Why study Forensic Psychology?
Welcome to the Manchester Metropolitan University Department of Psychology, we are delighted that you are considering studying with us. The Psychology Department is located within the Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care and has recently moved to the new Brooks Building. The building represents the final stage of a £350m investment in new campus facilities and provides state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities. Should you choose Manchester Met, we are confident that you will find your time with us interesting, challenging and enjoyable; valuable in terms of both educational and career development.

Why study at Manchester Met

The Psychology Department boasts research of international repute and we pride ourselves on our research-led, skills-based teaching. Psychology staff are actively involved with research and consultancy in their own specialist fields, and have a great deal of experience teaching and working with students. The MSc Forensic Psychology Programme is an established course located within the Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care. Psychology provision was first approved in 1974 and has been in existence since.

“I’m inspired by the enthusiasm of the lecturers which is evident in the content and delivery of their lectures and the wealth of experience they have which provides an insight into working within a variety of different forensic contexts”

Scott Nelson, MSc Forensic Psychology student
Forensic Psychology

Aims & Objectives
We are committed to ensuring that our MSc Forensic Psychology students graduate with the range of abilities and skills that employers are looking for.

Taught by experts within the field, Manchester Met MSc Forensic Psychology students will acquire the skills necessary to evaluate a body of knowledge, and to inform and develop their understanding of forensic psychology. They will confidently appraise the context of practice in forensic psychology, and evaluate and analyse the contribution psychology has made and is continuing to make to the understanding of law related behaviour. We are committed to ensuring that our MSc Forensic Psychology students graduate with the range of abilities and skills that employers are looking for. Alongside the acquisition of knowledge, students will develop and apply skills in assessment, verbal communication of psychological knowledge and professional report writing.

Units

Ability Assessment
This unit provides students with the opportunity to develop an applied and critical understanding of psychological measurement. The unit addresses the fundamental principles and issues surrounding ability measurement and psychological measurement in general.

Dissertation
The overall aim of this unit is to develop independent research skills. It is related to the themes of applied psychology, social and personal change and applied practice. The research may be desktop, laboratory based or field based; may be experimental or non-experimental; qualitative or quantitative and or collaborative with external agencies (if necessary). Reports of the work can take one of two forms: a standard thesis or a journal article (prepared to specification). Where appropriate, MSc Forensic Psychology students are encouraged and supported to submit their research for publication.

Introduction to Investigative Psychology
This unit provides an introduction to the theoretical frameworks, research methodologies and professional applications of Investigative Psychology (IP). Students will acquire an understanding of the emergence of IP from ‘offender profiling’ activities in the early 1990s and the importance of the empirical research carried out over the last 20 years to advance psychological understanding of criminal behaviour and police investigative processes.
**Investigative Interviewing and Eyewitness Testimony**
This unit covers the importance and relevance of applied social and cognitive psychological research relating to investigative interviewing and eyewitness testimony. How such research has shaped and developed police and legal system processes and practice will be explored and evaluated.

**Offender Assessment & Treatment**
Within this unit students will develop a critical overview of specialist applications of forensic psychology in relation to diverse groups of offenders, in terms of assessment, formulation, management, and treatment. The unit will provide students with an understanding of a variety of assessment and treatment approaches used within public and private sector settings, specifically applied to an offending population.

**Personal and Professional Development**
This unit supports personal and professional development through identification and monitoring of learning objectives and personal goals within a critical and supportive academic community. The unit promotes ongoing reflection, completion of personal development records, planning and participating.

**Psychology and Law**
The overall aim of this unit is to introduce how psychology is applied in legal settings. Topics include: psychologists as expert witnesses, the role of psychologists in the criminal and civil courts, the role of psychologists in mental health law and psychological assessment in legal settings. Students are encouraged to integrate theory with the development of practical skills to enhance their understanding of the topic and their professional development.

**Qualitative Methods in Psychology**
The overall aim of this unit is to provide a background to qualitative research concerned with social action and the role of individual subjectivity. The rationale for qualitative research approaches differentiated from the quantitative tradition is elaborated with reference to specific methodological frameworks. The unit covers a wide range of qualitative methods, with a focus on how to apply these in practice. Approaches to qualitative analysis are also covered, and students receive practical experience of data collection and analysis in teaching sessions, as well as training on being reflexive in research.

