

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	Top Up: BSc (Hons) Policing Studies (Level 6 – Direct entry)
Intermediate Awards Available	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	PS10
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	- Criminology Benchmark Statement (2014)
Additional Versions of this Course	Not applicable
Date Specification Last Updated	Not applicable

BACKGROUND: As stated by the College of Policing, entry routes into policing are changing and as from 2020 all new police officers entering the profession will require a degree or be studying for a degree as part of the police apprenticeship/degree scheme (Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship – PCDA).

The degree may be a prescribed Professional Policing degree or another degree, whereby the police service provides a conversion route via the Degree Holder Entry Course (DHEP).

Respecting the principle of ensuring that existing police officers are not left behind, this degree – the BSc Policing Studies degree recognises the knowledge, service and hence experience of serving police officers (with over three years of police service and outside of their probation) plus recently retired police officers.

This degree, the Policing Studies degree, is therefore a Top-Up degree – whereby direct entry is permitted into the third year of the BSc Policing Studies degree. In doing so the service, knowledge and experience attained, as a police officer, is evidenced as part of a developing portfolio which is continued into their final – third year (L6) study element of this degree.

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. From this perspective the reverse holds true – that existing officers have acquired sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities through practical application and experiential learning to attain entry into L6 of this degree.

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The third year allows for professional development and transformative education of police officers already employed in policing (and those recently retired). This is as evidenced against the Pre-join route (as well as the PCDA – which both lead to the Professional Policing degree.

This degree – in Policing Studies, provides modern and up-to-date coverage of areas of knowledge, skills and professional approaches for police officers (and those recently retired) that have been identified as critical to the 21st century policing role of the constable.

This includes: study skills for research and policing practitioners - evidence-based policing; decision making and discretion; criminology and crime prevention; pro-active approaches to vulnerability, risk and public protection. It provides coverage in the wider educational context, which the professional police officer will benefit from. The curriculum itself, embraces the higher-level skills that a degree-based educational approach can import to the profession of policing. This means that individually and as a profession, policing will have more capacity for problem-solving and addressing contemporary challenges. It will enable future leaders, as well as aid increasingly socially and emotionally intelligent individuals in the performance of their professional role. This curriculum develops the existing police officers' skills, knowledge and abilities in-line with the principles of the PEQF.

The pre-join route into policing (via the BSc Professional Policing degree) identifies the skills and knowledge needed for policing and it therefore confirms the skills that serving officers (and ex-officers) (in most instances) have been taught, learnt and indeed practiced on a regular basis.

The following requirement for the pre-join curriculum, learning aims, therefore serves to endorse the skills which existing police officers and those recently retired already possess in terms of their knowledge and experience as existing and practicing (ex)professionals.

Below is the Pre-join curriculum, which is stratified under three over-arching headings for professional knowledge and education by the College of Policing: **these are the Learning Outcomes for the degree:**

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

Learning and development to enable the learner to:

- A.1 Understand the legal and professional responsibilities of policing as a profession, and modern policing strategies, moving forwards
- A.2 Understand ethical approaches to policing, and how to maintain the highest professional standards in providing a service to the public
- A.3 Proactively consider equality, diversity and human rights considerations as a core function of professional practice
- A.4 Acquire appropriate research skills in order to understand how to put evidence-based policing initiatives into practice
- A.5 Understand and evaluate evidence-based initiatives in the context of preventative policing and problem-solving
- A.6 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
- A.7 Understand concepts of autonomy and professional discretion, as appropriate to policing
- A.8 Engage in continual self-reflection, evolving strategies to improve their own professional knowledge.

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(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:

- B.1 Develop knowledge of knowledge of criminology, with particular emphasis upon community policing and crime prevention
- B.2 Understand the fundamental responsibility of the police service to identify and provide support to those who are vulnerable and at risk, whatever the context
- B.3 Understand how to support individuals in need of public protection
- B.4 Understand the concepts of effective digital policing, with specific reference to cyber enabled crime
- B.5 Understand national strategies in relation to counter terrorism
- B.6 Understand the criminal justice system as relevant to policing
- B.7 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
- B.8 Research and develop practical, evidence-based initiatives to improve policing performance in these areas.

