UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries		
Course Code(s):	PL003H01UM PL003H31UM	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:	L900		
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Professional Policing		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Professional Policing Bachelor of Arts Professional Policing Diploma of Higher Education Professional Policing Certificate of Higher Education Professional Policing		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of first cohort:	14/Sep/2026		
Specification valid from:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Jonathan Briggs
Head of Department:	Minna Kantonen Minna Kantonen

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The BA (Hons) Professional Policing degree provides tailored education for those looking to pursue a career in policing. The degree has been created to meet the needs of the policing curriculum and is fully licensed by the College of Policing, the professional body of the police service.

This degree is designed, through a crafted selection of specially devised modules, to equip you with both a strong academic and practical footing in modern policing, suitable for roles in police services and the criminal justice system.

As well as the industry-relevant skills that a policing degree provides, you will also be able to develop other important competences that are of great interest to future employers. These include; the ability to present a strong argument, research skills, analytical skills, and the ability to work effectively in teams.

A wide range of guest speakers provide chances to build your professional network and hear about prospects and challenges. You will have opportunities to apply your learning in realistic environments using our Crime House and Courtroom. The course is taught by experienced former police officers with a wide spectrum of operational experience across several forces.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2025/6	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9535.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£15995.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£4768.00
2026/7	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9790.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£17600.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£4895.00

PSRB:

PL003H01UM (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
The College of Policing

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
19/Feb/2019	01/Jul/2018	31/Jul/2027	01/Jul/2024

PL003H31UM (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
The College of Policing

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
19/Feb/2019	01/Jul/2018	31/Jul/2027	01/Jul/2024

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4PL024	Succeeding at University in Professional Policing	30	SEM1	Core
4PL025	Policing and Crime in the Community	30	SEM1	Core
4PL026	Police Procedure and Evidence	30	SEM2	Core
4CJ009	Crime, Victims & Rights	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

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Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5PL022	Professional Development in Policing	30	SEM1	Core
5PL023	Police Response and Major Incidents	30	SEM1	Core
5PL025	Criminal Investigation	30	SEM2	Core
5PL024	Intelligence-led policing: Organised crime, the roads and analysis	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits

in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6PL024	Policing and Vulnerability: Cybercrime, privacy and risk	30	SEM1	Core
6PL026	Counterterrorism	30	SEM1	Core
6PL025	Police Accountability and Standards of Professional Behaviour	30	SEM2	Core
6PL027	Dissertation	30	YEAR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

Section 4.6 Compensation will not be permitted on any module in line with College of Policing requirements.

1.2.8 BA (Hons) Professional Policing (accredited by College of Policing) and BSc Policing and Intelligence (unaccredited) have only 27% differentiation in module diets. The courses are closely aligned to enable those unable to attain an accredited course (e.g. such as those aspiring to careers outside of the police force, or those who have transferred from unaccredited courses/seeking top-up unaccredited police-service and blue light qualifications studied elsewhere).

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, theories and principles associated with Policing in the UK.	
CERTHE02 Evaluate, interpret and apply data, to develop ideas and provide evidence.	
CERTHE03 Use different approaches to solving problems related to your studies of policing.	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE05 Identify and undertake further training and develop new skills to support your learning.	
CERTHE06 Identify personal qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study and/or employment.	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the purpose of and the responsibilities associated with delivering a professional policing service.	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate an ability to use established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a policing context and apply the appropriate methods and techniques to conduct, review and critically evaluate an investigation or research project.	
DIPHE03 Demonstrate a good understanding of legislation, policies and police powers in England and Wales and be able to apply these in practical scenarios to solve common policing issues.	
DIPHE04 Demonstrate the ability to manage your own time effectively and to produce factual, attributed reports that make use of multiple sources which have been given some critical evaluation.	
DIPHE05 Demonstrate a good understanding of the importance of taking a multi-agency approach to incidents and knowledge of the roles and capabilities of partner agencies within the ‘blue light’ services, the criminal justice system and local government.	
DIPHE06 Demonstrate the qualities and skills necessary for employment in a UK police service, showing an understanding of ethical behaviours, reflective practice, bias and its impact, and the importance of professionalism	
BHONSN01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key concepts, legislation, and operational practices within professional policing in England and Wales, including knowledge informed by current research, policy developments, and ethical considerations. (Knowing)	
BHONSN02 Demonstrate conceptual understanding to make coherent arguments, evaluate policing models and practices, and engage with current research and scholarship to inform decision-making. (Knowing)	
BHONSN03 Apply established methods of enquiry and evidence-based policing techniques to critically evaluate and solve complex operational and strategic problems, demonstrating initiative and professional judgement in real-world policing contexts. (Doing)	
BHONSN04 Critically analyse and evaluate diverse sources of evidence, assumptions, and abstract concepts, making informed judgements, and identifying ethical and lawful solutions to policing challenges. (Doing)	
BHONSN05 Independently manage learning and professional development by engaging with academic literature, operational guidance, and primary sources (e.g., case law, policy documents), and communicate complex information effectively to both specialist policing audiences and the wider public. (Being)	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN06 Demonstrate the professional competencies and transferable skills required for policing practice in the UK, including personal responsibility, ethical decision-making, reflective practice, and a commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in unpredictable and dynamic environments. (Being)	
BHONS01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key concepts, legislation, and operational practices within professional policing in England and Wales, including knowledge informed by current research, policy developments, and ethical considerations. (Knowing)	
BHONS02 Demonstrate conceptual understanding to make coherent arguments, evaluate policing models and practices, and engage with current research and scholarship to inform decision-making. (Knowing)	
BHONS03 Apply established methods of enquiry and evidence-based policing techniques to critically evaluate and solve complex operational and strategic problems, demonstrating initiative and professional judgement in real-world policing contexts. (Doing)	
BHONS04 Critically analyse and evaluate diverse sources of evidence, assumptions, and abstract concepts, making informed judgements, and identifying ethical and lawful solutions to policing challenges. (Doing)	
BHONS05 Independently manage learning and professional development by engaging with academic literature, operational guidance, and primary sources (e.g., case law, policy documents), and communicate complex information effectively to both specialist policing audiences and the wider public. (Being)	
BHONS06 Demonstrate the professional competencies and transferable skills required for policing practice in the UK, including personal responsibility, ethical decision-making, reflective practice, and a commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in unpredictable and dynamic environments. (Being)	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

