

Module specification

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Module Code	POL702
Module Title	Investigative Interview Strategy in Complex Crime
Level	7
Credit value	30
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100486
Cost Code	GACJ
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MSc Policing	Optional

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	32 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	32 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	268 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	300 hrs

Module aims

This module develops the advanced analytical, strategic and decision-making capabilities required of a Tier 5 Interview Advisor within major criminal investigations. Students will critically examine the legal, procedural and psychological complexities of planning and advising on interview strategies for suspects and witnesses, including vulnerable, intimidated and high-risk individuals.

Drawing upon real investigative materials and detailed case studies—including Operation Benedict, Operation Lenten and Operation Linament—students will explore interview-related decision points, evidential sequencing, custody considerations, pre-interview disclosure, and the coordination of multiple interviews in dynamic investigative contexts.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically evaluate the legal, procedural, ethical and professional frameworks that shape investigative interviewing within major crime investigations.
2	Design and justify advanced suspect and witness interview strategies informed by evidence, law, guidance and psychological insight.
3	Demonstrate sophisticated professional judgement in managing risk, vulnerability, intimidation, multiple suspects and evolving investigative circumstances.
4	Produce and communicate a comprehensive, defensible Tier-5-level interview strategy for a complex case study.

Assessment

Students will select one of the module’s case studies and produce a full Tier-5-level Interview Strategy Portfolio (3,500 words). The strategy must incorporate: aims and hypotheses, full interview strategy, evidential sequencing, custody considerations, risk and vulnerability analysis, pre-interview disclosure, and professional justification based on law, guidance, research and case evidence.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
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1	1-4	Portfolio	3,500	100%	N/A
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Derogations

None.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Teaching and learning will follow the University's Active Learning Framework (ALF), combining synchronous and asynchronous activity. Online lectures will introduce core concepts, supported by interactive tasks such as case-study analysis, disclosure drafting, decision-making exercises and operational problem-solving discussions.

Welsh Elements

Students can present assessed and non-assessed work in Welsh, and can access all forms, resources, and email correspondence in Welsh where preferred. Students are also able to undertake personal tutorials and, where applicable, work placements through the medium of Welsh. All module information aligns with the Welsh language expectations set out in the programme specification, and appropriate support is available to ensure students can fully engage with the module in their chosen language.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

The indicative syllabus for this module covers the core competencies, legal frameworks, and strategic considerations required for effective Tier 5 interview advising, including the following areas:

- Role and remit of the Tier 5 Interview Advisor
- APP, PACE Codes C and E, ethical and legal considerations
- Arrest timing, custody rights and significant statements
- Suspect interview strategy, hypotheses and evidential sequencing
- Complex suspects: mental health, intimidation, coercive control, foreign nationals
- Witness strategy: prioritisation, safeguarding and contamination risks
- Pre-interview disclosure
- Managing multiple interviews within dynamic investigations
- Coordination with SIO, MIR, CPS and forensic specialists
- Case studies: Operations Benedict, Lenten, Linament, Mathis
- Producing a defensible Tier-5-level interview strategy

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

PACE Code C (2023). Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-c-2023/pace-code-c-2023-accessible> Electronically accessed 29/1/26
 PACE Code E (2022). Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-codes-e-and-f-2018/pace-code-e-2018-accessible>. Electronically accessed 29/1/26

Vaughan, M., Milne, R., Cherryman, J & Dalton, G. (2025). The role of the Interview Manager (IM) in UK policing: perceptions and experiences of the IM when deployed in high stakes crime investigations. *Policing and Society*, VOL. 35, NO. 3, 311–328
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2024.2403698>

Walsh, D. & Bull, R. (2015). Interviewing suspects: examining the association between skills, questioning, evidence disclosure, and interview outcomes. *Psychology, Crime and Law*, Vol. 21, No. 7 pp661-680 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2015.1028544>

Other indicative reading

College of Policing APP (2022). Investigative Interviewing. Available at <https://www.college.police.uk/app/investigation/investigative-interviewing/investigative-interviewing>. Electronically accessed 29/1/26

Miller, S., and Gordon, I. (2014) *Investigative Ethics : Ethics for Police Detectives and Criminal Investigators*. 1st ed. West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons.

Griffiths, A., & Milne, B. (2006) *Will It All End in Tiers? Police Interviews with Suspects in Britain*. Investigative Interviewing. 1st ed. Willan, 2006. 167–189. W

Shepherd, E., & Griffiths, A. (2013) *Investigative Interviewing : The Conversation Management Approach*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	January 2026
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