

Module specification

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Module Code	POL412
Module Title	Criminal Justice
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Professional Policing	Core
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science	Core
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Foundation Year	Core
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Placement Year	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

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Initial approval date	15 th August 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	March 2025 – addition of BSc (Hons) Forensic Science programme titles with implementation from cohort Sep 24
Version number	2

Module aims

This module aims to equip students with an understanding of the criminal justice system, focusing on the police's role and their interactions with diverse communities.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	<p>Evaluate the contribution of the police to the CJS it and how practices can respond to diversity of individuals and society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Criminal Justice System</u>: Explain the key purpose of the criminal justice system and role of the police within it 1.1,1.2. • <u>Criminal Justice</u> Understand the court process, including interpretations and analysis that can be drawn from evidence given 4.1. • <u>Valuing Diversity and Inclusion</u>: Evaluate how the diversity of individuals and society impact on the criminal justice system 1.1;1.2. • <u>Suspect and Offender Management</u>: Understand the various types of justice outcomes, both judicial and non-judicial 6.1,6.2
2	<p>Identify the legal processes and authorisations associated with arrest, detention and disposal of a suspect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Suspect and Offender Management</u>: Explain the processes for detaining and escorting a suspect to custody: 7.1, 7.2;7.3;7.4;7.5. • <u>Suspect and Offender Management</u> Describe the alternative options to arrest available to a PC when an offence has been committed.6.1,6.2,6.3,6.4,6.5. • <u>Suspect and Offender Management</u> Understand the legal processes and authorisations associated with bail.9.1,9.2,9.3,9.4 • <u>Suspect and Offender Management</u> Explain statutory processes relating to a person detained in police custody.8.1 • <u>Suspect and Offender Management</u> Explain why understanding the stages of offending is beneficial to policing practice. • <u>Criminal Justice System</u>: Understand all relevant procedures in relation to charging a person.3.1,3.2,3.3

3	<p>Explain the importance of building and developing processes and relationships with key criminal justice partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>NPC Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community Policing and Partnership Working</u> Explain the importance of building and developing relationships with the CPS and key criminal justice partners and stakeholders 10.1, 10.2, 10.3.
4	<p>Demonstrate the process for recording, building effective case files and managing exhibits.</p> <p>NPC Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Criminal Justice:</u> Explain the processes associated with court warrants: 10.1 • <u>Criminal Justice</u> Understand the court process, including interpretations and analysis that can be drawn from evidence given 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, • <u>Criminal Justice System</u> Understand the process for building effective case files and managing exhibits, including recording standards 2.1,2.2,2.3,2.4,2.5 • <u>Criminal Justice System</u> Explain the processes for provision of materials for disclosure by CPS. 5.1,5.2

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

1. Practical – 15 mins Role Play Exercise: Students are to engage in a simulated custody environment, where they will actively participate in processes including the arrest and detention of a suspect.
2. Written Assignment - Criminal Justice System Journey Map: Students are tasked with creating a detailed map of the criminal justice system and relevant legislation. Words: 1000.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	2 & 4	Practical	50%
2	1 & 3	Written Assignment	50%

Derogations

Module cannot be compensated/condoned on BSc (Hons) Professional Policing. Both elements of the module must be passed at 40%.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy are grounded in the University's commitment to an Active Learning Framework (ALF) so that learning will be both accessible and active and include synchronous and a-synchronous elements. Face to face classroom teaching will be supplemented by online lectures wherein students will be expected to complete activities such as watching Panopto videos; undertake Other Indicative Reading; complete quizzes and exercises; and post comment for a-synchronous debate. These activities will be the subject of formative feedback by the module tutor. Added to this, will be access to staff who provide presence, challenge and support for student learning and can relate learning to real world uses.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

LO1. Evaluate the contribution of the police to the CJS it and how practices can respond to diversity of individuals and society.

- How the diverse nature of society impacts upon the criminal justice system; the importance of diversity and inclusion and the necessity for integrity and fairness across all criminal justice system matters.
- How socio-economic, mental health, diversity issues can impact on individuals progressing through the criminal justice system.

LO2. Identify the legal processes and authorisations associated with arrest, detention and disposal of a suspect.

- Police roles in relation to detaining and escorting a suspect to custody, including arresting officer, custody staff etc.
- Police service obligations and considerations relating to suspects e.g., benefits of an early arrest.
- How to use the police caution.
- Examples when discretion could be used, including managing and recording use of 'out-of-court' disposals.
- Understand legal processes and authorisations associated with bail:
- Roles associated with bail processes, including pre-charge, authorisations etc. including setting and managing bail conditions and conferring with victims regarding these.
- Importance of necessity and proportionality in the decision-making processes for using bail, including street bail.
- Bail periods and extensions, including processes associated with these (e.g., legal representation etc.).

LO3. Explain the importance of building and developing processes and relationships with key criminal justice partners and stakeholders

- Importance of understanding the influences on charging
- Considerations regarding the decision to charge, including setting out the charge correctly
- How a prosecution is undertaken and how to work with CPS lawyers

LO4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the process for recording, building effective case files and managing exhibits.

- Incident and crime recording standards.
- Different types of case file, their associated contents, including electronic case files and timescales / constraints associated with submitting these.
- Skills and documentation associated with effective case management and case files, including engagement with others to build the case file.
- Considerations to support 'Better Case Management' (BCM) and the national file standard
- The court process, including the types of courts, legal proceedings, hearings and their purpose.
- How actions at the court stage can affect the prosecution
- How evidence is presented to court and evaluated in a case, including:
- Preparing an evidence file for prosecuting authority
- Defence tactics that may be used, including inducement defence and their potential impacts.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

- Archer, B. and Ellison, G. (2023). Police Procedure and Evidence in the Criminal Justice System. St Albans: Critical Publishing.
- College of Policing (2024). Detention and custody. [online] College of Policing. Available at: <https://www.college.police.uk/app/detention-and-custody>.
- Hutton, G. and Johnston, D. (2023). Blackstone's Police Manuals Volume 2: Evidence and Procedure 2024. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Other indicative reading

- Blake, C., Sheldon, B. and Williams, P. (2010). Policing and Criminal Justice. Exeter: Learning Matters.
- Joyce, P. and Laverick, W. (2022). Criminal Justice: An Introduction. 4th ed. Abingdon: Routledge.