



Programme Specification

Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice [Frenchay]

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, 19 Dec 2024

Contents

Programme Specification.....	1
Section 1: Key Programme Details.....	2
Part A: Programme Information	2
Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	2
Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	3
Part B: Programme Structure.....	7
Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis	9
Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks	9
Part E: Regulations	10

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice [Frenchay]

Highest award: GradDip Professional Policing Practice

Interim award: GradCert Policing Studies

Interim award: GradDip Policing Studies

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Social Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

College of Policing

Modes of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 22 February 2021

Programme code: L90343

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice is a two year integrated programme, and is licensed by the College of Policing as one of the principal entry routes for police officers. The programme is intellectually stimulating and provides relevant learning experiences with the aim to produce Police Constables and Detective Constables for local forces who are ready and able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their communities, workplaces and society.

The programme has been designed in accordance with the core requirements and national curriculum set by the College of Policing, and the additional requirements for a specialist detective pathway. The UWE programme is fully mapped to meet the requirements of partner forces. A core strength is that the programme will be delivered in collaboration with policing partners, integrating academic study and professional practice. UWE have been successfully delivering policing education since 2019, and this programme will provide a further structure to teach new constables for partner forces.

The programme is designed to be flexible in delivery, enabling partners to specify a focus on response or community policing, or as Detectives. A specialist Detective programme will integrate the requirements for learners to meet the requirements of the Professionalising the Investigations Programme (PIP) level 2, becoming accredited Detectives. Central to this will be the learning required to achieve the National Investigators Examination (NIE), and immersion within a specialist investigations department. Ultimately, a UWE Diploma graduate will be able to apply academic knowledge to real world contexts, and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to 21st century policing; amongst these attributes they will be a resilient team worker, strong communicator and ethical decision maker.

The course seeks to embed the following professional education principles that have been identified by the College of Policing as of national importance:

Meeting the professional requirements of 21st Century policing

Ensuring national consistency of professional education

Championing a values-based, ethical approach to policing

Supporting equality of educational opportunity within the policing profession

Developing a high-quality, evidence-based education for the policing profession

Promoting a collaborative approach to education within the police service

Enabling continuing professional development in policing roles.

This will be achieved by using input and expertise from across the School of Social Sciences, the College of Health, Science and Society, the wider university, and colleagues in partnership forces to deliver a vibrant, relevant and multidisciplinary approach to Police education. The policing programme at UWE is informed by a range of research and theory (i.e., incorporating criminology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, forensic and computer sciences, law, public and mental health and social policy among others) to help learners develop a wider critical knowledge base and enable them to make more informed decisions in practice. To assist learners in their operational practice the UWE diploma will utilise an applied approach; situating knowledge development within debates about the role of the police within the criminal justice system, applying this knowledge to police practice as it relates to the 5 key professional areas of policing identified within the Police Constable Entry Routes (PCER) curriculum, and in accordance with the operational requirements of the employer force. The programme will therefore provide 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.

Features of the programme: The Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice provides distinct pathways depending on the requirements of partner forces. Delivery will be focused on the specialist needs of uniformed response and neighbourhood roles, or as detectives. This will ensure that learning can be framed

within the future role of learners.

The detective pathway integrates the learning required for the PIP 2 programme, and the additional learning time required to excel in the NIE.

A UWE diploma graduate will be ideally placed to become a specialist in their role, embedding best practice and an evidence-based approach throughout their careers.

Educational Aims: This programme will:

1. Develop learners' understanding of the legislation, powers and policies central to their role as a Constable, and to be able to employ these appropriately in their professional practice.
2. Develop key investigative skills, including creating effective and ethical investigative strategies, interviewing, case file management and disclosure of evidence.
3. Embed a culture of inclusivity and diversity within learning and professional practice.
4. Enable learners to identify risk and safeguard the vulnerable from harm.
5. Provide an opportunity to critique the criminal justice system using key guidance and academic theory, helping learners to make confident, appropriate professional decisions.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Explain relevant criminal legislation, applying it to a range of policing incidents.
- PO2. Describe the powers available to Constables, and apply them in your professional practice.
- PO3. Evaluate information to make confident and ethical decisions, in line with local and national guidance and the principle of policing discretion.
- PO4. Understand, employ and evaluate evidence-based initiatives in the context of preventative policing and problem-solving.
- PO5. Identify vulnerabilities in individuals and safeguard them from harm.
- PO6. Conduct investigations into a range of incidents.
- PO7. Employ coaching and mentoring skills to improve professional practice.

Assessment strategy: A range of assessments have been created to meet the educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme and individual modules.

