

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	BSc (Hons) Professional Policing
Intermediate Awards Available	HE Cert. Policing Studies HE Diploma Policing Studies BSc Policing Studies
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	Royal Docks School of Business and Law (Criminology: Centre of Professional Policing)
UCAS Code	PP10
Professional Body Accreditation	College of Policing* <i>(Content is as prescribed by the College of Policing)</i>
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	- Criminology (2014)
Additional Versions of this Course	Not applicable
Date Specification Last Updated	October 2021

BACKGROUND: As stated by the College of Policing (Pre-Join Degree in Professional Policing National Curriculum):

A principal professional aim of the national curriculum for the pre-join degree is to: **develop knowledge relating to professional performance of the police constable role**, permitting learners who are subsequently recruited to the police service to pursue a career as a police constable.

The national curriculum for the pre-join degree in professional policing (as prescribed by the College of Policing as the professional body for policing) is professionally transformative, in that there is comprehensive, modern and up-to-date coverage of areas of knowledge, skills and professional approaches that have been identified as critical to the 21st century policing role of the constable. These include: evidence-based policing; decision making and discretion; criminology and crime prevention; pro-active approaches to vulnerability, risk and public protection. The new curriculum provides enhanced coverage of key areas of modern policing responsibility, such as digital policing.

In the wider educational context, the professional benefits of the pre-join degree entry route into policing extend well beyond the confines of the curriculum itself, embracing the higher-level skills that a degree-based educational approach can import to the profession of policing. Those learners who have successfully completed this degree and who progress to become police constables will contribute to the policing profession by being ever more capable problem-solvers, communicators, negotiators and leaders, as well as being increasingly socially and emotionally intelligent individuals in the performance of their professional role. This curriculum provides the essential foundation for the education of such potential police constables of the future.

* Note this is a prescriptive course which must satisfy the licencing requirements of the College of Policing. It is subject to approval and validation by the College of Policing.

It must be clearly stated that the course does not guarantee entry into the police service.

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/bsc-hons-professional-policing>

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LEARNING OUTCOMES: BSc Professional Policing

The content of the pre-join degree is stratified under over-arching headings of professional knowledge and education by the College of Policing, as follows:

(i) Learning and development applicable across a comprehensive range of policing professional situations and contexts

Learning and development to enable the learner to:

- Understand the legal and professional responsibilities of policing as a profession, and modern policing strategies, moving forwards (A1)
- Understand ethical approaches to policing, and how to maintain the highest professional standards in providing a service to the public (A2)
- Proactively consider equality, diversity and human rights considerations as a core function of professional practice (A3)
- Acquire appropriate research skills in order to understand how to put evidence-based policing initiatives into practice (A4)
- Understand and evaluate evidence-based initiatives in the context of preventative policing and problem-solving (A5)
- Understand how policing-related decisions can be made, founded upon critical thinking, in complex professional situations and contexts, demonstrating appropriate knowledge of powers, legislation and Authorised Professional Practice (A6)
- Understand concepts of autonomy and professional discretion, as appropriate to policing (A7)
- Engage in continual self-reflection, evolving strategies to improve their own professional knowledge. (A8)

(ii) Learning and development relating to the role of a police constable in key, specific areas of professional policing responsibility

Learning and development to enable the learner to:

- Develop knowledge of knowledge of criminology, with particular emphasis upon community policing and crime prevention (B1)
- Understand the fundamental responsibility of the police service to identify and provide support to those who are vulnerable and at risk, whatever the context (B2)
- Understand how to support individuals in need of public protection (B3)
- Understand the concepts of effective digital policing, with specific reference to cyber enabled crime (B4)
- Understand national strategies in relation to counter terrorism (B5)
- Understand the criminal justice system as relevant to policing (B6)
- Understand how to engage in lawful, safe and effective front-line policing in specific professional areas of response policing, policing communities, policing the roads, information and intelligence and conducting investigations (B7)
- Research and develop practical, evidence-based initiatives to improve policing performance in these areas. (B8)

(iii) Professional Practice for the Special Constabulary (only): NOTE: not a requirement for the knowledge only degree

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- Perform the professional duties of a police constable, leading to achievement of Independent Patrol Status. (C1)

UEL has mapped the BSc Professional Policing degree to the above areas – noting this is a knowledge only degree.

