

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc Forensic Psychology
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Modular Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	One year full time / Two years part time / up to five years modular
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	The programme is actively seeking accreditation by the British Psychological Society.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2026/27 is: £10,400</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2026/27 is: £5,700*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2026/27 is: £18,200</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

The MSc Forensic Psychology programme is designed to be the first step on your career journey towards becoming a Forensic Psychologist. The design of the programme has been informed by the British Psychological Society's published standards for a Stage 1 MSc Forensic Psychology degree. As such, you will specialise in psychology in the legal and criminal justice context; assessing and formulating interventions for individuals, groups and organisations; working with client groups such as offenders, victims and individuals across the life span; progressing towards working in a range of Forensic settings; and progressing towards working with organisations to offer evidence-based consultancy. You will also gain the capabilities to deploy a range of quantitative and qualitative psychological research methods as well as an understanding of the British Psychological Society's (BPS) Code of Ethics and Conduct and the Health and Care Professions Council's (HCPC) Code of Ethics and Conduct to develop your competencies as a Forensic psychological researcher and as a

consumer of research.

Experiential learning underpins your learning on this course. There are opportunities to engage in professional practice through research and practitioner-based projects, a range of authentic assessments developed by Forensic psychologists, and through an employer panel where you will work in a group to solve a real-life problem faced by an external Forensic organisation. You will have the opportunity to gain live experience in a Forensic setting and to visit a Forensic establishment through a work-based placement. You will also learn through the flipped learning approach to education, allowing you to more flexibly complete your pre-sessional learning throughout the week before attending more interactive in-person sessions intended to develop and solidify your capabilities.

Keele University specialises in Forensic psychology across the lifespan. Academic researchers and lecturers on this course specialise in areas of crime and victim/survivor support across the lifespan, such as child witness testimony, minor attraction, adult firesetting, crowd behaviour, and crimes that affect older adults such as domestic violence. Our teaching staff have experience delivering training to Forensic practitioners and invited Forensic practitioner guest speakers will be invited to speak with students. You can take advantage of Keele University's Forensic Science Simulation Centre and Moot Courtroom to carry out a dissertation or academic-based placement as part of your studies. The Forensic Science Simulation Centre simulates a number of professional and domestic crime scene environments, which you can virtually tour [here](#). The Moot Courtroom offers a realistic courtroom experience, which you can virtually tour [here](#).

The course is underpinned by a promoting of autonomous learning and development of Forensic psychological skills. You will acquire a range of transferable skills such as critical evaluation skills, an ability to identify areas for self-development, research methods skills, and effective communication in various formats. The transferable skills that you will acquire through this programme will hold you in strong standing to pursue a broad range of psychology-related careers or continue into a PhD.

Keele University is committed to providing transformative and innovative learning opportunities, developing student capabilities, inclusive learning opportunities and learning beyond the curriculum to develop interpersonal professional and employability skills. MSc Forensic Psychology engenders these values through the use of varied assessments that authentically reflects the theoretical and applied aspects of the discipline, with modules that range from advanced research techniques through to opportunities to translating your studies into practice on a placement opportunity and through research projects supervised by established and renowned academics. The course can be studied over one year full time, two years part time, or up to five years by completing the course on a modular basis, offering flexibility to accommodate a range of personal desires and circumstances.

The programme provides you with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a Forensic setting through opportunities for a work placement. MSc Forensic Psychology at Keele University benefits from staff who have delivered professional training to Forensic practitioners. You will have the opportunity to learn from and interact with practicing Forensic psychologists. By joining the course, you will become a member of the Justice, Security and Institutional Change research network which is a home to researchers exploring research areas including crowd behaviour, deception detection, domestic violence, firesetting, and more, and deploying techniques ranging from interviews and surveys to computational modelling and VR simulation. A defining feature of the programme is the specialisation in Forensic psychology across the lifespan, exploring the interface of law, psychology and individuals and groups across the stages of life.

