

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
**Programme specification for a postgraduate award**  
**MSc Policing and Security Studies (3413)**

**Section 1 – Introduction to your programme**

This programme specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

The MSc Policing and Security Studies programme is delivered in a block teaching format and is available as a part-time programme from 2 years up to five years (260 weeks). The MSc programme consists of taught courses worth a total of 120 credits and a dissertation worth 60 credits. On successful completion of the programme, you should have an understanding of the area of Policing and Security Studies at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications that can facilitate entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, programmes and the availability of individual course units, especially optional course units are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

*Degree programme* – Also referred to as 'degree course' or simply 'course', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

*Course unit* – Also referred to as 'module', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree programme.

Section 2 – Programme details			
Date of specification update	December 2018	Location of study	Central London Campus
Programme award and title	MSc Policing and Security Studies	Level of study	Postgraduate
Programme code	3413	Year of entry	2019/20
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	School of Law	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Part-time	Duration of the programme	Two years up to 5 years (260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	Mode of delivery	In the form of block delivery i) three times per term for one and a half days per week on a Friday/Saturday for core modules and ii) for three times per term on a Friday for one day for optional modules.
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	For queries on admissions:	<a href="mailto:study@royalholloway.ac.uk">study@royalholloway.ac.uk</a> .

Section 3 – Degree programme structure				
3.1 Mandatory course unit information				
The following table summarises the mandatory courses which students must take in each year of study				
Course code	Course title	Credits	FHEQ level	Course status (see section 6)
CR5104	Continuity and Change: Strategic Policing in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	30	7	MNC
CR5105	Evidence-Based Practice and Research Methods in Policing	30	7	MNC
CR5109	Dissertation	60	7	MNC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory courses on your degree programme. These courses are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree programme will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these courses each year. Mandatory courses fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) courses, you must pass the course to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your programme where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) courses, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree programme may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

### 3.2 Optional course units

In addition to mandatory course units, there will be a number of optional course units available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional course units that are likely to be available (please note that some options will be delivered from our Egham campus where indicated). However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can normally access via their [webpage](#).

Course Code and Course Title	Credits	Course Code and Course Title	Credits
CR5106 Policing and the Community	20	CR5110 Terrorism, the Media and Communication	20
CR5107 Policing and Vulnerability	20	CR5111 Contemporary Forms of Terrorism	20
CR5108 Risk and Decision-making in Policing	20	CR5114 History of Terrorism	20
PR5907 Media, War and Conflict (Egham)	20	CR5115 Transnational Organised Crime	20
PR5937 Understanding Defence (Egham)	20	CR5116 The Psychology of Terrorism	20
PR5450 The Israel Palestine Conflict (Egham)	20		

### 3.3 Optional course unit requirements

The choice of courses a student can take is subject to the following rules:

- Optional courses are chosen from the list provided by the Department to a total of 60 credits.
- Please note that not all optional courses run each year. The full list of courses available for the current academic year can be obtained from <http://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/law/>.

## Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree programme

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

The course is offered part-time. This can be for a duration of 2 years, or longer up to a maximum of 5 years. For the first year it is expected that 'Continuity and Change: Strategic Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' (30 credits) will be taken in Term 1 and that 'Evidence-based Practice and Research Methods in Policing' will be taken in Term 2. Depending on the duration of the student's programme optional modules can be taken around and beyond these two core modules, with the dissertation taken in the summer of Year 2 for 'two year' students or in Year 3 for 'three year' students.

To pass the programme a student must pass the taught part and the dissertation, and achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%:

- To **pass the taught-part**, a student must achieve in every taught course the aggregate mark of at least 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which in total do not constitute more than 40 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%.
- To **pass the Dissertation**, a student must achieve a mark of at least 50% in the dissertation A failure mark (i.e., below 50%) cannot be condoned.

#### Section 5 – Educational aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are to: offer students both an education that is directly applicable to their working environment as well as an opportunity for deeper theoretical reflection concerning both the evolution of policing and the contemporary challenges that it faces going forwards. The programme is designed to satisfy the aspirations of police officers who aim to develop their career further by offering courses that are aligned with many of the strategic priorities that lie ahead for policing. In the course of offering course content that is relevant for the work environment and for the future strategic challenges of policing the programme aims to develop participants' oral and written skills – for example in conducting debates, presentation of argument and the ability to produce written critical analysis.

## Section 6 - Programme learning outcomes

In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (\*)*)

1. Evaluate the effectiveness, or otherwise, of different models of policing (K).
2. Conceptualise and appreciate the contestations over the meaning of 'security' in a policing context (K).
3. Critically evaluate how strategic developments in policing impact upon police practices (K)
4. Understand the roles and function of the UK police in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (K)
5. Understand and evaluate the organisational challenges facing UK policing in relation to professional governance and accountability, police reform, and austerity (K).
6. Understand the principles and components of Evidence-Based Policing that underpin the programme (K)
7. Knowledge and understanding of the plurality of policing and its implications (K)
8. Engage in a variety of activities based on the knowledge acquired such as debate, presentation of argument and the ability to produce written critical analysis (S)
9. Demonstrate awareness of sources of evidence and their application to decision-making and practice (S)

<p>10. Critically appraise and learn from high quality research on what works to reduce crime (S).</p> <p>11. Make use of a variety of research strategies and materials, including law enforcement reports, government publications, popular media, academic writing and Internet materials (S)</p>	
--	--

**Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment**

In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge of both core subject material and specialised research areas, and for students to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes. Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, coursework assignments, a supervised individual dissertation, and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by coursework assignments, examinations, and a dissertation.

**Section 8 – Additional costs**

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree programme.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree programme at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our [website](#).

<b>Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards</b>	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	7
Your programme is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.	
<b>QAA Characteristics Statement (Master’s Degrees) – September 2015</b>	<a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10</a>
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of programmes in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	



**Section 10 – Further information**

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on course units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online course catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies.

Your programme will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your programme may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

**Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)**

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the programme as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory course units, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any programme specific requirements).	Royal Holloway, University of London
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	Royal Holloway, University of London

**Section 12 - Associated award(s) with Banner Programme Codes**

MSc Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Studies **3426**