(Whilst being cognisant of all Learning Outcomes as identified within the **PEQF: National Policing Curriculum: Pre-join Degree in Professional Policing** – which is available upon request).

Framework documents are available via the College of Policing website <http://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Learning/Policing-Education-Qualifications-Framework/Pages/Provider-Information-Pre-join-Degree.aspx>

Learning and Teaching

Summarised:

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading;
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback;
- Online discussions and activities;
- Practical application and simulated exercises;
- Student-led interaction via online discussion forums;
- Self-directed learning facilitated by course and module handbooks and other learning materials.

Practical skills (plus knowledge) are developed through:

- IT activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Immersion into real and simulated environments (role play)
- Group exercises;
- Peer learning sets;
- Structured diagnostic exercises and activities supported by briefing notes;
- Completion of learning journal;
- One-to-one coaching;
- Practice (work) based learning;
- Formative feedback on work from tutors through blended approaches including; face to face, via email, webcam, discussion boards and workshops;
- Student-led interaction via online discussion forums;

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Online discussions and activities

(Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through all of the above).

Assessment Methods:

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Knowledge is assessed by a variety of the below:

- Learning Journal;
- Portfolios;
- Examinations / time released (constrained)
- Reflective commentary;
- Role play & simulations;
- Online 360-degree Feedback;
- Practice (work) based projects;
- Reports;
- Case Study (with analysis/investigation)
- Action Plans;
- Professional Development Plans;
- Proposals;
- Customer/Stakeholder Survey;
- Presentations;
- Panel Interview/interviews;
- Research project proposal.

Thinking (cognitive) skills assessed by a variety of methods – such as:

- Portfolio(s);
- Reflective commentary;
- Role play/simulations;
- Examinations / time released (constrained)
- Online 360-degree Feedback;
- Practice (work) based project;
- Portfolio(s);
- Report(s);
- Case Study Analysis;
- Action Plan/Plans;
- Professional Development Plan(s);
- Other plan/proposal(s);
- Customer/Stakeholder Survey;
- Presentation(s);
- Panel Interview/interviews;
- Research project proposal.
- Learning Journal(s);

Practical skills (relevant to policing) are assessed by a variety of methods – for example:

- Role play/simulation exercises;
- Learning Journal(s);
- Portfolio(s);
- Reflective commentary;
- Online 360-degree feedback;
- Practice (work) based project;

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- Report(s);
- Case Study Analysis;
- Action Plan(s);
- Professional Development Plan(s);
- Other plan/proposal(s);
- Presentation(s);
- Research project proposal(s)

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- The above (also relative to a policing environment)

Work or Study Placements

This course provides the opportunity for students to become a member of the Special Constabulary, which is written into the degree as from Level 5.

As identified by the College of Policing; “whilst candidates can volunteer as Special Constables, to gain experience of serving within the police force, it [is] important to stress to all parties (within course documentation) that this would be an enhancement of the candidate experience, and not a dependency for successful completion of the (knowledge-only) course.”

A key feature of this degree relates to community involvement (volunteering and engagement in the local community). This will also see outside guests and speakers coming in from a variety of organisations to speak on relevant topics.

At the end of Level 5 students also have the option for a summer placement (in a community setting) – overseas (in the USA) – this is subject to meeting eligibility requirements and/or passing an interview.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help students understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

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- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	PL4003	Professional/Study Skills and Standards (Term 1)	20	Core	N
4	PL4001	Core Areas of Professional Policing (Initial - 1) Term 1	20	Core	N
4	PL4002	Policing Law & Investigations (1) (Terms 1 & 2)	40	Core	N
4	PL4005	Risk & Safety (Term 2)	20	Core	N
4	PL4004	Crime, Justice & Evidence (Term 2)	20	Core	N
5	PL5001	Research Methods/Professional Skills (Term 1)	20	Core	N
5	PL5002	Core Areas of Professional Policing (Continuing - 2) – Term 1	20	Core	N
5	PL5003	Vulnerability & Well-being (Term 2)	20	Core	N
5	PL5004	Police Law & Investigations (2)	20	Core	N
5	PL5005	Community-Partnership(s)	40	Core	Blended