The programme consists of the following modules:

- **PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, and Intervention in Forensic Psychology (30 credits)** will develop your skills to undertake a comprehensive psychological assessment of offending behaviour in context. This will include a functional analysis of behaviour, looking to identify the broader context in which offending behaviour occurs and the function of the behaviour to the individual.
- **PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology (30 credits)** will provide you with an opportunity to complete a practice-based or academic-based placement to gain experience and develop your employability skills in an applied setting. You will acquire necessary knowledge, practical skills and ethical ground to excel as a competent and reflective Forensic practitioner.
- **PSY-40167 Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan (30 credits)** will allow you to explore the criminal justice system as it applies to individuals across the lifespan, including punishment and courts of law, mental health in the criminal justice system, and explanations around why people engage in antisocial behaviour from the perspectives of the offender and victim/survivor.
- **PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods (30 credits)** will provide training around a breadth of advanced research skills, research design and analysis to progress through the MSc Forensic Psychology course and beyond. The module develops an advanced and critical understanding of different quantitative and qualitative research skills, methods and philosophical approaches to equip you to both conduct and consume scientific research.
- **PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation (60 credits)** will provide students an opportunity to engage in designing, developing, conducting, and reporting research in the area of Forensic Psychology under the supervision of staff with qualitative, quantitative and/or mixed methods expertise.

Graduates of this course may go on to work in a variety of settings such as with the police; in the criminal justice

system; in the NHS, secure hospitals and other health services; rehabilitation units; governmental organisations and sectors (e.g., Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Office for National Statistics); and private consultancy. The course focus on Forensic psychology across the lifespan equips you to go on to work in schools and universities; social services; youth offending services and institutions (e.g., crime prevention organisations); youth support services (e.g., working in a secure children's home); and the wider charity sector. The research methods and analytics taught on this course will provide a strong foundation for continuing into a PhD and working as a Forensic psychology researcher or academic.

Example career titles include:

- Offending behaviour programme facilitator
- Assistant Forensic psychologist
- Mental health support/recovery worker
- Academic
- Research assistant
- Researcher in intelligence
- Assistant psychologist
- Interventions facilitator
- Police force analyst
- Programme facilitator
- Forensic support worker

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to advanced scholarship in Forensic Psychology.
- Develop a critical understanding of the psychological theories and evidence of relevance to processes in the justice system.
- Develop a critical understanding of different approaches to assessment and formulation in relation to assessing individuals, groups, and organisations.
- Develop a critical understanding of a range of interventions available for offenders, at-risk individuals, victims/survivors, groups, and organisations.
- Develop a critical understanding of Forensic psychological issues across the human life span.
- Progress to working within a range of settings and contexts relevant to Forensic psychology.
- Take responsibility for your own professional development and understand the Forensic psychological theories and evidence underpinning the development and training of others.
- Design and implement scientific research studies to answer Forensic psychological research questions while observing the British Psychological Society's (BPS) and Health and Care Professions Council's (HCPC) principles of professional ethics and conduct.
- Enhance your written and communication skills, independent learning skills, and critical reflection and evaluation skills.

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Key theoretical issues in Forensic psychology as it relates to the criminal justice system and associated empirical evidence.
- A variety of approaches to Forensic assessment, formulation and intervention.
- Theories and evidence relevant for working with Forensic organisations to develop and evaluate their practice.
- Forensic psychological theories and evidence underpinning the training of others.
- The role of the British Psychological Society and the Health and Care Professions Council in regulating psychologists and practitioners.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Select and deploy appropriate empirical methodologies for the scientific investigation of Forensic psychological questions.
- Review the scientific literature of a chosen topic within the field of Forensic psychology.
- Develop research questions and/or hypotheses for researching Forensic psychology.
- Conduct and interpret the findings of an empirical research project addressing a Forensic psychological question.
- Communicate with various client groups and stakeholders.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Reflect on their own professional development.
- Communicate in various formats to audiences of differing levels of expertise.
- Take ownership of their independent learning, identifying and developing skills and capabilities.
- Critically reflect on and evaluate information and ideas in the solution of problems.
- Use digital technologies includes word processing, analytical software, email and the internet.
- Manage their time effectively and to work to deadlines.
- Work as a member of a team.
- Employ scientific research methods to address practical and theoretical questions.
- Learn to improve work based on written feedback from tutors.
- Handle and ethically manipulate data
- Applying relevant ethical, legal and professional frameworks.

