

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **BSc Honours Degree programme in Criminology and Psychology**. This specification is valid for new entrants from September 2013.

The aims of the Joint Honours Degree programme in Criminology and Psychology are:

- to develop a sound and extensive knowledge base in psychology and criminology;
- to produce a scientific understanding of mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and of the complex interactions between these;
- to enable students to acquire the knowledge which will enable them to understand complex social problems;
- to present multiple perspectives in a way that fosters critical evaluation in Psychology and Criminology;
- to allow students to gain an understanding of real life applications of theory to the full range of experience and behaviour in Psychology and Criminology;
- to deliver teaching within a flexible and progressive structure which will enable students to acquire knowledge, understanding and appropriate skills relevant to Psychology and Criminology;
- to develop in students an understanding of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory and the way in which theory guides the collection and interpretation of empirical data in Psychology and Criminology;
- to provide knowledge of a range of research skills, techniques, and methods for investigating experience and behaviour in Psychology and Criminology;
- to provide students with the knowledge and skills to be able to appreciate and critically evaluate theory, research findings, and applications in Psychology and Criminology;
- to develop key communication and IT skills.

The programme is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The curriculum is based around a core of mandatory units. Stage one provides a foundation for the later stages by providing a grounding in the main areas of psychology and criminology. In stage two, several of these areas are developed further and in greater depth. In stage three, students are given the opportunity to study specialist areas of psychology and criminology.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

## Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

Students will develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding in some or all (depending on the options chosen) of the following core areas of Psychology:

- biological psychology, including biological bases of behaviour, hormones and behaviour, neuropsychology, neuroscience, and evolutionary psychology;
- cognitive psychology, including perception, attention, learning, memory, thinking, language, consciousness and cognitive neuropsychology;
- developmental psychology, including infancy, childhood, adolescence, socio-emotional development, cognitive and language development, atypical development and social and cultural contexts of development;
- personality and individual differences, including abnormal and normal personality, psychological testing, intelligence, cognitive style, emotion, motivation and mood;
- social psychology, including social cognition, close relationships, attribution, attitudes, group processes and intergroup relations;
- conceptual issues in psychology, including the role of psychology as a science, introspectionist and behaviourist approaches to human behaviour, cognition and computers, historical concepts and current approaches, feminist psychology, psychology in a socio-political context;
- ethical, theoretical and practical issues in research.

In relation to Criminology, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- knowledge of key concepts and theoretical approaches that have been developed and are developing within criminology and the ability to critically evaluate their application;
- an understanding of the value of comparative analysis;
- an understanding of the relationship between individuals, groups and social institutions in relation to criminology;
- an understanding of the social processes underpinning social change and the criminal justice system;
- an understanding of the nature and appropriate use of diverse research strategies and methods in developing criminological knowledge;
- an understanding of the relationship between criminological argument and evidence;
- an awareness of the distinctive character of both criminology in relation to other forms of understanding, such as its relation to other disciplines and to everyday explanations.

### *Skills and other attributes*

- integrating and applying ideas and findings across the multiple perspectives in psychology and criminology, recognising distinctive psychological approaches to relevant issues;
- identifying and evaluating general patterns in behaviour, psychological functioning and experience;
- the ability to provide an analytical account of social diversity and inequality and their effects in relation to crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance;
- the ability to evaluate policing practices and developments in terms of changing values and relationships between individuals, groups, and public and private agencies in different locations;
- the ability to examine critically the values, practices and processes of governance, including human rights, that underpin youth and criminal justice and agencies which administer sentencing and alternatives;
- analysing data using both quantitative and qualitative methods, and presenting and evaluating research findings;\*
- employing evidence-based scientific reasoning and examining practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with the use of different methodologies, paradigms and methods of analysis in psychology and criminology;
- use of a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments;
- defining research problems, generating and exploring testable hypotheses and research questions,

