

Forensic Psychology: A Career

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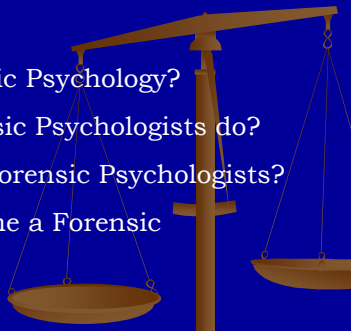
Forensic Psychology

What is Forensic Psychology?

What do Forensic Psychologists do?

Who employs Forensic Psychologists?

How do I become a Forensic Psychologist?

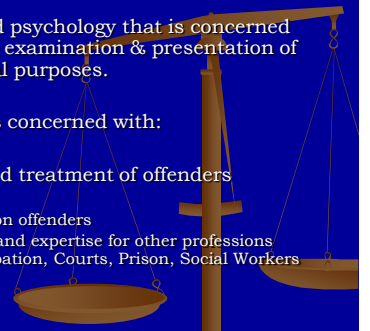


What is Forensic Psychology?

- A branch of applied psychology that is concerned with the collection, examination & presentation of evidence for judicial purposes.

More specifically, it is concerned with:

- The assessment and treatment of offenders providing,
 - Case formulations on offenders
 - Providing evidence and expertise for other professions such as Police, Probation, Courts, Prison, Social Workers etc...



What do Forensic Psychologists Do?

- Assessment of offenders.
- Assessment and management of risk and dangerousness.
- Court reports.
- Work with life sentenced prisoners.
- Staff training.
- Development of prison regimes
- Development of offending behaviour programmes.
- Research and evaluation.
- Contribution to policy.

Core Practice

- Inform decision making
 - Expert resource for specialist assessment
 - Civil and Criminal Courts, Solicitors, Parole Boards, Insurance companies, Police, Health and Social Care agencies
 - Risk assessment, motivation to address offending behaviour, evidence of therapeutic change, sentencing recommendations, incapacity, etc.
- Treatment & Rehabilitation
 - Offence Focused and/or Mental Health

Major Areas of Intervention

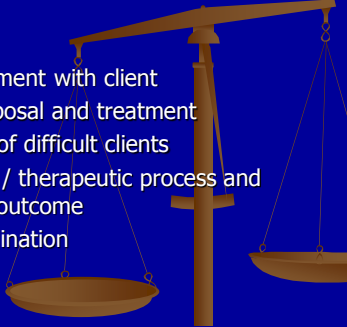
- Problems of anger and violence
 - behavioural control and cognitive intervention
- Sexually Inappropriate behaviour
 - deviance, disinhibition, social inadequacy
- Mental Health issues
 - psychosis and dangerousness, learning disability
- Criminal careers and lifestyle
 - offending behaviour

New Ground

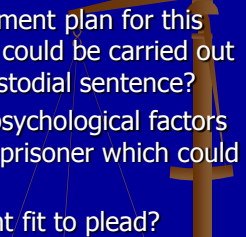
- Victim Impact Assessment – review boards, tribunals.
- Research and outcome analyses.
- Training – psychology and clinical management.

Summary of Psychological Roles

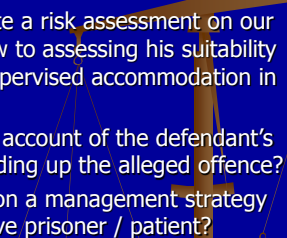
■ Practitioner

- Direct involvement with client
 - Advice on disposal and treatment
 - Management of difficult clients
 - Rehabilitation / therapeutic process and evaluation of outcome
 - Clinical co-ordination
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Issues in forensic psychology

- Is there a treatment plan for this offender which could be carried out during a noncustodial sentence?
 - Are there any psychological factors relevant to the prisoner which could justify bail?
 - Is the defendant fit to plead?
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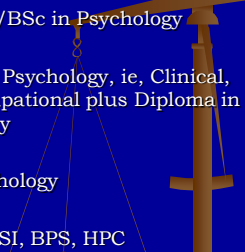
Issues in forensic psychology

- Can you complete a risk assessment on our client with a view to assessing his suitability for a move to supervised accommodation in the community?
 - Can you give an account of the defendant's mental state leading up the alleged offence?
 - Can you advise on a management strategy for this aggressive prisoner / patient?
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Who Employs Forensic Psychologists?

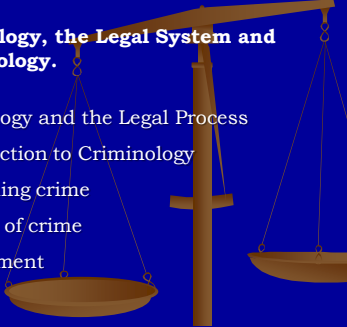
- Prisons, Probation Services
 - Solicitors and barristers
 - HSE and Special Hospitals
 - Regional Secure Units
 - Youth Treatment Centres
 - Police Forces
 - Health Authorities
 - Universities
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How Do I Become A Forensic Psychologist?