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- Lectures and recorded lectures
- Seminars, interactive problems, and discussions
- Class-based discussion with students and tutors
- Practical work and laboratory classes
- One-to-one project supervision
- Work-based and/or academic-based placement
- Directed asynchronous learning (for example, directed reading, a quiz, video content)
- Reading scientific articles
- Personalised written and face-to-face feedback
- Electronic submission and return of marked coursework with feedback
- IT instruction (e.g., analytical software)
- Use of the Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

6. Teaching Staff

The Programme Director holds full membership of the BPS Division of Forensic Psychology, is HCPC registered and a current part-time Forensic practitioner. The programme uses a dynamic range of staff holding or working towards an accredited Higher Education Teaching qualification bring a diversity of teaching and research expertise. Tutors on the course have a range of experiences and recognition, including staff with direct experience as practitioners in the field, those who have experience offering training to practitioners,

internationally recognised leaders in their field, and those who manage and engage with research groups (comprising research staff, postgraduate research students and/or postdoctoral researchers) and national and international research societies. More details about the teaching team can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/psychology/people/>

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to September and is divided into three semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study, and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There is one type of module delivered as part of your programme: compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study.

A summary of the credit requirements is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	180	0	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Applied Psychological Research Methods	PSY-40163	30	Semester 1
Antisocial behaviour across the lifespan	PSY-40167	30	Semester 1
Applied Research Dissertation	PSY-40169	60	Semester 1-3
Assessment, Formulation, and Intervention in Forensic Psychology	PSY-40141	30	Semester 2
Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	PSY-40171	30	Semester 2

Part-time students

For part-time study, the following table outlines which modules will be studied in each academic year. The dissertation module and Applied Psychological Research Methods module will be completed in the second academic year. All other modules will be completed in the first academic year. The semester in which they are taught follows that shown in the above table.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Year of Study
Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology	PSY-40141	30	Year 1
Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan	PSY-40167	30	Year 1
Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology	PSY-40171	30	Year 1
Applied Psychological Research Methods	PSY-40163	30	Year 2
Applied Research Dissertation	PSY-40169	60	Year 2

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Knowledge and understanding of key theoretical issues in Forensic psychology as it relates to the criminal justice system and associated empirical evidence.	PSY-40167 Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation
Critically assess and apply a variety of approaches to Forensic assessment, formulation, and intervention.	PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology
Critically evaluate theories and evidence relevant for working with Forensic organisations to develop and evaluate their practice.	PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology
Critically evaluate and apply Forensic psychological theories and evidence underpinning the training of others.	PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation
Understand the role of the British Psychological Society and the Health and Care Professions Council in regulating psychologists and practitioners.	PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Select and deploy appropriate empirical methodologies for the scientific investigation of Forensic psychological questions.	PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation
Review the scientific literature of a chosen topic within the field of Forensic psychology.	PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods PSY-40167 Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan
Develop research questions and/or hypotheses for researching Forensic psychology.	PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods
Conduct and interpret the findings of an empirical research project addressing a Forensic psychological question.	PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation
Communicate with client groups and stakeholders from various backgrounds, perspectives, and levels of expertise.	PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology PSY-40167 Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Reflect on their own professional development.	PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology
Communicate in various formats to audiences of differing levels of expertise.	PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods PSY-40167 Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan
Take ownership of their independent learning, identifying and developing skills and capabilities.	PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology
Critically reflect on and evaluate information and ideas in the solution of problems.	PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology PSY-40167 Antisocial Behaviour Across the Lifespan
Use digital technologies includes word processing, analytical software, email and the internet.	All modules
Manage their time effectively and to work to deadlines.	All modules
Work as a member of a team with other students and/or staff, taking advantage of diverse perspectives to reach novel and insightful solutions.	PSY-40141 Assessment, Formulation, Intervention in Forensic Psychology PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology
Employ scientific research methods to address practical and theoretical questions.	All modules
Learn to improve work based on written feedback from tutors.	All modules
Handle and ethically manipulate data.	PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40163 Applied Psychological Research Methods
Applying relevant ethical, legal and professional frameworks	PSY-40169 Applied Research Dissertation PSY-40171 Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree: MSc Forensic Psychology	180 credits	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma: PG Diploma Psychology in the Criminal Justice System	120 credits	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Certificate: PG Cert Psychology in the Criminal Justice System	60 credits	You will require at least 40 credits at Level 7