- choosing appropriate methodologies, evaluating methodologies and analyses employed, planning and carrying out independent empirical research;
- clear and concise presentation of complex information, both orally and in writing;\*
- computer literacy (including spreadsheets, databases, word processing, e-mail, and the world wide web);\*
- retrieve and organise information effectively and handle primary source material critically;\*
- teamwork and, where appropriate, collaboration with colleagues, research participants and outside agencies;\*
- problem solving;\*
- sensitivity to contextual and interpersonal factors in behaviour;\*
- independence and pragmatism as a learner;\*
- team working, negotiation and collaboration;\*
- independent and reflective learning;\*
- good time management.\*

\* transferable skills

[Back to top](#)

### Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is mostly by means of lectures and tutorials, the latter generally providing a forum for students, with the support of their instructors, to engage in critical analysis and discussion of topics in a smaller and more interactive setting. Seminars, laboratory classes and practical workshops are also key teaching forums. Learning is through participation in teaching sessions, designated reading and completion of coursework. Essays and short written answers ensure that the skills of exposition and critique are developed and evaluated. The College [Computer Centre](#) provides IT training and students are expected to meet basic standards in information technology. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by a combination of formal, unseen written examination and coursework. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Departments: [Psychology](#) or [Criminology](#).

[Back to top](#)

### Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the Departments: [Psychology](#) or [Criminology](#).

#### Joint Honours Degree: Criminology and Psychology:

|                   |  |          |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| <i>Stage one:</i> | <u>Students must take in Psychology:</u>           |          |
|                   | PS1021 Learning and Memory                         | 0.5 unit |
|                   | PS1030 Self and Society                            | 0.5 unit |
|                   | PS1060 Biological Foundations of Psychology        | 0.5 unit |
|                   | PS1110 Introduction to Abnormal Psychology         | 0.5 unit |
|                   | <u>Students must take in Criminology:</u>          |          |
|                   | CR1011 Introduction to Criminology                 | 1.0 unit |
|                   | CR1013 Criminal Justice System                     | 1.0 unit |
| <i>Stage two:</i> | <u>Students must take in Psychology:</u>           |          |
|                   | PS2030 Social Psychology                           | 0.5 unit |
|                   | PS2040 Developmental Psychology                    | 0.5 unit |
|                   | PS2050 Personality and Individual Differences      | 0.5 unit |
|                   | PS2080 Conceptual Issues in Psychology             | 0.5 unit |
|                   | <u>Students must take in Criminology:</u>          |          |
|                   | CR2010 Research Methods for Psychologists          | 0.5 unit |
|                   | CR2030 Data Analysis for Psychologists             | 0.5 unit |
|                   | CR2013 Key Perspectives and Debates in Criminology | 1.0 unit |

|                     |   |          |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| <i>Stage three:</i> | <u>Students must take in Psychology:</u>  |          |
|                     | PS2021 Cognitive psychology               | 0.5 unit |
|                     | PS2061 Brain and Behaviour                | 0.5 unit |
|                     | <u>Students must take in Criminology:</u> |          |
|                     | CR3011 Dissertation (psychological focus) | 1.0 unit |

Students must take two options in Psychology from the following\*:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| PS3022 Language, Communication, and Thought               | 0.5 unit |
| PS3030 Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience                  | 0.5 unit |
| PS3041 Advanced Developmental Psychology                  | 0.5 unit |
| PS3050 Health Psychology                                  | 0.5 unit |
| PS3060 Perception and Awareness of the World and the Self | 0.5 unit |
| PS3061 The Ageing Brain                                   | 0.5 unit |
| PS3090 Advanced and Applied Social Psychology             | 0.5 unit |
| PS3110 Adult Psychological Problems                       | 0.5 unit |
| PS3121 Developmental Disorders                            | 0.5 unit |
| PS3131 Human Neuropsychology                              | 0.5 unit |
| PS3141 Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience                | 0.5 unit |
| PS3151 Occupational and Organisational Psychology         | 0.5 unit |
| PS3171 Human Performance: Work, Sport and Medicine        | 0.5 unit |
| PS3181 Criminal and Forensic Psychology                   | 0.5 unit |
| PS3190 Educational Psychology                             | 0.5 unit |