**Quantitative Methods in Psychology**
The unit introduces advanced techniques for quantitative data analysis and provides students with the opportunity to apply these to datasets in a workshop format. It is related to the themes of applied practice and applied psychology.
Theory and Practice in Forensic Psychology
This unit presents theory alongside practice and encourages students to develop an understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of forensic psychology, and how this translates into practice. Viewing theory and practice as complementary components in forensic psychology, this unit forms part of core learning and provides key foundations for skill and knowledge development.
Emma Tarpey

Emma Tarpey is a HCPC Registered Psychologist (Forensic), gaining Chartered status with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and full membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) in 2004. She is also an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (AFBPsS). Emma has worked within the criminal justice field for over fifteen years and has a wealth of experience working with offenders. She has hands-on experience of delivering, supervising and managing offending behaviour programmes, within custodial and community settings. She is experienced in the use of a number of assessment tools used within the field, particularly in the assessment of risk. Emma has extensive experience in writing and supervising reports, and presenting these within a range of settings. She has worked within and managed multi-disciplinary teams, and has managed and supervised trainee forensic psychologists. Emma is currently the route leader for the MSc Forensic Psychology at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Dr Michelle Wright

Michelle Wright is a Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol). Michelle has experience of working with police forces, national law enforcement agencies (NPIA, NABIS, NCA) and government departments at a senior level, developing publishing and promoting evidence-based professional practice on homicide and the criminal use of firearms for the UK police service. As an Investigative Psychologist, Michelle’s research explores the application of psychological concepts/theories to further understanding of offender behaviour and how serious crimes are investigated which can inform policing practice. She is a member of the National Policing Homicide Working Group (HWG), Associate of the International Academy for Investigative Psychology (IAIP) and member of the Criminal Investigation Research Network (CIRN) University of South Wales. Michelle is currently Unit Leader for Introduction to Investigative Psychology and Investigative Interviewing and Eyewitness Testimony.
Nicola Manning
Nicola Manning is a HCPC Registered Psychologist (Forensic); having gained Chartered status with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and full membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) in 2005. Nicola has worked within criminal justice and mental health settings for sixteen years and has a wealth of experience of working with clients with complex mental health needs and offending behaviours. Nicola has developed, delivered, supervised and managed a range of offending behaviour programmes within secure mental health services. She is experienced in the use of a number of assessment tools used within the field, particularly in the assessment of risk. Nicola has experience of writing and supervising psychological assessment reports in a range of settings, including as an expert witness in the family courts. She has supervised Forensic Psychologists in Training and Assistant Psychologists and is a registered supervisor with the BPS. Nicola is currently a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and Unit Lead for Psychology and Law. Alongside her part-time role at Manchester Met, Nicola continues to practice as an expert witness, bringing up to date experience in the field to her teaching and student supervision.

Dr Hannah Fawcett
Hannah Fawcett is a Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol) and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (AFBPsS). She has worked in academia for over ten years teaching forensic psychology to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Hannah’s research examines witnesses to crime with a particular focus on alibi evidence and juror decision making. In addition, she conducts regular research into teaching practice and pedagogy within the Higher Education sector. Hannah has provided consultancy regarding eyewitness testimony for a range of organisations. She is currently supervising three PhD students, as well as numerous MSc research projects. Hannah is the route leader for the BSc Forensic Psychology at Manchester Metropolitan University.
Claire Vesey

Claire Vesey is a HCPC Registered Psychologist (Forensic), gaining Chartered status with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and full membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) in 2005. Claire has worked within criminal justice and mental health settings for seventeen years and has a wealth of experience of working with a range of clients with offending behaviours. Claire has worked within and managed a variety of multi-disciplinary teams and has experience in the delivery, supervision, management and development of offending behaviour programmes. She is experienced in the use of a number of assessment tools and has experience of writing and supervising psychological assessment reports within a range of settings. Most recently, Claire worked for the NHS in a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) as the Clinical Lead for Multisystemic Therapy (MST), managing a team of therapists who work intensively in the community with young people with anti-social and offending behaviours. Claire is currently a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and Unit Lead for the Offender Assessment and Treatment Unit within the MSc Forensic Psychology Programme and the Introduction to Forensic Psychology Unit within the MSc Psychology Programme (Conversion).

