University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 6**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**British Psychological Society**
Credit Structure[2]	**360 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits** **Level 6: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years full-time**
Intended Award	**BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology**
Named Exit Awards	**DipHE Psychology and Criminology** **CertHE Psychology and Criminology**
Entry Requirements[4]	**112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DDM (BTEC), Merit (T-Level) or Access to HE Diploma with a minimum of 45 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. Plus GCSE grade C/4 or above in English and Mathematics (or equivalent).**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk**
UCAS Code	**CL8H**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2027-28 academic year[5].

Course Summary

BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology at the University of Suffolk offers an exciting and distinctive combination of two complementary disciplines that together explore the complexity of human behaviour, thought, and social order. The degree is BPS-accredited, covering all core areas of psychology and enabling eligibility for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC). This joint degree offers a broad, interdisciplinary foundation drawing on Psychology, Criminology, and related disciplines, enabling you to understand individual and collective

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

behaviour from both scientific and social perspectives. It is also strengthened by a culture of continuous critical self-reflection among the course team, ensuring the programme remains current, inclusive, and research-informed.

Students gain a strong, holistic foundation in the core areas of psychology identified by the BPS, developing an understanding of the complex interactions between different theoretical perspectives. For example, you will examine how biological, psychological, and social factors interact to shape behaviour, and how these insights can be applied to understanding criminality and societal responses to crime. Through this integration, you will gain a rich understanding of the human mind and behaviour, the causes and consequences of deviance, and the ethical, cultural, and political dimensions that underpin both disciplines. There is a strong emphasis on challenging "common-sense" notions of criminal and deviant behaviour by critically examining academic research and making informed decisions based on available evidence. This theoretical grounding is progressively applied through practical work and research training, as students design, conduct, analyse, and report empirical studies, becoming increasingly independent researchers. Through studying psychology and criminology, you will not only acquire a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, but also develop the skills to critically evaluate theory, research, and the implications of scientific study.

Together, these disciplines provide a well-rounded and critical understanding of both individual psychology and the broader social structures that shape human behaviour. The degree offers a research-informed curriculum taught by expert staff in state-of-the-art facilities, including our £13 million Health and Well/being Building and psychology laboratories equipped with over £320,000 worth of specialist technology such as EEG and eye-tracking equipment. The degree includes guest speakers, collaborative projects, and employer-linked teaching, further enhancing your academic and professional development and preparing you for a wide range of careers in psychology, criminology, and related fields. Ranked 1st in the UK for graduate employment and further study (Guardian 2023), our undergraduate psychology degrees prioritise employability and applied learning across both disciplines. Small-group teaching, personalised academic support, and a strong focus on wellbeing create an inclusive learning environment where you can thrive both personally and professionally.

Course Aims

1. Foster a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and their interaction with complex individual, social, environmental, and criminological contexts.
2. Develop students' ability to design, conduct, and critically evaluate research, by providing a solid foundation in a range of quantitative and qualitative methods, analytical techniques, and ethical research practices.
3. Promote critical engagement with theory and empirical evidence in psychology, criminology, and related disciplines, encouraging students to appreciate how theory informs research, and how data constrain and refine theoretical models.
4. Encourage the exploration of multiple perspectives in psychology, criminology, and related disciplines, supporting students in evaluating diverse approaches and fostering reflective, integrative thinking.
5. Cultivate awareness of the ethical, cultural, and societal implications of research and practice in psychology, criminology, and related disciplines, enabling students to engage responsibly with local, national, and global challenges.
6. Support the development of practical and transferable skills, including effective communication, teamwork, data literacy, and problem-solving, to prepare graduates for a wide range of professional contexts.

7. Apply knowledge to real-world issues in psychology, criminology, and related disciplines, enabling students to understand and address a range of behaviours and experiences and propose appropriate responses.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

1. Integrate knowledge across psychological and criminological domains and related disciplines to provide a critical and coherent understanding of human behaviour.
2. Formulate original, psychologically informed research questions, and investigate them through critical and innovative enquiry, making judgements based on evidence.
3. Design, conduct and evaluate an ethically compliant, independent empirical project that demonstrates autonomy in methodology, data collection/analysis, and critical interpretation.
4. Synthesise conceptual/scholarly research and credible data to construct compelling evidence-based arguments that evaluate competing perspectives and propose appropriate responses to psychological and criminological problems and related disciplines.
5. Communicate complex ideas and project findings effectively and professionally to specialist and non-specialist audiences, using appropriate terminology and academic conventions.
6. Consistently apply professional standards, ethical reasoning, and scientific integrity in independent research and applied work.
7. Critically reflect on personal and professional development, demonstrating autonomy, resilience, and readiness for employment or postgraduate study.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- Subject Benchmark for Psychology (2023)
- Subject Benchmark for Criminology (2022)
- British Psychological Society Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in Psychology (2024)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Psychological Research and Skills	30	M

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

	Psychological Approaches	30	M
	Introduction to Criminology	30	R
	Media and Crime	15	R
	Well-being and Human Flourishing	15	R
	Research Participation	0	R
Level 5			
	Applied Biological and Cognitive Psychology	30	M
	Applied Social and Developmental Psychology	30	M
	Applied Criminological Theory	30	R
	Victimology and Victimisation	30	R
	Research Participation	0	R
Level 6			
	Psychology Project	30	M
	Pathways to Psychopathology	30	M
	Forensic Psychology	30	R
	Criminal Justice	15	O
	Youth Crime and Justice	15	O
	Globalisation	15	O
	Green and Southern Criminology	15	O
	Environment	15	O
	International Law and Human Rights	15	O
	Work Placement	15	O
	Drugs and Society	15	O
	Criminal Exploitation	15	O
	Organised and Corporate Crime	15	O

Optional modules available in any academic year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Psychology and Criminology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Psychology and Criminology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology are likely to have approximately 298 contact hours for level 4, 226 contact hours for level 5 and up to 180 contact hours for level 6, plus additional contact hours for tutorials associated with the dissertation across an academic year. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, tutorials, workshops, and guided learning activities through the online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake 910 hours at level 4, 980 hours at level 5, and 1060 hours at level 6 of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes.

Special Features

On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology students are eligible for membership with the British Psychological Society. Graduates who have passed the empirical psychology project and gained a minimum of a 2:2 overall are eligible to apply for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute. All Psychology staff are registered, or eligible for membership, with the appropriate professional body (i.e. BPS).

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£10,050 per year
Part-time UK	N/A
Full-time EU/International	£16,000 per year
Part-time EU/International	N/A

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.