

Psychology and Criminology BSc (Hons) Programme Specification

Academic Entry Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Subject Benchmarks:	Psychology, Criminology (Quality Assurance Agency 2019)
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc Hons) [FHEQ Level 6]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (BSc) [FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) [FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Date(s):	September
Programme Modes of Study:	(UCAS code C8L0) 3 years full-time (partner entry only) 4 years full-time (international incorporated Bachelors)

The award of BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology is accredited by the [British Psychological Society \(BPS\)](#) and confers the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of BPS if passed at 50% (2:2) and with a qualifying empirical final year project. Graduate members of BPS can progress towards Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration as a practicing or Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol) with further approved postgraduate study.

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when students accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Changes Schedule

1. July 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year including changes to academic regulations
2. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry including BPS corrections and new admissions.

Programme Aims

The overarching aims of this programme are to deliver a high-quality degree that represents the synergy between the disciplines of Psychology and Criminology, which develops a student's capacity to successfully address complex problems using the skills of data analysis, scientific method and critical thinking, as well

as offering a route to Chartered Membership (CPsychol) of the British Psychological Society (BPS) through the accredited graduate route.

This programme originated with the growing need for psychological and criminological expertise in the criminal justice sector such as the need for 'Evidence-Based Policing' and interest in the synergy between psychology and criminology among existing students and applicants. Students are immersed in the two disciplines throughout the course. In psychology modules students will develop an understanding of the brain, social cognition, and behaviour. In criminology modules the focus is on the relationship between different aspects of crime, the criminal justice system, policing, and victimisation. As students progress through the programme, each year will build upon and further contextualise the learning acquired during the previous year, with an emphasis on synthesising, evaluating, and reflecting the skills and knowledge developed. Students will build up a set of analytic and communicative skills in stages to tackle increasingly complex problems, with a strong emphasis on problem-based learning.

The university has existing connections with local services whose professionals, on occasion, deliver guest lectures. This will give students the opportunity to interact with professionals within the field directly and will add another dimension to the expertise they bring as to work in these areas within the local community and beyond. As a university, we are committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion within our curriculums to enhance student understanding of the cross-cultural perspectives within the disciplines of Psychology and Criminology respectively, and how said perspectives result in 'alternative' realities and possibilities of lived experiences.

The BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology course is accredited by The British Psychological Society and aligns to their curriculum guidelines (BPS 2019). Accreditation means that, upon completion of the degree, and providing that a student achieves the minimum standard of qualification of second-class honours and passing the final year research project, they would be eligible for Graduate Membership of BPS, with the Graduate Basis for Chartership. BPS graduate membership will mean students will be eligible to undertake further studies and training in-order to pursue highly competitive and high-status psychology professions, such as Forensic Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Clinical Psychology.

Graduates of this programme will have developed an understanding of social responsibility and a critical awareness of the wider social world. The programme will provide students with key transferable skills, particularly in data analysis and communication, relevant to a variety of careers: in business, healthcare, child development (for example, relevant to nursery work), education, and the criminal justice sector (such as in the Police, as a probation officer, a court liaison worker and more).

Programme Learning Outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 Certificate award will be able to:

1. Understand classical research in psychology and criminology.
2. Evaluate core Psychological and Criminological disciplinary principles within the context of equality, diversity, and inclusion, in both research and practice.
3. Be able to draw on scientific skills while investigating a range of influences on psychological and criminological functioning, and the interactions between them; as stipulated by the British Psychological Society (BPS).
4. Communicate effectively with others using a range of written, oral, and visual means in order to present structured, coherent and evidence-based arguments.

Additionally, students eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 Diploma award will be able to:

5. Apply multiple theoretical perspectives in psychology and criminology to lived contexts.
6. Reflect on their own unconscious biases and how they limit their knowledge and interpretations.
7. Display a range of advanced research methods skills and show ability to critically evaluate their influences in psychology and criminology, both in theory and practice.
8. Work independently and part of a team, undertake self-directed study and project management in order to meet desired objectives.

