

**PROGRAMME APPROVAL FORM  
SECTION 1 – THE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

<b>1. Programme title and designation</b>		<b>Forensic Mental Health Pathways</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology</u></li> <li>• <u>MSc Forensic Mental Health Research</u></li> <li>• <u>MSc Forensic Psychology</u></li> </ul>		
<b>2. Final award</b>				
<b>Award</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credit value</b>	<b>ECTS equivalent</b>	<b>Any special criteria</b>
MSc	Forensic Mental Health	180	90	N/A
MSc	Clinical Forensic Psychology	180	90	N/A
MSc	Forensic Mental Health Research	180	90	N/A
MSc	Forensic Psychology	180		N/A
<b>3. Nested award</b>				
<b>Award</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credit value</b>	<b>ECTS equivalent</b>	<b>Any special criteria</b>
PGDip	Forensic Mental Health	120	60	Students take 7PAFMMEN and any of the prescribed modules to make 120 credits
<b>4. Exit award</b>				
<b>Award</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credit value</b>	<b>ECTS equivalent</b>	<b>Any special criteria</b>
PGDip	IoPPN (Forensic Mental Health)	120	60	N/A
PGCert	IoPPN (Forensic Mental Health)	60	30	N/A
<b>5. Level in the qualifications framework</b>		M		
<b>6. Attendance</b>				
		<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Distance learning</b>
Mode of attendance		Yes	Yes	N/A
Minimum length of programme		12 months	24 months	N/A
Maximum length of programme		36 months	72 months	N/A

ASQ Approved: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010

PAF finalised for 2010/11: 25 October 2010

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<b>7. Awarding institution/body</b>	King's College London
<b>8. Teaching institution</b>	King's College London
<b>9. Proposing department</b>	Department of Forensic & Neurodevelopmental Sciences, Institute of Psychiatry
<b>10. Programme organiser and contact details</b>	Forensic Mental Health Research: Dr Nigel Blackwood Nigel.blackwood@kcl.ac.uk
	Clinical Forensic Psychology: Dr Joel Harvey joel.harvey@kcl.ac.uk
<b>11. UCAS code (if appropriate)</b>	N/A
<b>12. Relevant QAA subject benchmark/ Professional, statutory and regulatory body guidelines</b>	At this time there are no specific benchmarks for postgraduate forensic mental health.  The MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology pathway covers the British Psychological Society syllabus for the Diploma in Forensic Psychology, which is necessary to obtain BPS accreditation.
<b>13. Date of production of specification</b>	August 2010  This specification pulls together our existing MSc programmes into one nested programme including a number of defined pathways. As such, it draws on previous approvals as follows:  MSc Forensic Mental Health Science: 29 November 2005, updated December 2006 for Credit Framework  MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology: January 2006; revised June 2006, amended February 2007 for Credit Framework
<b>14. Date of programme review</b>	2022/23

**15. Educational aims of the programme**

*i.e. what is the purpose of the programme and general statements about the learning that takes place over the duration of the programme*

The Department provides multidisciplinary postgraduate training in a range of forensic mental health topics aimed at aspiring and practising clinicians and researchers. The programme structure is flexible, allowing students to study at PgDip level if they do not want to proceed to the MSc, and allowing most students to choose one or more of their modules. There is a PgCert exit award for those who fail to reach PgDip level. Students will follow a designated pathway if they meet the entry criteria and indicate that this is what they wish to do.

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**16. Educational objectives of the programme/programme outcomes** (as relevant to the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors)

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding and skills in the following areas:

**Knowledge and understanding**

The programme provides a **knowledge and understanding** of the following:

- An in depth knowledge and understanding of the associations between mental disorders and antisocial behaviour and criminal offending and the ability to teaching/learning methods and strategies: reflect critically on the impact of these on the individual and society.
- Knowledge, understanding and practice in the risk assessment, management, treatment and service provision for mentally disordered offenders to an advanced standard.
- Research methodology, statistics and the independent evaluation of research publications, journal articles, clinical guidance and other factors which influence clinical decision-making in forensic mental health, taking into account the advanced skills required in order to weigh in balance the clinical needs of the individual, the legal aspects, any ethical issues and the wider impact on society.
- Ethical considerations germane to Forensic Mental Health.
- A deeper understanding of one or more particular specialisms within forensic mental health and psychology will be developed in other modules, i.e. for Clinical Forensic Psychology students in the compulsory subjects specific to their pathway and for all other students their optional module choices.

These are achieved through the following **teaching/learning methods and strategies**:

Specific teaching and learning methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved include: experiential workshops, presentations and seminars, lectures, group work, peer observation, independent study, tutorials, clinical placements, feedback on progress.

**Assessment:**

Formative: class/group tutorials and presentations, progress tests, discussions on written answers to questions during introduction to modules, written feedback on coursework essays.

Summative: coursework essays, case studies, written examinations, oral examinations, presentations, research work and dissertation

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### Skills and other attributes

#### Intellectual skills:

- Critically review extant literature on the subject and be able to complete advanced level review and analysis of research findings.
- Identify and solve high-level problems centering on mental disorder, antisocial behaviour and criminal offending, including wider ethical issues.
- Independent thought and ability to complete advanced literature searches
- Analysis and interpretation of research and practice

These are achieved through the following **teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

Specific teaching and learning methods to enable outcomes to be achieved include: discussion in class and tutorials, independent study, critical reflection, supervision, seminars and workshops.

#### Assessment:

Coursework essays, written case reports, oral examination, written examination, research proposal, dissertation.

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**Practical skills:**

- Competency in research methods, analysis and interpretation.
- Communicating results of complex studies orally and in writing.
- Advanced presentation of data analysis and results.
- Interpretation of extant relevant scientific literature.
- Problem-solving within the field of forensic mental health science.
- Mastery of risk assessment for antisocial/criminal behaviour. Establish, plan and manage programmes to reduce above behaviour.
- Co-ordinate treatment and service programmes for mentally disordered offenders
- Implement change in clinical practice
- Intervention in legal forums on mental disorder and antisocial/criminal behaviour and writing court reports
- Psychological assessment of mentally disordered offenders.
- Expert witness skills.

(Exact set of skills developed will depend on pathway and module choices.)

These are achieved through the following **teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

Professional and practical skills are delivered through lectures, seminars, microteaching sessions, group work, specific workshops, computer and classroom practicals, clinical placement and observation, presentations, empirical research skills.

**Assessment:**

Coursework, essays, written examinations, oral examination including poster presentation, supervision and evaluation of clinical placements, written case studies, court reports and risk assessments, dissertation.

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**Generic/transferable skills:**

- Autonomous learning.
- Active use of critical reflection.
- Advanced skills in giving and receiving constructive feedback.
- Take responsibility for personal and professional development
- Independent working
- Effective time management
- Profound listening skills
- Advanced presentation skills
- Thorough interpersonal and collaborative skills
- Perspective taking, especially in multidisciplinary teams
- Structure and communicate complex ideas effectively both orally and in writing
- Report writing
- Research
- IT skills – word processing, email, PowerPoint, spreadsheets, statistical analysis, database mining

These are achieved through the following **teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

Transferable skills are generally incorporated within all the modules particularly in the workshops, lectures (which usually involve much discussion) and clinical placements. Participants are also encouraged to gain experience of other disciplines within the programme and the School and work with senior colleagues/experts for their own personal and professional development.

Assessment:

Coursework, essays, written examinations, oral examination including poster presentation, supervision and evaluation of clinical placements, written case studies, court reports and risk assessments, dissertation.

**17. Statement of how the programme has been informed by the relevant subject benchmark statement(s)/professional, statutory and regulatory body guidelines**

There are no QAA subject benchmark statements at postgraduate level relevant to the content of this programme. The MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology pathway is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) Division of Forensic Psychology and the content of the modules on that pathway correspond to the syllabus for the BPS Diploma of Forensic Psychology.

**18. In cases of joint honours programmes please provide a rationale for the particular subject combination, either educational or academic**

N/A

Which is the lead department and/or School?

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<b>19. Programme structure</b>										
Please complete the following table and, if appropriate, to include joint, major/minor or other variations <b>Code</b> = code of each module available for the programme <b>Title</b> = title of each module available for the programme, plus its credit level and credit value <b>Status</b> = please indicate whether the module is introductory (I), core (Cr), compulsory (Cp), one or more of however many modules must be passed to progress (CrCp), (P) professional (i.e. module testing skills/competency that has no credit level or value but is a professional body requirement) or optional (O) for each type of programme. For postgraduate programmes use the "single honours" column <b>Pre-requisite/Co-requisite</b> = where appropriate please indicate whether the module is pre-requisite to another module or co-requisite by noting pre or co and the module code that it is pre/co-requisite to. <b>Assessment</b> = please indicate in broad terms the assessment for the module e.g. written examinations, coursework (Note: the availability of optional modules may vary slightly from year to year; the following are the modules available at the commencement of the programme)										
Code	Title	Credit Level	Credit Value	Status (I, Cr, Cp, CrCp, P, O) for each type of module			Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite (Please note the module code)			Assessment
				MSc	PGDip		Single	Joint	Major/Minor	
<b>FULL-TIME STUDY</b>										
<b>MSc/PGDip Forensic Mental Health (full-time) – this is the qualification for those not on a specific pathway</b>										
7PAFMRES	Dissertation – Forensic Mental Health	7	60	Cr	N/A		7PAFMMEN			Coursework
<i>Students must take and pass one of the following two modules:</i>										
7PAFMMEN	Prosocial and antisocial behaviour across the lifespan	7	30	Cr	Cr					Coursework
7PAFCMEN	Prosocial and antisocial behaviour across the lifespan	7	15	Cr	N/A					Coursework

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Programme approval 2009/10

<i>Additionally, students must take and pass enough additional credits from the following modules as appropriate for an MSc or a Pg.Dip award:</i>									
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7PAFFRIS	Specialist forensic services: assessment, treatment and development	7	30	O	O		7PAFMMEN			Coursework
7PAFCRIS	Specialist forensic services: assessment, treatment and development	7	15	Cr	N/A		7PAFCMEN			Coursework
7PCFMSPR	Structured professional risk assessment and management	7	30	O	O		7PAFMMEN			Coursework
7PAFMSCI	Research Methodology and statistics A	7	15	O	O					Coursework
7PAFMSCB	Research Methodology and statistics B	7	15	Cr	N/A					Coursework Practical
7PCFNJBI	Forensic mental health practice in the criminal justice system: legal and investigative processes	7	30	O	O					Coursework
7PCFCJBI	Forensic mental health practice in the criminal justice system: legal and investigative processes	7	15	O	O					Coursework

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7PAFCPRP	Forensic Psychology Practice in Context	7	60	O	O					Coursework Practical
<b>MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology pathway (full-time only)</b>										
7PAFCMEN	Prosocial and antisocial behaviour across the lifespan	7	15	Cr	N/A					Coursework
7PAFCRIS	Specialist forensic services: assessment, treatment and development	7	15	Cr	N/A		7PAFCMEN			Coursework
7PAFCRME	Research methodology and statistics	7	15	Cr	N/A					Written Examination
7PCFCJBI	Forensic mental health practice in the criminal justice system: legal and investigative processes	7	15	Cr	N/A		7PAFCMEN			Coursework
7PAFCPRP	Forensic Psychology Practice in Context	7	60	Cr	N/A					Coursework Practical
7PAFCRES	Dissertation – Clinical Forensic Psychology	7	60	Cr	N/A		7PAFCMEN, 7PAFCRME			Coursework
<b>MSc Forensic Mental Health Research pathway</b>										
7PAFMMEN	Prosocial and antisocial behaviour across the lifespan	7	30	Cr	N/A					Coursework
7PAFMSCI	Research Methodology and statistics A	7	15	Cr	N/A					Written Examination

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7PAFMSCB	Research Methodology and statistics B	7	15	Cr	N/A					Coursework Practical
7PCFNJBI	Forensic mental health practice in the criminal justice system: legal and investigative processes	7	30	Cr	N/A					Coursework
7PAFFRIS	Specialist forensic services: assessment, treatment and development	7	30	Cr	N/A		7PAFMMEN			Coursework
7PAFMRES	Dissertation – Forensic Mental Health	7	60	Cr	N/A		7PAFMMEN 7PAFMSCI			Coursework
<b>MSc Forensic Psychology pathway</b>										
7PAFMMEN	Prosocial and antisocial behaviour across the lifespan	7	30	Cr	N/A					Coursework
7PAFFRIS	Specialist forensic services: assessment, treatment and development	7	30	Cr	N/A		7PAFMMEN			Coursework
7PCFNJBI	Forensic mental health practice in the criminal justice system: legal and investigative processes	7	30	Cr	N/A					Coursework
7PAFMSCI	Research Methodology and statistics A	7	15	Cr	N/A					Written Examination
7PCFFAFP	Applied Forensic Psychology (including voluntary 10 days observation)	7	30	Cr						Coursework

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7PCFMRES	Dissertation	7	60	Cr	N/A					Coursework
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**If a Masters programme, are level 6 credit levels permitted within the programme? No**

**Maximum number of credits permitted with a condoned fail (core modules excluded) 30.**

**Are students permitted to take any additional credits, as per regulation A3? Yes**

**Are students permitted to take a substitute module, as per regulation A3? No**

**Are there any exceptions to the regulations regarding credits, progression or award requirements?** (where relevant the information should also differentiate the particular requirements of pathways within a programme or nested/exit awards)

N/A

**Other relevant information to explain the programme structure**  
*Please note that new students enrolling on the information provided on this section of the PAF will have these regulations stipulated throughout their programme of study. The only exception to this will be if there are changes made by Professional, Regulatory or Statutory Bodies that are noted to this programme.*  
**n/a**

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## **20. Marking criteria**

These are according to the College guidelines for Fail, Pass, Merit and Distinction. The Department double marks all assignments as student numbers will rarely be high enough to employ model 3 in the College Marking Framework (double marking by retrospective sampling). Dissertations are double blind marked.

## **21. Will this Programme Board of Examiners report to an existing Board, and if so which one? If a new Programme Board of Examiners is to be set up please note name of Board here**

Forensic Mental Health – existing Programme Board.

## **22. Please confirm that the process for nominating External Examiners has commenced, and if known, note whom the nominated External Examiner(s) may be**

Dr Seena Fazel  
Dr Catherine Hamilton-Giashritis

## **24. Particular features of the programme which help to reduce the barriers experienced by disabled students and ensure that the programme is accessible to all students who meet the entry requirements**

Applicants who declare a disability are automatically referred to the Institute's disability officer and, if recommended, students with disabilities will have access to alternative comparable assessment tasks.

The MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology includes a compulsory 75-day placement in a clinical forensic team. The suitability of students with disabilities or health problems applying and otherwise meeting the entry criteria would be considered on an individual basis. There is a responsibility to placement providers and staff, to patients and also to the psychology profession to ensure that students are fit to practise. They are spending time on placement in medium and high security units with potentially dangerous patients and there are certain disabilities that would present an insuperable obstacle to working in this field. All students are screened by Occupational Health before starting on the placement. Additionally, students must have a clear Enhanced CRB check in order to enrol as placement providers have made this a requirement.

The students on this programme are very varied in age, ethnicity, nationality and professional/academic background. For overseas students newly arrived in the UK and for younger students, especially those with no background in clinical work, the experience of joining a multidisciplinary group of students and academics is potentially daunting. Staff are aware of this and do their best to encourage and facilitate participation from all students and to try to keep the more confident and experienced students from dominating discussions.

One of the reasons behind our re-structuring of the programme was to make it more accessible to students from professional backgrounds other than psychiatry, e.g. mental health nursing, occupational therapy. These students have good potential but have often had less academic writing

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experience and are much less likely to have had research training. A special study day will be organised before the programme starts for these students to give them a head start. Particular care will also be taken with allocation of these students to supervisors and research projects so that they get

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especially good support. The Programme Leader has also had discussions about the programme with training managers in local Trusts, who have identified potential students who are being sponsored to join our programme and given study leave.

For all non-sponsored students the high cost of studying represents a potential barrier. Full-time students are particularly disadvantaged as they cannot fit in much paid work alongside their studies. This is a particular issue for students on the MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology because of the time spent on placement and the travel costs involved. Both time and financial demands would also represent a particular challenge for students with caring responsibilities or health problems. We attempt to minimise the impact by taking into account where the student lives when allocating placements, for example, and by compressing teaching onto one day a week for most students. We would also look favourably on a request to switch to the part-time programme, where feasible.

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**PROGRAMME APPROVAL FORM**  
**SECTION 3 – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Not all of the information in this section will be relevant for all programmes and for some programmes this section will not be relevant at all

<b>1. Programme name</b> Forensic Mental Health
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<b>2. Is this programme involved in collaborative activity?</b>			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes what type of Collaborative Provision is it ( <i>tick appropriate box</i> )?			
Does the programme have an access/feeder Programme for entry into it?			<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the programme have an articulation/ progression agreement for entry into it?			<input type="checkbox"/>
Dual Award			<input type="checkbox"/>
Franchised Provision			<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Award			<input type="checkbox"/>
Partnership Programme			<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognition of Study or Award of Credit through off-campus study or placement			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff and student exchange			<input type="checkbox"/>
Validated provision			<input type="checkbox"/>

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Have the relevant stages and appropriate paperwork been approved and the paperwork forwarded onto QA&AA Office?

Yes

No

Not applicable

**3. If the programme is a joint award with an institution outwith the University of London, validated provision or franchised provision, has the necessary approval been sought from College Education Committee?**

Yes

No

Not applicable

Please attach a copy of Part 1 of the Partner Profile and checklist submitted to the College Education Committee

**4. Partnership programme - in cases where parts or all of the programme are delivered away from one of the College campuses by a body or bodies external to the College please provide the following details**

Name and address of the off-campus location and external body

N/A

Percentage/amount of the programme delivered off-campus or by external body

Nature of the involvement of external body

Description of the learning resources available at the off-campus location

What mechanisms will be put in place to ensure the ongoing monitoring of the delivery of the programme, to include monitoring of learning resources off-site or by the external body?

***Please attach the report of the visit to the off-campus location***

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**5. Recognition of study or award of credit through off-campus study or placement - please indicate how the time will be spent, the length of time out, the amount of credit and whether it is a compulsory or optional part of the programme**

Year abroad

Year in employment

Placement

Other (please specify)

Time spent ..... 75 days (2 days a week from October- end July)

Credit amount: **Placement forms part of a 60-credit compulsory module on the MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology pathway only.** 1/3 of module mark is for performance on placement. Remaining marks are derived from written work based on placement experience.

There are no placements arranged for our other students.

**6. Please provide a rationale for any such time outside the College, other than that which is a requirement of a professional, statutory or regulatory body**

The clinical forensic placement is an integral and unique feature of the Clinical Forensic Psychology MSc. It provides students with carefully monitored and structured work experience which enables them to make theory-practice links in many areas relevant to the programme. It also enables students to work on a research project at the placement setting and to gather material for a case study and for an essay critically evaluating a workplace policy. In the first four years of the programme the experience gained on placement has proved to be one of the most attractive features to applicants and has proved invaluable to students as they move into employment after graduation. Many of our students have been employed within the Trust where they have been on placement.

Placements are arranged in community forensic teams and medium secure units around London and the South-East of England and also at Broadmoor Hospital (high secure).

**7. Please give details if the programme requires validation or accreditation by a professional, statutory or regulatory body**

British Psychological Society

St Andrews House

48 Princess Road East

Leicester LE1 7DR

Tel: 0116 254 9568/Fax: 0116 247 0787/email: [enquiry@bps.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@bps.org.uk)

Date validation/accreditation commenced: TBC

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Date of last validation/accreditation: autumn 2010	
Frequency of validation/ accreditation	Date of next validation/ accreditation
Every five years	2015

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