- Undergraduate BA/BSc in Psychology
 - Applied Masters in Psychology, ie, Clinical, Educational , Occupational plus Diploma in Forensic Psychology
 - MSc Forensic Psychology
 - Chartership with PSI, BPS, HPC
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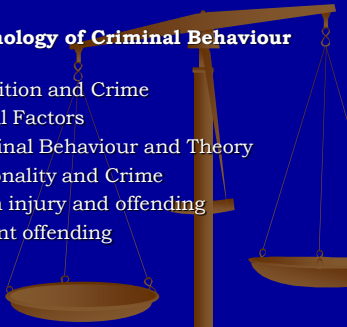
MSc Course Content

Module 1: Psychology, the Legal System and Criminology.

- Psychology and the Legal Process
 - Introduction to Criminology
 - Explaining crime
 - Victims of crime
 - Punishment
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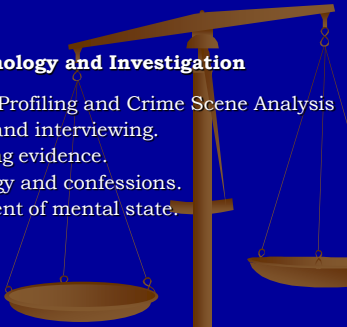
MSc Course Content

Module 2: Psychology of Criminal Behaviour

- Cognition and Crime
 - Social Factors
 - Criminal Behaviour and Theory
 - Personality and Crime
 - Brain injury and offending
 - Violent offending
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MSc Course Content

Module 3: Psychology and Investigation

- Offender Profiling and Crime Scene Analysis
 - Memory and interviewing.
 - Evaluating evidence.
 - Psychology and confessions.
 - Assessment of mental state.
 - Policing.
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MSc Course Content

Module 4: Psychology and the Courtroom

- Expert psychological testimony
- Jury Behaviour
- Child Witness in Court
- Reasoning and decision making
- Eyewitness memory

MSc Course Content

Module 5: Management/Treatment of Offenders

- Assessment and treatment of mentally disordered offenders
- Assessment and treatment of violent offenders and sex offenders
- Assessment and treatment of young offenders

MSc Course Content

Module 6: Research Methods

Diploma in Forensic Psychology

- Has been the route adopted by the many services
- Organised by British Psychological Society
- Exams plus supervised practice
- Masters in Forensic Psychology also required to complete Stage 2 (supervised practice) of Diploma

Being A Forensic Psychologist

- Is extremely challenging
- Involves a wide range of diversity
- Requires specialist skills
- Is exciting with great scope for initiative

Suggested Reading

- Gudjonsson, G.H. & Haward, L.R.C. (1998) Forensic Psychology. London: Routledge
- Towl, G.J. & Crighton, D.A. (1996) The Handbook of Psychology for Forensic Practitioners. London: Routledge
- Adler, J.R. (2004) Forensic Psychology. Devon: Willan

BPS Accredited Forensic Courses

University Of Birmingham	MSc Criminological Psychology
University Of Birmingham	MSc Forensic Practice
University Of Birmingham	Doctorate in Forensic Practice
Coventry University	MSc for Psychology
Coventry University	MSc Forensic Psychology & Crime
University Of Kent	MSc Forensic Psychology
Glasgow Caledonian	MSc Forensic Psychology
University Of Lancashire	MSc Forensic Psychology
University Of Leicester	MSc Forensic Psychology
University Of Leicester	MSc Applied Forensic Psychology
University Of Liverpool	MSc Investigative Psychology
University Of Liverpool	MSc Forensic Psychology

BPS Accredited Forensic Courses

Institute Of Psychiatry	MSc Clinical Forensic Psychology
London Metropolitan	MSc Forensic Psychology
Manchester Metropolitan	MSc Forensic Psychology
Middlesex University	MSc Forensic Psychology
University Of Portsmouth	MSc Forensic Psychology
University Of Surrey	MSc Forensic Psychology
University Of York	MSc Applied Forensic Psychology
British Psychological Society	Diploma in Forensic Psychology (Stage 1 & 2)

All Accredited Forensic Psychology Programmes by BPS

Fingers crossed: Queens University Belfast



Ian Gargan
www.imaginehealth.ie
www.freshstart.ie

Division Of Forensic Psychology
The Psychological Society of Ireland
www.psihq.ie

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British Psychology Society
www.bps.org.uk