Additionally, students eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Honours Degree award will be able to:

9. Evaluate and further contextualise the knowledge and skills acquired at Level 5, with an emphasis on creative critique of topics at the forefront of the Psychology and Criminology.
10. Collate and analyse a range of primary and secondary materials, and critically analyse them within current criminological and psychological debates.
11. Conduct significant independent empirical research in the area of Psychology and Criminology, which adheres to the ethical guidelines prescribed by the university's ethics committee, and the BPS.
12. Independently problem solve and present outcomes logically and coherently.

Learning, Teaching and Student Experience

Our teaching, learning and assessment approaches have been designed to allow all students to draw on previous experience, develop skills required for future employment, and take forward a professional identity as a social scientist. In both the subject benchmarks for psychology and criminology, there is a strong emphasis on practical skills, data collection and data analysis applied to real-world problems (e.g., mental health in the criminal justice system). Technology is applied to enhance and facilitate the teaching and learning experience, and not encompass it. The programme team will work with students and the University's support services to ensure that teaching approaches and learning activities that are accessible to all students.

Each module implements a range of teaching approaches and learning activities that are accessible and encourage active participation of all students (Team-Based Learning, flipped-classroom, labs, workshops, seminars, interactive lectures) to ensure students understand the wider applications of the content they are learning. This is attained via giving students opportunities to relate course content to their own experiences, therefore, encouraging the sharing of diverse perspectives and interpretations. Learning and teaching approach(s) include elements of peer-learning, peer-assessments, and group work. The module Thinking Psychologically at Bradford will also help develop scholarship skills.

Students are facilitated to explore and understand how the two disciplines of Psychology and Criminology are constituted and synthesise together. Problem-based learning (PBL) is a key pedagogical feature of this programme that starts with foundational building blocks needed to tackle problems at Stage 1 (e.g. study skills, how to work in a group through team-based learning, foundational assumptions of psychology, and criminology and foundational research methods) to more complex problems at Stage 2 – (presenting information to others, researching for essays, learning more advanced research methods). In Stage 3

students pursue particular interests encountered at Stages 1 and 2 through a range of options and through the dissertation.

Throughout the course through interactive seminar activities, students will critically examine core knowledge and practices in Psychology and Criminology, and are encouraged to question monolithic assumptions within the area. Students will have the opportunity to explore which voices are not being heard and how such voices can be brought to the forefront of psychological and criminological understanding.

In year one, students will be introduced to the foundational building blocks of psychology and criminology. For example, 'Brain and Behaviour' and 'Understanding Social Development' in psychology, as well as key areas in Criminology, such as 'Young People and Crime' and 'Crime and Media'. This is to ensure that in the first year of study, students gain an understanding of some of the core areas of psychology, as stipulated by the BPS, but also learn about crime and the criminal justice system. Essentially, through interactive classroom activities and peer discussions, students will be encouraged to begin thinking about the cohesive nature of the two disciplines.

To prepare you for independent research in year three for the final project, you will also receive training in a wide range of research methods during the first two years, which is an essential subject-specific skill required for both Psychology and Criminology.

Assessment and Feedback

Assessments and feedback are an essential part of student learning, student satisfaction, and must reflect an inclusive and diverse representation of student achievement. Modules may also have more than one component of assessment to assess a broad range of learning and acknowledged the diversity of students' learning styles and skill set, ensuring inclusivity. For example, Multiple Choice Questions may be applied to test students' descriptive knowledge of a certain area within Psychology and Criminology. Coursework including lab reports and essays, as well as exams may be utilised to test deeper-level learning and develop a range of academic skills, which will prepare you for skills required at level 5 and 6.

The designing of assessments is considered carefully and align with the following ethos: offer the opportunity to develop and display a wide range of transferable skills. Each assessment is appropriate for the level of learning and set learning outcomes. Importantly, for each module, the preparation of these assessments is ongoing throughout the module, and formative assessments are included to provide feedback. This is to support students to achieve the intended learning outcomes to the best of their ability.

To encourage interdisciplinary thinking and facilitate understanding of how Psychology and Criminology align, students will study 'bridging' modules in Years 2 and 3. In particular 'Social Psychology and Crime' and 'Research Project in Psychology and Crime'. The assessment criteria for both modules are specifically designed for students to demonstrate your understanding of the cohesiveness between the two disciplines. For example, Social Psychology of Crime implements a 'patchwork assessment,' where throughout the module, you will create a variety of small sections to demonstrate your Social Psychology knowledge, and towards the end of the module these sections will be 'stitched' together with a Criminology narrative. Similarly, the final year research project will offer you the opportunity to display the culmination of your critical engagement with the theoretical concepts and methodological approaches within Psychology and Criminology.

Essentially, the patterns of assessment ensure that students go through a developmental trajectory from Year One to Year Three, and at each stage students build on their skill set from the previous year. At Level 6, students have the opportunity to demonstrate fully their skills in presenting a well-structured argument, synthesising information from a range of sources and critically evaluating evidence within the field(s) of

Psychology and Criminology. The marking rubrics at each level will reflect a progressive expectation of complex problem-solving and critical analysis.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website for undergraduate courses ([Regulation 2](#)).

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

The award BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology only confers eligibility for the graduate basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS) provided the empirical project is passed and the minimum standard of a 2:2 is achieved.

Curriculum

The BSc (hons) Psychology and Criminology programme consists of 360 credits, made up of core modules studied by everyone and module options selected by students. Taught modules are studied across the 'Academic Year' of October to April, or during the first half (Semester 1) or second half of it (Semester 2). The summer period offers an opportunity for final examinations and any supplementary assessment required. Students will study 120 credits of modules at each Stage of the programme, corresponding to the expected Year from the start - 1, 2 or 3.

All students enter the BSc (hons) Psychology and Criminology course into Stage 1. The University offers a [Foundation Year in Psychology course](#) (UK/Home students) and an [International College Year 0/International Foundation Year](#) (international students through our partner Oxford International Education Group). These standalone foundation programmes are not part of this programme or BPS accredited. Students in Stage 0/Year 0 programmes must apply to be admitted to the BSc (hons) Psychology and Criminology course Stage 1 alongside Ucas applicants.

In Stage 1, the primary drive will be to ensure that students acquire study skills and knowledge essential for higher education. For examples, having the ability to identify, demonstrate comprehension, apply, and analyse a variety of theories and approaches related to Psychology and Criminology. Students will also be introduced to research methods, which is an essential Subject Benchmark requirement for both Psychology and Criminology.

Students study 100 core credits. In Semester 2, students select 1 option:

Table 1: BSc Psychology and Criminology Stage 1 modules (cores/options), FHEQ Level 4:

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Selection
PSY4006-B	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology	20	Academic Year	Core
PSY4011-B	Thinking Psychologically at Bradford	20	Academic Year	Core
PSY4009-B	Brain and Behaviour	20	Semester 1	Core
SAC4007-B	Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY4010-B	Understanding Social Development	20	Semester 2	Core
SAC4028-B	Crime and the City	20	Semester 2	Option 1
SAC4026-B	Crime and the Media	20	Semester 2	Option 2
SAC4027-B	Young people and Crime	20	Semester 2	Option 3

In Stage 2, students will build on the skills acquired in Stage 1, and, using a scaffolding approach, an emphasis on critical application and a synthesis of the multi-disciplinary approaches will be developed. Students will also be expected to demonstrate an appreciation of the application of those approaches.

