpredictable situations in professional or environments.

### **Module 2 : Thesis Portfolio (300 credits)**

The aim of this module is to develop doctoral level researching practitioners in the field of forensic psychology. Its core objectives are to:

- provide students with an opportunity to explore the complex relationships between knowledge, theory and practice in forensic psychology and to explore the complex relationship between understanding the sector and changing it;
- enable students to develop as reflective researching practitioners in the field of forensic psychology through the synthesis of practice with research;
- develop students' ability to design and implement independent and original research at the boundaries of knowledge of forensic psychology;
- give students an opportunity to develop their judgement, foresight and problem analysis by applying theoretical and philosophically tuned skills to the research material.
- enable students to undertake critical investigation and evaluation of a forensic psychology topic in order to develop the intellectual and personal adaptability to be able to inform organisational and societal change.

### **Admission to the course**

Entry requirements

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

#### **Entry requirements (to be placed on webpage)**

All candidates must have BPS chartership or HCPC registration as a Forensic Psychologist to undertake this course. In addition, candidates must provide evidence of a relevant MSc or equivalent (minimum 180 M-level credits) to be accepted onto the course.

#### **Accreditation of Prior Learning**

Candidates can apply for 60 D level APL credits which will be applied for those with BPS 'Qualification in Forensic Psychology' or with evidence of equivalent research competence.

#### **International Students**

This programme requires you to have a BPS Chartership or Registration as a Forensic Psychologist and a relevant MSc but is open to overseas students who hold the entry requirements. Applicants from overseas are expected to have a good command of spoken and written English. International applicants will be required to have IELTS 7.00. Non UK academic qualifications will be assessed in comparison to their UK equivalents. The Division of Psychology has its own international student officer who looks after the interests of international students within the Division.

### **Support for learning**

Students will be have a supervision team during their course of study, with at least

two supervisors, who will provide you with pastoral and academic support throughout your study. You will also meet your course leader, other members of the cohort and a range of other teaching staff during an induction event which will be organised before the course begins. You will also be provided with a Course Handbook which will include a range of information about studying at Nottingham Trent University.

During the course you will be provided feedback on progress from supervisors, through annual reviews including feedback from an independent staff member.

### **Graduate destinations/employability**

The DPsych provides chartered and registered forensic psychologists with a doctoral degree, similar to those in other psychology professions. Graduates can therefore access employment which requires doctoral-level degrees (e.g. academic practice) and develop higher-level research and evaluation skills for senior positions within forensic and non-forensic organisations.

### **Course standards and quality**

Responsibility for the standards and quality of the course rest with the Course Committee, external examiners and the Progress Board. Other groups that will input into the quality assurance for the programme are the Psychology Teaching Committee and the Graduate School.

At a more local level, quality assurance and enhancement issues are monitored by the Module Leaders, who are encouraged to position themselves as 'reflective practitioners', critically evaluating the quality of their modules. Part of this role involves their writing an annual report on their module, which requires them to reflect, on the basis of evidence, on the module's strengths and potential areas for development. An annual Course report combines these and wider considerations into a review of the course by the Course Leader.

### **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

The course will operate within the regulations for Professional Doctorates (located in section 4D of the Quality Handbook). Module 1 assessment will be provided as PASS or FAIL only with Module 2 available awards as detailed in Section 4D.

### **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s): n/a

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

Course recognised by:

Date this course specification approved:

Any additional information: