

Module code	FCP	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Forensic and Criminal Psychology

This module aims to:

- Develop an understanding of the importance of forensic psychology within the criminal justice system.
- Provide students with the knowledge regarding the options available under the current Mental Health Act to deal with mentally disordered offenders.
- Highlight the various roles that the discipline of psychology plays in the criminal justice system.
- Develop a critical awareness of the potential caveats in forensic psychology

Syllabus

- Psychopathology and criminal behaviour
- Developmental origins of criminal behaviour
- Psychology, the legal system and criminology
- Psychopathy and criminal behaviour
- Management and treatment of offenders
- Violent and sexual offending
- Caveats in forensic psychology
- The psychology of the judicial process
- Psychology and investigation

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- explain the differences between the disciplines of criminology, psychology and Law
- demonstrate an understanding of the varying psychological underpinnings in the Criminal Justice System
- apply theoretical understanding of offending behaviour to
 - the investigative process
 - the judicial process
 - management and treatment of offenders
 - offending behaviour

Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The lecturecasts will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	Unit 2 and Unit 3	10%
Mid-module assignment	2,000 words	Unit 6	40%
Journal entries	500 words (each)	Unit 4 and Unit 8	10%
End of module project	2,000 words	Unit 9	40%