Kevin Rowley

Kevin has over twenty years of experience in designing, leading and delivering units and programmes within Psychology. Kevin also works with external organisations focusing on ability and personality assessment for individual and organisational development. Kevin’s research interests are within quantitative methods, measuring/evaluating change and approaches to learning. Kevin is a Principal Lecturer within Manchester Met, he is an overall programme lead for MSc Psychology, and leads for the Ability Assessment unit and the Personal and Professional Development unit.
Professor Sarah Grogan

Sarah Grogan is a Chartered Psychologist, and an HCPC-registered psychologist (Health Psychology, and Sport and Exercise Psychology). Sarah has 30 years of experience of teaching research methods to psychology students, and uses both quantitative and qualitative methods in her own research. Her research focuses on motivations for drug use (including anabolic steroids, synthol, ephedrine, smoking, and alcohol), body image and appearance concerns, and other areas relevant to health such as health screening and exercise adherence. Sarah currently holds a Medical Research Council grant for research in smoking, and has more than 90 publications in related areas. Sarah has developed and managed BPS-accredited MSc and Doctorate-level programmes, and is currently Professor of Psychology Health and Well-being in Psychology. She leads the Applied Psychology and Wellbeing Research Group based in Psychology at Manchester Met, is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and is Associate Editor of the British Journal of Health Psychology. Sarah leads on the Qualitative Methods unit on the MSc Forensic Psychology.
Research

The research work in Psychology at Manchester Met is esteemed internationally, and we hold grants from research councils such as the Medical Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council as well as publishing in highly-esteemed international peer reviewed academic and professional journals. This research is underpinned by a unique blend of qualitative and quantitative orientations. These allow us to understand fully the core issues that we are investigating. Our research focuses primarily on solving real-world problems, to ensure that our theoretically-strong work has an impact outside academia.

Members of the Forensic Psychology Team conduct applied and practitioner-focused research. Particular areas of research specialism are the investigation of crime including homicide and police decision making, eyewitness and alibi evidence, expert witness evidence and juror decision making. Research projects involve a range of methodological approaches and we collaborate with external organisations such as police forces, national agencies and academic institutions in the UK and overseas. For instance, one current research project is examining scientific expert testimony provided in court. This project aims to understand how best to communicate complex scientific information to enhance juror understanding and ultimately facilitate informed decision making.

For further information on all our research see our research webpage http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/psychology/research/
Employability

The MSc Forensic Psychology is accredited by the British Psychological Society, and if students enter the route with eligibility for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC), then successful completion of this programme fulfils stage one of the requirements towards Chartered Membership of the Society and full membership of the Division of Forensic Psychology.

The Forensic Psychology team at Manchester Met have a wealth of knowledge and experience regarding careers within the forensic psychology field, and careers advice is embedded within the programme.

The Manchester Met Careers and Employability service provides support and guidance to students, and works with students to maximise their employability potential.
Applying

Typical entry requirements

Applicants are required to have a good honours degree, minimum 2:2 classification honours degree (or international equivalent). You also need to fulfil the British Psychological Society’s criteria for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. You will also hold a GCSE or equivalent in English language. Prior learning and experience may count for advanced standing. International students please visit mmu.ac.uk/international.

When completing your application please provide a personal statement (typically around 750 words) where you will set out your interest in the programme and your reasons for applying. Your statement may draw upon your previous experience of relevance to the programme, and may include voluntary, employment, academic or personal experience. Where possible please relate this information to the programme for which you are applying.

How do I apply for this course?

Visit the Manchester Met prospectus website and download our course application form. Please read the Guidelines for Applicants, which can be found at the back of the application form.

When complete please email the application form to: direct@mmu.ac.uk or post to:

Direct Admissions Team,
Recruitment & Admissions,
Manchester Metropolitan University,
Business School & Student Hub,
Lower Chatham Street,
Manchester,
M15 6BH

There are also instructions on what to do next and who to send the form to in the Word document.

Faculty of Health, Psychology & Social Care
Manchester Metropolitan University
Brooks Building, Manchester Campus

Website: www.mmu.ac.uk/hpsc