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		(Special Constabulary is an option placement route) (T 1 & 2)			(online components)
6	PL6001	Digital Policing and Terrorism (Term 1)	20	Core	N
6	PL6005	Professional Development Portfolio (Continuing Pathways: Police - Special Constabulary; and/or community/partnership based) Term 2* <i>‡ Summer placement - before commencement of year 3 – which feeds into the development portfolio in yr. 3</i>	20	Core	N
6	PL6003	Organised Crime & Contemporary Challenges (Term 2)	20	Option	N
6	PL6004	Leadership, Coaching & Mentoring – Term 2	20	Option	N
6	PL6002	Research – Practitioner Skills (with proposal) Term 1	20	Core	N
6	PL6006	Professional Policing (work) based project (dissertation) T1 & 2	40	Core	N

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, in order to create the best learning experience.

Level 6 modules are less campus based and have online/self-study components

FT – YEAR 1

Term 1

Term 2

Professional/Study Skills and Standards		Risk and Safety	Crime Justice & Evidence
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	*Core Areas of Professional Policing (Initial - 1)		
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Policing Law & Investigations (1)
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*** Core Areas of Professional Policing Areas (1)**
(Integrating – Response Policing; Policing Communities; Policing the Roads; Information, Intelligence)

§Option: (end of year 1) to transfer to the Criminology based Degree(s)

FT – YEAR 2

Work-Community Placement: (fed into year 3 – portfolio)

- ± ROUTE 1: Special Constable element (optional route) (portfolio & research based: with theoretical elements)
- ROUTE 2: No Special Constable element
(Adapted work-based component, with theoretical element – re community elements and partnership working)

Term 1	Term 2
Research Methods/Professional Skills (including EBP)	Vulnerability & Well-being
**Core Areas of Professional Policing (2)	Police Law & Investigations (2)

Route 1 – Community Partnership - placement (Special Constable: optional) Route 2 – Community Partnership (placement and research)

(**Integrating – Professional Standards; Response Policing; Policing the Roads; Information, Intelligence)

± Route 1: This is optional: The Professional Development Portfolio development can be based upon the Special Constable learning requirements in order to achieve and/or substantiate fit for independent patrol (FIP) Status (if obtained) or review progress made (in year 3). Note: it is not a requirement of this degree to be a special constable it is not a requirement to obtain FIP.
NOTE: FIP is as determined by the respective police service (no additional award can be made by the university). UEL does not however award the BSc Professional Policing (Practice) degree.

FT – YEAR 3

Term 1	Term 2
Digital Policing and Terrorism	Optional Module*

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Project (work-based) / dissertation	
<p>Students must pass all core requirements (attendance will be an essential aspect of this degree). Class sessions will be by way of workshop sessions.</p> <p>A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credits for) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.</p>	

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated.

You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

This degree **must** meet the professional body of policing requirements (the College of Policing) for accreditation purposes. A licence is issued which attests to an agreed level having been met; failure to meet this will result in no licence; or the revoking of the licence.

Changes may be required throughout the year and will need to be implemented as required.

As above – attendance is a key requirement (where specified in the course).

Students leaving the course early may be eligible to receive an appropriate level award (relative to their credits) in Policing Studies.

This degree does not guarantee entry into the police service. Students will need to apply to the respective police service/force and meet the criteria required.

This degree has a currency of 5-years after completion for this purpose.

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

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The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time or 5 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply, and extenuation has been granted.

The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages
- The College of Policing website

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

Additional costs:

Students may incur additional travel costs to attend field trips or exhibitions as part of modules, however, these will be optional to the student experience.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

Both Stratford Campuses
Alternative possibly UEL campuses (Docklands)