

Psychology

Psychology & Criminal Behaviour Foundation Degree



Academic Level: 5
Award: Foundation Degree
Awarding Body: University of Bedfordshire
Mode of Delivery: Full-Time
Duration: 2 years
Location: University Centre Milton Keynes
Stating Date: October
UCAS Code: C880
Course Code: 2344-1/1

Entry Requirements

You will normally need to have passed an Access course or to have obtained a score under the UCAS Tariff of at least 120 points, with a minimum of 80 points from a level 3 qualification. We are also keen to talk to people who have a genuine interest in the subject and would be happy to discuss your experience in the absence of formal qualification

Key Features

- Introduction to theoretical perspectives and research within psychology and criminology

- Design and implementation of research using a range of methods
- Identification of ethical issues that arise around theory and research
- Opportunity to experience relevant work placements where knowledge gained can be analysed and assessed in practical situations.

About the Course

This course covers a general introduction to psychology and criminology, including research methods, e.g. experiments, observation studies and surveys. Important aspects of theory are the understanding of people's behaviour in groups and the development of an individual through childhood, adolescence and maturity. Specific topics include conformity, response to authority, aggression, human lifespan development and the diversity of human beings.

You will also experience personal development planning where you will reflect on your own performance and learning throughout the course. This will include the development of study skills, working in groups, time management and what it means to study at Higher Education level. An important part of your personal development will be the work placements, one in year 1 and one in year 2. We are developing a wide range of opportunities for work placements to meet the interests of individual students where possible.

Course Content

Year 1

- Foundations to Psychology
- How to Get Ahead in Psychology/Personal Development/Tutorial
- Work-Based Learning
- Introduction to Social Research
- Questions of Diversity and Difference
- Introduction to Crime and Deviance
- Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice Institutions.

Year 2

- Social Processes and Lifespan Development
- Work-Based Learning
- Advanced Criminological Theory and Correlates of Crime and Criminology
- Applied Psychology and Criminology
- Researching Psychology.

Assessment

Most modules have two assessments from a range of methods. These involve essays, presentations, exams (mainly multiple choice), practical research with a written report and portfolios.

Portfolios are an important element of Work-Based Learning and How to Get Ahead in Psychology/Personal Development. Both will involve reflection on your academic learning and your skills development, as well as your ability to relate theory to practice. You will be provided with an assessment schedule with hand-in dates at the start of the year along with your module handbooks.

Next Steps

The Foundation Degree will be of benefit to anyone working or wanting to work in areas such as social work, the judiciary, policing or education. You can however, continue into a third year at the University of Bedfordshire on the BA Psychological Studies, the BA Psychology and Criminology or BA Criminology. This progression will provide an Honours Degree. It will not, however lead to GBR (Graduate Basis of Registration) status issued by the British Psychological Society, which is necessary to become a professional psychologist, e.g. educational or clinical. If this becomes your aim, then you would need to take further modules after your Honours Degree. It is possible to progress to the 2nd year at the University of Bedfordshire (Luton Campus) - which will make the full Honours Degree a 4 years programme.

Career Opportunities

The Foundation Degree and the Honours Degree can take you into the police force or various types of social work, e.g. training for probation work. An Honours Degree can take you into a wide range of occupations, including the above, plus human resources training and other roles in industry.

The Psychology & Criminal Behaviour Foundation Degree is validated by, and leads to an award of, the University of Bedfordshire.