Students must take two options in Criminology from the following\*:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| CR3003 Youth in Society: Deviance and Delinquency                | 0.5 unit |
| CR3004 Youth in Society: Culture, Subculture and Transgression   | 0.5 unit |
| CR3005 Crime and the Media                                       | 0.5 unit |
| CR3006 Crime and Literature                                      | 0.5 unit |
| CR3008 Critical Readings in Criminology                          | 0.5 unit |
| CR3009 Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary Society                | 0.5 unit |
| CR3010 Race, Crime and Justice                                   | 0.5 unit |
| CR3012 Health Care: Sociological and Criminological Perspectives | 0.5 unit |
| CR3020 Risk Insecurity and Terrorism                             | 0.5 unit |
| CR3024 Health Care: Criminological and Sociological Perspectives | 0.5 unit |
| CR3015 Children, Society and Risk                                | 0.5 unit |
| CR3023 Prisons   | 0.5 unit |

\* Option selections must be approved by the Academic Coordinator in the relevant department given options available in any particular year.

Note: An application for the accreditation of this programme has been submitted to The British Psychological Society. Successful accreditation would provide Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) for students who achieve at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree and who pass the dissertation.

[Back to top](#)

### Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. On some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title (see programme structure above). Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to

marks gained in stage three. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

In line with College Regulations, to graduate with a BSc in Criminology and Psychology, students are required to pass, as a minimum, **all** year three course units taken. For the purposes of the regulations second year level courses being studied in the third year (for 2013 intake students these are PS2021 and PS2061 do not count as final year course units.

[Back to top](#)

### **Student support and guidance**

- Overall responsibility for the joint programme is Dr Rosie Meek, a Chartered Psychologist and Head of Criminology and Sociology, who is the first point of contact for students on the programme.
- Personal Advisors: All students are allocated a personal advisor in Criminology and Sociology who meets with them regularly through the programme. The Advisor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral, career development and welfare issues.
- Each year group (year 1, 2, and 3) will have a designated Head of Year who serves on the Teaching and Learning Committee and is responsible for overseeing the curriculum and delivery of courses within that year.
- Academic Co-ordinators in Psychology and Criminology provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice. The Academic Coordinator in each department must authorise all option choice selections for his/her respective department.
- The Director of Teaching and Learning reports to the Head of Department and is responsible for the delivery of the programme and matters of teaching learning policy, strategy, and development.

In both Psychology and Criminology students are offered:

- Members of academic staff who are available and accessible through dedicated office hours system.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources including online information via the department's web pages.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and computer centre.
- College Careers Service.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Education Support Unit for students with special needs.
- Membership of student-led Psychology and Criminology & Sociology societies.

[Back to top](#)

### **Admission requirements**

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

[Back to top](#)

### **Further learning and career opportunities**

A series of study skills sessions and careers seminars is provided which introduces undergraduates to key areas of professional psychology and work. Students are also given advice about the preparation of CVs and application for jobs. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

### **Indicators of quality and standards**

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4\* standard and 18th for 3\* and 4\* research. The Department of Psychology was ranked joint 5<sup>th</sup> in the top 10 universities in the country in terms of proportion of 3\* and 4\* research, with 70% of its research profile being of 3\* and 4\* standard.

The BSc in Criminology & Sociology was initially taught in the Department of Health & Social Care before becoming an autonomous unit within the School of management in 2010. The Department of Health and Social Care was formed in 2002 out of the Department of Social and Political Science (SPS).

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4\* standard and 18th for 3\* and 4\* research. 45% of the Department's research profile is of 3\* and 4\* standard.

Departmental systems for monitoring and assessing quality include course and Departmental student evaluation questionnaires, staff-student committees, peer evaluation of teaching, the monitoring of curricula provision through the Departmental Teaching Committee, and annual review reports, including reports from visiting examiners.

[Back to top](#)

### **List of programmes**

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway. An application for the accreditation of this programme has been submitted to The British Psychological Society. Successful accreditation would provide Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) for students who achieve at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree and who pass the dissertation. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Psychology and Criminology describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)).

### **Joint Honours Degree programmes in Criminology and Psychology**

BSc Criminology and Psychology (CL83)

[Back to top](#)