

MSc

Investigative and Forensic Psychology

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

12 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Renowned worldwide, this MSc in Investigative and Forensic Psychology is a high-quality master's course providing academic and research knowledge of forensic practice. This includes crime reduction and intervention; investigative procedures, forensic interviewing, court processes, custody and rehabilitation.

Introduction

Why Choose Investigative and Forensic Psychology at Liverpool?

- it's the only programme of its type offered by a Russell Group University
- we have received multiple commendations by the British Psychological Society
- the course is eligible for Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and eligible for ESRC 1+3 training studentship linked to a PhD programme
- you'll join sessions offered by a high number and calibre of external practitioners delivering key understanding of real-life applications
- we place a strong emphasis on employability skills and as a result our students have gone on to be some of the most successful individuals in their field
- the course attracts a large number of international students and visiting speakers.

Who is this course for?

This course is for you if you have a high 2:1 bachelor's degree in Psychology (65% or above) and want to pursue a career in forensic psychology, law enforcement, investigations, intelligence, or go on to study a PhD and work in research/academia.

What you'll learn

- Conceptual and theoretical explorations of aggression, deviance, decision-making, leadership and stress, memory, communication and persuasion
 - A detailed focus on violence, sexual aggression, co-offending and corporate crime, as well as the range of individual and contextual factors that shape such behaviour
 - A range of theoretical paradigms relevant to investigative and emergency response processes (including behavioural investigative advice, interviewing, decision making, leadership and communication)
 - Conceptual theories and approaches to assessment, legal processes and interventions with children and adults in forensic contexts
 - Legal frameworks for the use of psychology in the courts, including ethical and professional standards, with specific reference to communication
 - A range of qualitative and quantitative research methods and statistics.
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Accreditation

Accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as Stage 1 Forensic Chartership training (if applicants UG degree is accredited by BPS); recognised by the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP, British Psychological Society), and also counts towards Chartered Forensic Status.

Applicants do not need to have completed a psychology degree recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as Graduate basis for chartership (GBC). However, if applicants do not have GBC then they need to be aware that unless they obtain GBC from the BPS before completing the masters they will not be able to progress to Stage 2 Forensic Chartership.

^ [Back to top](#)

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Criminal Behaviour (see module details below)

Examples of previous visiting speakers on this module:

- Behavioural Investigative Advice Unit
- Fraud Investigator
- Deputy Head of the National Wildlife Crime Unit
- North West Counter Terrorism Unit
- Merseyside Police cybercrime detectives.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR (PSYC702)	30
RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS (PSYC640)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Policing and Emergency Response (see module details below)

Examples of previous visiting speakers on this module:

- Merseyside fire and rescue service
- College of policing

- Metropolitan police
- Firearms officer
- London ambulance service.

Assessment and legal processes (see module details below)

Examples of previous visiting speakers on this module:

- Trauma-informed probation officer
- Experts in offender risk assessment, treatment and rehabilitation
- Honor-based abuse expert
- National Society Prevention Cruelty to Children
- Multi-agency public protection arrangements.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
POLICING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PSYC703)	30
ASSESSMENT AND LEGAL PROCESSES (PSYC706)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Dissertation (see module description below)

Examples of previous dissertations:

- The construction and communication of Criminal Profiles: A New Zealand study.
- Do treatment completers differ from Treatment Drop-outs in a British Voluntary Domestic Violence Intervention Programme? A Preliminary Investigation of Predictors of Attrition.
- Adolescents who sexually harm: Can an identified subtype predict the risk of recidivism.
- Help or hindrance? The use of text messages within crisis negotiation environment
- Crime scene actions and characteristics of sexual offenders in Korea

- An investigation into confidence in UK policing: bridging the gap between neo-Durkheimian theory and enhancing confidence in typically critical groups of society
- Grooming for sexual exploration: An exploratory study of victims and perpetrator characteristics
- Major Incident Leadership: A Perspective from the Emergency Services
- Male on Male rape: A multivariate model of offence behaviour

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (PSYC705)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You will gain conceptual knowledge, skills and critical awareness via:

- Practitioner seminars
- Lectures from visiting speakers
- Core Lectures with key readings in conceptual models and key debates
- Tutorials for reflection and to promote debate
- Student seminars and presentations to their peers
- E-Portfolio of personal and professional development
- Traditional assessment methods, including essays, statistics exams and a research project
- Authentic assessments, including practitioner reports, poster presentation and research proposals..

How you're assessed

Assessment is by primarily through coursework. There is an in class exam for the module PSYC640 Research methods and statistics. Assessments align with the University of

Liverpool commitment to have relevant, authentic and varied activities and are designed to lead directly to enhanced professional and personal objectives as well as being appropriate to the academic discipline.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

^ [Back to top](#)

Careers and employability

On completion of the programme, your resulting knowledge, skills and attitudes will enable you to put psychological principles into effect in a variety of settings including research, practice and the interface of applied research.

The scientific aspects of the course, including the application of a reasoned approach, problem solving and manipulation of data, provide useful tools for careers in healthcare, law enforcement, finance, IT and research.

This Programme provides a solid grounding for careers in law enforcement, criminal justice, government agencies, education, commercial or industrial sectors.

Forensic and Investigative Psychologists can work in various fields, including:

- Crime analysts and principal crime analysts working for police forces
- National and International Police forces
- Behavioural investigative advisors
- Medium/high security prisons, psychiatric units or hospitals.
- Home Office
- Probation services
- Youth offending teams
- National Crime Agency
- Office for National Statistics
- PhD's
- Research associates
- Lectureships
- PsychD Clinical Psychology
- Fraud investigators
- Ministry of Defence
- Security Services (MI5, MI6)
- Defence and Science Technology Laboratory
- Expert witness
- Professional consultancy
- Independent Office for Police Conduct
- TiKTok Hate crime policy

- Mobile phone cellsite analyst
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Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

^ [Back to top](#)

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £13,000

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £32,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

^ [Back to top](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

To apply, you must have a high 2:1 bachelor's degree in Psychology (65% or above) with high marks in research methods and statistics.

You do not need to have completed a psychology degree recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as a Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC). However to progress to Stage 2 Forensic Chartership you must obtain GBC from the BPS.

All applicants must have some relevant work experience with a vulnerable client group (voluntary or paid), but not necessarily in a forensic setting.

Applicants who meet the minimum entry requirement will be invited to attend an online interview.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MSc, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 100 overall, with minimum scores of listening 21, writing 21, reading 21 and speaking 23. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 5 overall, with 4.5 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

135 overall, with writing not less than 140, speaking and reading not less than 125, and listening not below 120. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 130 overall, with no component below 120.

Pearson PTE Academic

69 overall, with no component below 61

LanguageCert Academic

75 overall, with no skill below 70

PSI Skills for English

C1 Pass in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5, for further details.

^ [Back to top](#)

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