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance.

The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- Case study report
- Dissertation empirical research project
- Evidence-based report
- Oral presentation
- Reflective diary
- Scientific laboratory report

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

10. Accreditation

The programme is actively seeking accreditation by the British Psychological Society.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

A minimum of a 2:2 in a BPS-accredited psychology or joint-Psychology degree conferring Graduate Basis for Chartered (GBC) membership or equivalent qualification eligible to confer GBC membership with the BPS, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Please note, Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS) is required if you wish to pursue stage 2 training after your MSc. Applicants are advised to check whether there undergraduate training confers GBC by visiting the [BPS website for more information](#).

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the programme is provided in the following ways:

- **Module Leaders:** Any questions or concerns you may have in relation to the content taught and assessed on a given module on the MSc Forensic Psychology course are to be directed towards the module leader who will offer support and guidance.
- **Academic Mentors:** You are allocated an academic mentor for the duration of your studies as part of the University's Academic Mentor system and in accordance with the University Code of Practice on Academic Mentoring. The role of the academic mentor is to meet formally with you periodically to discuss your progress and performance and to offer support and advice. You can make arrangements to see your academic mentor at any time.
- **Programme Lead:** The MSc Forensic Psychology course is led by an academic member of staff who takes responsibility for operation of the course. Should you find yourself unable to reach out to your academic mentor, your programme lead is the next point of contact.
- **Postgraduate Taught Director:** Should you find yourself in a position where neither the module leader, academic mentor nor programme lead are appropriate contact options, the Postgraduate Taught Director is available to help support you.
- **Student Experience and Support Officer (SESO):** If you need to talk to someone, whether it is about your studies or life outside of them, you can access advice, guidance, and one-to-one support from their Student SESO based within the School of Psychology.
- **Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE):** All modules belonging to the MSc Forensic Psychology programme are supported by learning resources that are accessible to students via the KLE.
- **Students with disabilities, medical conditions, or dyslexia:** Students admitted to the MSc Forensic Psychology programme with disabilities or medical problems are asked to disclose their condition to Student Services via the SESO (above) and the Disability and Inclusion Tutor nominated within the School. Students will meet with a member of the University's Disability Support & Inclusion team. Academic mentors and module leaders are responsible for ensuring reasonable adjustments are made.
- **School Academic Skills Tutor:** The academic skills tutor designs and runs study support workshops in each semester and are available to you by appointment for one-to-one advice.
- **Keele Careers and Employability Support:** The university offers you an opportunity to gain support and advice regarding your career options. In addition, the School of Psychology careers tutor can also offer guidance. You are encouraged to consult with the careers tutor for any assistance in deciding upon postgraduate research, funding opportunities, career options and for assistance in applying for jobs and placements. Briefing sessions are organised for students interested in continuing to postgraduate research or continuation with further training to become a practicing Forensic psychologist. The Psychology Notice Board on the KLE also contains a 'Careers' folder with a range of resources for students.

