



## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	MSc Forensic Mental Health: Research and Practice PG Dip Forensic Mental Health: Research and Practice
Name of interim award(s):	Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PSFMR - C811/C812/C813/C814
QAA Benchmark Group:	Medicine
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Wolfson Institute of Population Health

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

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### Programme outline

The MSc in Forensic Mental Health: Research and Practice will provide existing and prospective forensic clinicians and researchers with the skills needed to work safely, ethically and effectively with offenders who pose a risk to others due to their mental disorder. This course provides a multidisciplinary understanding of the connection between mental disorder and criminal behaviour, and approaches for reducing violence through appropriate care and management of those at risk of offending. It encompasses approaches from forensic psychology, psychiatry, criminology and sociology as well as public health.

This programme is intended for students who are interested in an applied course in forensic mental health, forensic psychiatry and/or criminology but do not require Stage 1 accreditation for the British Psychological Society for the Qualification in Forensic Psychology (QFP). Those who do require accreditation should apply to the Forensic Psychology and Mental Health Pathway.

### Aims of the programme

This programme aims to:

- 1) Develop the clinical skills and academic knowledge of a future workforce for forensic mental health services in the UK and overseas.
- 2) Provide a route for those seeking to work in forensic services to obtain an academic qualification through taught and self-directed learning; and also the experience of reflecting on their own practice in forensic settings.
- 3) To provide a route for those interested in becoming future research leaders in forensics with both the methodological skills and the clinical experience to pursue this goal.
- 4) To enhance the level of understanding of research evidence and research methodologies in individuals seeking to work in a forensic mental health context.
- 5) To promote and develop a holistic approach to working with those who offend, through elective modules surrounding health systems and cultural considerations

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Students will be expected to learn about the legal, ethical and theoretical frameworks underpinning forensic mental health services. They will develop robust research methods skills and the ability to apply these to novel research within the field, in addition to policy analysis and development. Students will have the ability to shape their own MSc through the use of elective modules, therefore allowing a focus on clinical application, research, and/or cultural competency. Students will develop an understanding of how to work in partnership with other organisations and pathways relevant to forensic mental health, such as the criminal justice system, probation services and local authorities. Students will also produce an original thesis, which can be oriented towards clinical or research knowledge, and will be encouraged to publish and disseminate this work.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	To develop a professional understanding of the English Legal System with a focus on the forensic mental health system, including pathways, risk assessment and risk management.
A 2	To understand the clinical features of mental disorder and their implications for management of offenders with criminal justice and mental health services.
A 3	To acquire the research skills necessary to understand and utilise the best available evidence for forensic mental health practice.
A 4	Apply research skills in the production of a dissertation.

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Undertake research methodology as applied to the Criminal Justice System and be able to critically appraise existing research and policy
B 2	Perform a detailed literature search and synthesise available evidence
B 3	Understand best practice in working with offenders with mental disorder
B 4	Understand the legal and ethical bases of forensic psychology and mental health practice and maintain a working professional knowledge of applicable legal frameworks.
B 5	Understand the impact of health and social systems on the aetiology, maintenance, and treatment of offending behaviour

Attributes:

C1	Understands professional responsibility and relevant systems in forensic mental health services.
C2	Be able to critically evaluate literature surrounding the Criminal Justice System and the treatment of offenders with Mental Disorder
C3	Able to maintain an open-mind in working with offenders with a range of mental disorders and offending histories.

## How will you learn?

The course is designed to prepare students for the kind of challenges and models of practice they would encounter if working professionally in forensic mental health and/or criminal justice settings, and to equip them with the skills to make best use of evidence in their practice and future research. Students will learn through a combination of formal lectures; reflective practice groups; seminars; and completion of a final dissertation which is expected to make a contribution to knowledge in forensic services.

Students will encounter a combination of a traditional academic structure involving formal lectures, and flipped classrooms in addition to group tutorials which will encourage collaborative learning. They will also undertake discussion seminars. Students will be provided with reading lists identifying both essential and further reading around the topics discussed, and will be expected to spend a significant amount of time in self-directed study. All topics use a flipped classroom approach, and will have both asynchronous content and live, on site delivery.

Each 15 credit module represents 150 hours of notional study – this includes self-directed reading, live sessions, discussion on the forum assessments, and assignments. Contact teaching is approximately 30 hours with self-directed study of around 120 hours per 15 credit module. The 30 credit module represents 300 hours of notional study. Contact teaching is approximately 60 hours, with self-directed study of around 240 hours.

## How will you be assessed?

Modules will be assessed in a variety of ways to test learning outcomes, including critical essays, reflective reports, presentations, timed assessments, and a final dissertation. Specific assessments will be in line with individual module learning outcomes.

## How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

### Full Time

#### Semester A:

##### 1) Two compulsory Modules:

- Introduction to Forensic Mental Health -WOFM955 (30 credits)
- Applied Research Methods 1 - WOFM983 (15 credits)

##### 2) An elective choice of one from:

- Professional Skills in Mental Health - WOFM982 (15 credits)

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- Health systems, Policy and Practice - IPH7017 (15 credits)

Semester B

1) One compulsory module:

- Applied Research Methods 2 - WOFM959 (15 credits) - compulsory

-2) An elective choice of three modules from:

- Psychological and Psychosocial Perspectives on working with offenders - WOFM956 (15 credits)
- Investigative and Legal Processes in Forensic Psychology - WOFM957 (15 credits)
- Health Economic Analyses - IPH7025 (15 credits)
- Cultural Psychology and Psychiatry: Clinical Applications - WOFM986(15 credits)
- Psychological Therapies: Paradigms and Systems - WOFM987 (15 credits)