The third section, in particular, reinforces the skills attained when actually practicing as a serving police officer – wherein the following is said:

(iii) **Professional Practice for the Special Constabulary (only)**

- C.1 Perform the professional duties of a police constable, leading to achievement of Independent Patrol Status.

All officers undertaking this degree would have achieved IPS.

Therefore, the final year of the Policing Studies degree aims to affirm and acknowledge these qualities together with the knowledge, skills, experience, practice and behaviours which are to be found in the PCDA version of the degree (see appendix) whilst reinforcing them and strengthening the HE student (officers') abilities to effectively research and to understand contemporary challenges faced in policing.

Emphasis is particularly accorded to the following areas in this (3rd year: L6) degree course:

- Research and development of practical, evidence-based initiatives to improve policing performance in the (all of the above) areas.
- Developing the concepts of effective digital policing, with specific reference to cyber enabled crime
- Reinforcing the legal, professional and ethical responsibilities of policing as a profession, and modern policing strategies, moving forwards
- Increasing knowledge and the critical ability to apply criminology concepts, with particular emphasis upon community, national/international policing and crime prevention
- Engaging in continual self-reflection and evolving strategies to improve their own professional knowledge.

Learning and Teaching

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List here the key teaching and learning methods used.

Knowledge is developed through

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

Practical skills (and knowledge) are developed through

- IT activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Group exercises;
- Peer learning sets;
- Completion of learning/reflective journal/portfolio
- One-to-one coaching;
- 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

Assessment Methods:

Knowledge is assessed by a variety of the below:

- Portfolios;
- Reflective commentary;
- Online 360-degree Feedback;
- Practice (work) based projects;
- Reports;
- Case Study Analysis;
- Action Plans;
- Professional Development Plans;
- Proposals;
- Presentations;
- Panel Interview/interviews;

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- Research project proposal.

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

- Portfolio(s);
- Reflective commentary;
- Examinations;
- 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);
- 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;
- 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

There are no placements for this course

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Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to 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:

- 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
6		Digital Policing and Terrorism (Term 1)	20	Option	YES
6		Cybercrime in Contemporary Society (Term 1)	20	Option	YES
6		Professional Development Portfolio (Term 2)	20	Core	YES
6		Organised Crime & Contemporary Challenges (Term 2)	20	Option	YES
6		Leadership, Coaching & Mentoring – Term 2	20	Option	YES

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6		Research – Practitioner Skills (with proposal) Term 1	20	Core	YES
6		Professional Policing (work) based project (dissertation) T1 & 2	40	Core	YES

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.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. Credits are only awarded in lieu of 1st and 2nd year study after the degree has commenced (level 6 studies commenced and a comprehensive portfolio submitted).

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.

*(Direct entry to the **BSc. Policing Studies** (via a Top-Up) is available to those officers with over three years' service, and, who are outside of their probation period).*

Course Specific Regulations

None

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 1 years full-time or 2-years part-time.

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)

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- 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:

None (except study materials)

Alternative Locations of Delivery

All UEL campuses (Docklands) and Stratford campuses

Content and delivery of the BSc Policing Studies degree FT – YEAR 3 (Top-up):

Term 1

***Digital Policing and Terrorism
Or
Cybercrime in Contemporary Society***

Research – Practitioner Skills

Term 2

***Organised Crime & Contemporary
Challenges Or
Leadership, Coaching & Mentoring***

♦Professional Development Portfolio

Project (work-based) / dissertation

♦ *Existing officers and those recently retired (entering via the Top-Up means onto the BSc Policing Studies degree) will need to submit an abbreviated portfolio of their training and experience prior to commencement. This will form the annex of their more detailed professional portfolio submitted in T2 and serves as a means to validate knowledge, skills and abilities, whilst providing a level for advancement.*