14. Learning Resources

Almost all of the teaching in Psychology is carried out in the same building, which contains three lecture rooms, two teaching laboratories and a number of seminar rooms. These rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups. All of the rooms are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. There is a psychology Learning Resources room with computers and internet access which is available to postgraduate students for independent study and also a number of student project rooms and research laboratories that are available to be used to carry out project work.

Other learning resources available to students on the MSc Forensic Psychology programme include:

- Academic Skills Tutors who run learning support workshops (e.g. essay-writing, literature searching, APA referencing sessions) outside of the planned curriculum. The Academic Skills Tutors are also available by appointment to provide students with one-to-one support.
- Technical support is available from technicians and university IT services in terms of access to equipment that might be required for research (e.g. audio and video recording) and access to software.
- Students can access the undergraduate Research Participation (RPT) Scheme if they need undergraduate student participants for their research (for research-based modules such as the dissertation). This is a scheme where all undergraduates are required to participate in a certain amount of research to gain experience of different approaches. There is an RPT co-ordinator who approves access to the scheme, and full information is provided on how to access this in the Programme Handbook.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE), which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources

and support materials in electronic format. In accordance with the Keele Education Principles, students will be provided with asynchronous materials (such as short videos, quizzes, reading, etc.) for them to engage with in their own time in order to enhance learning that takes place in the classroom.

- Microsoft Teams is used to complement teaching and facilitating the development of a learning community, with online sessions, question and answer threads, peer-to-peer communication and resource sharing.

Students also have the opportunity to hear from, and talk to, a range of guest speakers who are invited by the School to present the findings from up-to-date research they are currently carrying out in their own area of psychology. Students will be invited to join the research group for their programme, which will hold informal research meetings at which they can hear about other staff and student research and give presentations of their own work.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

All MSc Forensic Psychology students have extensive opportunities to engage with the research life of the School of Psychology. For example, many of our research projects are offered as extra-curricular volunteering opportunities, students can attend research groups meetings relevant to their interests, and staff are always keen to support students to write the research up for publication where appropriate.

We are also keen to help our MSc students integrate with our postgraduate research students and students from other schools. We encourage joint social events between Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research students.

16. Additional Costs

Mandatory costs

You can expect some additional costs as a student on this course, which may support learning activities, specialist equipment, fieldwork, placements, or other course-related requirements. Details of these mandatory costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

For students completing a placement in Schools:
Enhanced DBS check with digital ID check: £60.70
This price is not set by the University and is liable to increase.

Optional costs

In addition to the mandatory costs listed below, there may be optional costs that students can choose to incur to enhance their learning experience. These are not required to complete the course. Details of these optional costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Graduate membership (with student discount for current enrolment on a postgraduate qualification): £45.

Additional costs may be incurred where a student elects to conduct a dissertation project that requires off-campus travel (PSY-40169). The course provides the opportunity for a work placement (PSY-40171). This may require off-campus travel. The costs associated with travel will depend on the chosen mode of travel and the frequency of travel arranged between the student and the supervisor.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the [additional costs](#) information.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (Psychology): <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-psychology>

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

d. The British Psychological Society Standards for the Accreditation of Masters & Doctoral Programmes in Forensic Psychology: <https://www.bps.org.uk/accreditation/education-providers>

19. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MSc Forensic Psychology

Final Award and Award Titles	MSc Forensic Psychology
Intermediate Award(s)	PGCert Psychology in the Criminal Justice System PGDip Psychology in the Criminal Justice System
Last modified	n/a
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions**, **variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:
For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: Compensation

This programme varies from Regulation D5 point 4.

Compensation is not permitted on the MSc Forensic Psychology programme.

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: No additional requirements apply

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 06 July 2026

What's Changed

Correction to admissions section to include required statement on Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC)

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2026/27	HARRIET DYMOND	10 June 2026	
1	2025/26	CHRIS STREET	19 June 2025	