Your course is taught through a variety of inclusive learning activities, these include lectures, seminars, small group discussions, student presentations, videos, and guest speakers. Additionally, students are directed to the reading lists for each module which include a variety of booked and journals and to the viewing list composed of relevant documentaries and news broadcasts.

The academic teaching team draw on relevant research and evaluation, use current materials such as official inspections, reports from NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and items from the news/social media to provide different perspectives and evidence on policing and the social, political and organisational contexts in which it takes place.

We believe it is important that you are encouraged to make your own contribution to the effective operation and development of your course. We hope that you might consider acting as a Course Representative during some of your time with us to help the university continue to improve your experience.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

A variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your university studies and into your working life. Your course will include a variety of assessment activities: essays, reports, presentations, posters, podcasts, multiple choice exams and timed essay exams. Whilst most assessments are undertaken individually, a few are group tasks. In the final year of your degree, you are expected to write an extended piece of work and research referred to as a dissertation.

These assessments help students to develop and demonstrate intellectual skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and evidence-based argument. Additionally, they are aligned with the skills and knowledge required for professional practice within policing and adjacent areas of work. There is a strong emphasis on delivering clarity and accuracy in both written and verbal work, reflecting a critical professional skill.

Clear, detailed feedback is given by staff on all work submitted. There are well-defined expectations established around all assessments. Assignment feedback and feedforward are provided through annotated comments on submissions, assessment sheets containing marking criteria, and opportunities for one-to-one meetings.

Further Information for Student:

The module Succeeding in Professional Policing at Level 4 has been designed to enable you to do two things; to appreciate the purpose, values and responsibilities of the UK police service in a variety of contexts and to acquire basic academic, research and writing skills and the ability to think critically.

All students will have a professional tutor to support their progress throughout their course. Support and guidance are available through their tutor or a member of the teaching team by appointment. Also, drop-in appointments are available for all students if they need to see their tutor at short notice without the need to book an appointment. Student well-being is a priority throughout the programme.

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, academic student success coaching for students in early stages, and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Currency:

The course is designed to allow the breadth of content to be regularly updated to reflect current research, changes in legislation and policy, and contemporary issues within the subject area. Modules are 'refreshed' every year to ensure this. Additionally, staff will integrate discussion of new and emerging news stories or issues as they occur.

All the staff teaching this course retain professional networks within police services in England and Wales and within the College of Policing. This allows them to remain up to date with changes to policy and legislation and to retain an awareness of emerging issues. Also, the variety of guest speakers used on the course reflect a range of people currently employed within the criminal justice system (CJS) and these speakers discuss contemporary issues and challenges.

Students are actively encouraged to become Special Constables whilst at university, or to take up other volunteering opportunities related to the CJS (custody visitor/Street Watch/etc.). This allows students to gain experience of working with the public and make positive contributions to life of their communities. The experiences of students in these volunteer roles are discussed during teaching and act as powerful and current examples.

Personalisation Opportunities:

Your course is taught through a variety of inclusive learning activities, these include lectures, seminars, small group discussions, student presentations, videos, and guest speakers. Additionally, students are directed to the reading lists for each module which include a variety of booked and journals and to the viewing list composed of relevant documentaries and news broadcasts.

The academic teaching team draw on relevant research and evaluation, use current materials such as official inspections, reports from NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and items from the news/social media to provide different perspectives and evidence on policing and the social, political and organisational contexts in which it takes place.

We believe it is important that you are encouraged to make your own contribution to the effective operation and development of your course. We hope that you might consider acting as a Course Representative during some of your time with us to help the university continue to improve your experience.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

The national curriculum for the Pre-join Degree in Professional Policing is prescribed by the College of Policing which is the professional body for policing. It contains comprehensive, modern and up-to date coverage of areas of knowledge, skills and the professional approaches that have been identified as critical to 21st century policing. These include (but are not limited to): evidence-based policing; decision-making and discretion; criminology and crime prevention; pro-active approaches to vulnerability, risk and public protection.

Some forces offer entry routes specifically for people who have already completed or will shortly complete the licenced Degree in Professional Policing. Those learners who have successfully completed this accredited degree and who progress to become police constables will contribute to the policing profession by being capable problem-solvers, communicators, negotiators and ethical leaders. The course also teaches skills that will be useful for those wishing to work in other related areas with investigatory or enforcement powers, for example; National Crime Agency, probation service, military police, private security industry, civil service and local government.

We actively assist and advise students in applying for these roles and can help with preparation for the selection procedures that are required.