During the first year of the programme you will complete a multiple-choice examination on criminal legislation and policing powers. This assessment is similar in format to assessments you will complete throughout your policing careers, including the National Investigators Examination which you must complete to become Detectives. You will also complete a critical reflection on an incident attended during professional practice, and an assignment evaluating domestic abuse policy. These assessments will ensure that you are able to critically reflect on incidents that you attend, crucial to improving your professional practice.

During the second year of the programme you will complete a written reflection on the development of your practice, and produce either an investigative strategy based upon a simulated case-study or produce a report on issues affecting response or community policing. You will also give a reflective presentation. These assessments are varied, ensuring that the skills and behaviours of officers are assessed in addition to the learning outcomes of the programme.

Assessments are closely linked to professional practice, ensuring that you are able

to successfully demonstrate your ability to become skilled police officers.

Formative assessment will take place throughout each module through peer and class discussions, with activities designed to support you towards your final assessments.

Student support: This course is licensed by the College of Policing, who provide a wide range of support to you through access to online learning materials, authorised professional practice, and the 'What Works' Centre.

Additionally, you will receive the support of an academic personal tutor throughout the programme, and development meetings conducted at regular intervals during your diploma with academic staff and representatives from partner forces. This support will enable any further needs and support to be identified and actioned either by your employer or UWE, highlighting the close relationship between UWE and partner forces.

Part B: Programme Structure

Detective Pathway

Year 1

The student must complete 80-credits in Year 1.

Learners must achieve 60 credits to be eligible for the Graduate Certificate in Policing Studies. However, due to the credit value of the Y1 modules, students must complete 80 credits to be eligible for this award

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must complete both 40-credit modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYPW-40-3	Legislation, Powers And Policy 2025-26 2025-26	40

UZSYPX-40-3	Policing Skills and Procedures 2025-26	40
-------------	--	----

Year 2

The student must complete 40 credits in Year 2.

Learners who achieve 120 academic credits, but fail to achieve Full Operational Competence (FOC) will be awarded a Graduate Diploma in Policing Studies.

Year 2 Compulsory Module Choice

Students must choose one of the 40-credit compulsory modules depending on their chosen pathway.

Students on the Detective Pathway must choose UZSYPY-40-3

Students on the Uniform Pathway must choose UZSYQ3-40-3

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYPY-40-3	Conducting Effective Investigations 2026-27	40

Uniform Pathway**Year 1**

The student must complete 80-credits in Year 1.

Learners must achieve 60 credits to be eligible for the Graduate Certificate in Policing Studies. However, due to the credit value of the Y1 modules, students must complete 80 credits to be eligible for this award

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must complete both 40-credit modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYPW-40-3	Legislation, Powers And Policy 2025-26 2025-26	40
UZSYPX-40-3	Policing Skills and Procedures 2025-26	40

Year 2

The student must complete 40 credits in Year 2.

Learners who achieve 120 academic credits, but fail to achieve Full Operational Competence (FOC) will be awarded a Graduate Diploma in Policing Studies.

Year 2 Compulsory Module Choice

Students must choose one of the 40-credit compulsory modules depending on their chosen pathway.

Students on the Detective Pathway must choose UZSYPY-40-3

Students on the Uniform Pathway must choose UZSYQ3-40-3

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYQ3-40-3	Advanced Operational Practice 2026-27	40

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Graduates of the programme have the knowledge, behaviours and practical skills to be effective and ethical police officers.

Graduates possess an in-depth knowledge of criminal legislation, powers, national and local guidance, and are equipped with the skills to investigate a variety of crimes and incidents, interview suspects and witnesses according to their individual needs, producing high-quality evidence for use in criminal prosecutions.

Learners focused on response policing will have the additional knowledge required to attend incidents in challenging circumstances, while specialist investigators will be able to investigate serious and complex crimes with a high-degree of autonomy, protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice is licensed by the College of Policing, who regulate police education in England and Wales.

The learning outcomes and structure of the programme have been mapped to meet the requirements of the Policing Education Qualifications Framework: Degree-Holder Entry Programme (DHEP). Additionally, the programme is designed in accordance with the core requirements of the National Programme Specification, and the additional requirements for the DHEP investigations pathway.

The National Investigators Examination is a key feature of the investigations pathway, and this is integrated within the structure of the first and second year of the programme, in addition to the requirement to achieve Independent Patrol Status (IPS) and Full Operational Competence (FOC). Completing the investigations pathway will see learners meet the criteria to become accredited PIP level 2 investigators.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.