Semester C

Forensic Mental Health Dissertation - WOFM953 (60 credits,)

Part Time

Semester A Year One

1) One compulsory module:

- Introduction to Forensic Mental Health -WOFM955 (30 credits)

2) An Elective choice of one module from:

- Professional Skills in Mental Health (15 credits)
- Health Systems, Policy & Practice (15 credits)

Semester B Year One

1) An elective choice of three modules from:

- Psychological and Psychosocial Perspectives on working with offenders - WOFM956 (15 credits,)
- Investigative and Legal Processes in Forensic Psychology - WOFM957 (15 credits)
- Health Economic Analyses - IPH7025 (15 credits)
- Cultural Psychology and Psychiatry: Clinical Applications - WOFM986(15 credits)
- Psychological Therapies: Paradigms and Systems - WOFM987 (15 credits)

Semester A Year Two

Two compulsory moduleS:

- Applied Research Methods 1 - WOFM983 (15 credits)
- Applied Research Methods 2 - WOFM959 (15 credits)

Semester B& C Year Two

Forensic Mental Health Dissertation - WOFM953 (60 credits, existing module)

PGDip follows same structure and content (full time / part time) excluding only the dissertation.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to Forensic Psychology & Mental Health	WOFM955	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Applied Research Methods 1: Theory	WOFM983	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Professional Skills in Mental Health	WOFM982	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Health systems, Policy and Practice	IPH7017	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Applied Research Methods 2: Practical Application	WOFM959	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Psychological, Psychosocial, and Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Working with Offenders	WOFM956	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Investigative and Legal Processes in Forensic Psychology	WOFM957	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Health Economic Analyses	IPH7025	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Psychology and Psychiatry: Clinical Applications	WOFM986	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Psychological Therapies: Paradigms and Systems	WOFM987	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Forensic Mental Health Dissertation.	WOFM953	60	7	Core	1	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to Forensic Psychology & Mental Health	WOFM955	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Professional Skills in Mental Health	WOFM982	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Health systems, Policy and Practice	IPH7017	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Health Economic Analyses	IPH7025	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Psychology and Psychiatry: Clinical Applications	WOFM986	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Psychological Therapies: Paradigms and Systems	WOFM987	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Psychological and Psychosocial Perspectives on working with offenders	WOFM956	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Investigative and Legal Processes in Forensic Psychology	WOFM957	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

#### Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Applied Research Methods 1	WOFM983	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Applied Research Methods 2	WOFM959	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Forensic Mental Health Dissertation.	WOFM953	60	7	Compulsory	2	Semesters 2 & 3

### What are the entry requirements?

Applicants should have a strong first degree (high 2:2 or better) in psychology or a cognate discipline (e.g. sociology; criminology; psychosocial studies), or be a graduate medic with an MBBS or equivalent in their Core Training (CT1-3) or Specialist Training (ST4-6) years, or have an undergraduate degree in Law. Applicants with a professional qualification (e.g. CQSW) and equivalent experience will be considered; however all applicants must demonstrate aptitude to meet the demands of such a course.

International students are required to meet standard 7.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For further information, please refer to English language requirements for admissions to Queen Mary University University of London: <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/international/englishlanguage/requirements/>

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

We will provide the opportunity for students to provide feedback through QMPlus for individual lectures and at the mid-module point, as well as formally through the QMUL post-module feedback system Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), which takes place annually.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between The Institute and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each programme in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the Institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments where appropriate. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year. Students studying the MSc would be asked to nominate representative(s), who would be asked to attend these SSLC meetings, which will be shared with the MSc Forensic Psychology and Mental Health. The programme leads are asked to provide comment/feedback on any issues raised by the student representatives.

The Faculty operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at Institute level including monitoring the application of relevant University policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through

student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All Institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. Students' views are considered through analysis of the PTES and module evaluations.

### **What academic support is available?**

For all modules students will attend a series lectures. Students will also provided with compulsory group tutorials, and later in the academic year tutorials will take place on a 1:1 basis. All lecture materials, including presentation handouts and other lecture content will be made available to students on the QMPLus Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) prior to the on-site learning. Students will also be assigned an academic advisor who will be available to discuss academic or other issues that a student may wish to discuss.

Students will also have access to the Queen Mary Student support services, including eligibility for membership of the Queen Mary Students' Union, access to the careers service, and the Advice and Counselling services. The School of Medicine and Dentistry has its own student support officer who is able to advise students on specific issues impeding their ability to study successfully.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

none applicable.

### **How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?**

The Wolfson institute is committed to supporting disabled students of all backgrounds, and have close links with Queen Mary's Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) and student support services. Academic advisors and course tutors are encouraged to closely monitor the experience of disabled students, and provide all necessary support and referrals as needed. All course materials uploaded onto the VLE are assessed by 'Ally' for accessibility and any that are flagged as inaccessible are revised both initially by the Ally software, and subsequently by course staff.

Any students suspected of experiences an undiagnosed SpLD will be signposted to DDS. All efforts will be made to support these students in collaboration with the services offered by QMUL.

All students are given the opportunity for a disability and dyslexia assessment, and the programme will work to implement all recommendations made by QMUL for diagnosed students.

### **Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills**

The MSc will provide graduates with a comprehensive introduction to the theory, practice and delivery of forensic mental health services; teachers across the cross hold posts at the majority of the major relevant NHS trusts across London.

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## **Programme Specification Approval**

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Programme Title: MSc Forensic Mental Health: Research and Practice

**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Dr Hannah Jones

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dr Hannah Jones

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by  
School / Institute Education Committee:**

15/01/2025 (for 2025/26)

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught  
Programmes Board:**