Students study 100 core credits. In Semester 2, students select 1 option:

Table 2: BSc Psychology and Criminology Stage 2 modules (cores/options), FHEQ Level 5:

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Selection
PSY5018-B	Cognitive Psychology and Psychobiology	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY5019-B	Social Psychology and Crime	20	Semester 1	Core
SAC5030-B	Policing	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY5017-B	Further Research Methods	20	Semester 2	Core
PSY5015-B	Lifespan and Individual Differences	20	Semester 2	Core
SAC5033-B	Prisons and Rehabilitation	20	Semester 2	Option 1
SAC5032-B	Serious Organised Crime	20	Semester 2	Option 2

In Stage 3, students will further build upon and contextualise the knowledge and skills acquired during the Stages 1 and 2. In the final year of the degree course, students will also be expected to demonstrate an awareness of the historical importance, current limitations, and further development of different approaches and theories covered in Psychology and Criminology throughout the programme. This will culminate in a student's Final Year empirical research project.

Students study 100 core credits. In Semester 1 or across the academic year, students select 1 option:

Table 3: BSc Psychology and Criminology Stage 3 modules (cores/options), FHEQ Level 6:

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Selection
PSY6017-D	Research Project in Psychology and Crime	40	Academic Year	Core
PSY6011-B	Psychological Life skills and Employability	20	Academic Year	Option 1
PSY6016-B	Clinical Psychology & Mental Health	20	Semester 1	Option 2
PSY6003-B	Advanced issues in neuropsychology	20	Semester 1	Option 3
SAC6027-B	Crime Prevention	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY6001-B	Forensic Psychology	20	Semester 2	Core
SAC6030-B	Crimes of the Powerful	20	Semester 2	Core

Placement/Study Abroad Experience

This programme is not designed for study abroad. Taking a study abroad semester at another University is not permitted due to the requirements of BPS accreditation.

Students can still explore opportunities for short international activities (1-6 weeks) that are held over the summer periods by speaking to the University International Opportunities team. Further information about [internships and placements](#) and [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University's website.

Admission Requirements

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

English and Maths Requirements

The programme is taught in English and uses numeracy, so all applicants are required to have proficiency at GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language and Mathematics. Alternative, equivalent RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable.

For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#). International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-sessional English course](#), which takes 3 to 10 weeks, or can look at taking a pathway with our [International College](#) from one term to a year.

Typical Academic Entry Profile

Applicants to BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology typically have 112 Ucas points from any qualifications. There are usually not any subject specific requirements, for example this is BBC from any 3 A Levels. Our course page for BSc Psychology and Criminology lists scores in other UK qualifications. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

On completion of a UCAS form students will be invited to the Faculty for an Open Day when they will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss "the Bradford experience" with current students.

Access and Recognition of Learning

We are committed to raising aspirations and widening access to higher education, regardless of your background. The [University of Bradford Progression Scheme](#) welcomes Ucas applicants from a number of groups including adult learners who are 21+ on the first day of term, British armed forces families, carers and care experienced learners, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller family members.

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, and/or significant personal/professional experience.

If you are a UK/home student and do not meet the entry requirements for this course, our [Foundation Year in Psychology](#) has a route to Psychology and Criminology BSc (Hons). This Foundation Year does not require GCSE or Level 2 Maths. A typical Foundation Year applicant has 64 Ucas points. You will need to reapply to join this course when completing the Foundation Year.

If you are a mature applicant (aged 21 and over), you will be eligible to apply for the Foundation Year in Psychology with level 2 qualifications (or GCSE equivalents). You will also need to provide a written statement, and will be interviewed as part of the process. Please contact the Admissions Team at admissions@bradford.ac.uk or [01274 236088](tel:01274236088) if you have any queries regarding your application. You may also be eligible to apply for student finance. Further information, including a student finance calculator, can be found on the [Student Finance website](#) and [further advice for mature applicants can be found at UCAS](#).

If applicants of any age have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/psychology-and-criminology-bsc/>

Information about entry to UBIC provision for this programme including available pathways is published online by Oxford International Education Group:

<https://www.oxfordinternational.com/courses/detail/degree-university-of-bradford-bsc-hons-psychology-and-criminology/>