

Programme Specification

PPS-2022: Protective Services

LU Certificate of Higher Education awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 4)

LU Foundation Degree in Arts awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 5)

LU Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Top-up) awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 6)

Programme Status: Approved | Version: 2

Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Protective Services programme and includes the learning outcomes that you as a student are expected to have achieved on successful completion of the programme.

Further detailed information related to this programme and the College can be found in the following resources:

- Programme Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

When undertaken as part of a Degree Apprenticeship additional information is available in the following resources:

- The Programme Delivery Plan
- The End Point Assessment Guide
- B&FC Mentor Guide
- B&FC Apprenticeship Strategy

Key Programme Information

Programme Code	PPS-2022
Programme Title	Protective Services
Teaching Institution	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation	None
UCAS Code	
Language of Study	English
Version	2
Approval Status	Approved
Approval Date	12 Aug 2025
JACS Code	Other
Programme Leader	Neil Salanki

Programme Awards

Award	Award Type	Level	Awarding Body
LU Certificate of Higher Education	Level 4 Target Award (120 credits)	Level 4	Lancaster University
LU Foundation Degree in Arts	Foundation Degree (240 credits)	Level 5	Lancaster University
LU Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Top-up)	Honours Top-up Degree (120 credits)	Level 6	Lancaster University

Programme Overview

This CertHE/FdA/BA(Hons) Protective Services course equips you with the professional knowledge and transferable skills to go on to a range of careers in a growing and dynamic sector. Offering a unique programme of study covering a range of protective services the course prepares you for employment not only within the uniformed protective services including the Police Service, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, but also for entry to all non-uniformed protective services such as Probation Service, Prison Service, Civil Service, HM Revenue and Customs, National Offender Management Service (NOMS), National Health Service, Criminal Justice Agencies and Social Services.

Our Protective Services programmes emphasises work-based learning alongside a programme of industry led opportunities and expert teaching allowing you to gain an insight into how multi-agency partnerships operate with a clear emphasis on technology, inter-disciplinary and multi-agency practice and enhanced community engagement. At a time when our global community is facing a range of international and national challenges the need for graduates with an understanding of multi-agency operations has never been more vital.

Admission Criteria

The typical offer for the programme is 64 UCAS points. Blackpool and The Fylde College operate a flexible admissions policy and individuals are assessed on personal merit, so this means that we will take into consideration your educational achievements and where applicable any predicted grades. Along with the academic requirements we would also consider any relevant work experience, voluntary roles and a personal statement.

Applications from individuals with non-traditional qualifications, relevant work or life experience and who can demonstrate the ability to cope with and benefit from degree a degree in Protective Services are welcome. If you have not studied recently you may be required to undertake an Access to Higher Education programme. Accredited Prior Learning /Accredited Prior Experiential Learning will be assessed through standard Blackpool & The Fylde College procedures, any applications should be submitted on the APL/APEL application form. Should you wish to consider any of these options, please contact the programme team or email info@blackpool.ac.uk.

Typical A-Level Offer - CDD to exclude General Studies
Typical BTEC Offer - BTEC Extended Diploma Merit Pass Pass
Typical Access to HE Offer - Pass the Access to HE Diploma with a minimum of 64 UCAS tariff points.

In addition to the above we also expect applicants to have:

English Language GCSE at grade C/4 or above

Applicants for whom English is not their first language are expected to achieve a minimum 6.0 overall with at least 5.5 in each component

Maths GCSE Grade C/4 or above is also advantageous.

Career Options and Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of the CertHE in Protective Services, students will be well-positioned to pursue a variety of entry-level roles across the protective services sector. This includes opportunities within both uniformed and non-uniformed services, such as: Police Service, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, Armed Forces, Prison and Probation Services, HM Revenue and Customs, Local Government and Civil Service, Community Safety and Engagement Roles, Charitable and Voluntary Sector Organisations, Emergency Planning and Neighbourhood Services. The programme equips students with a foundational understanding of protective services, alongside key transferable skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. These attributes are highly valued in roles such as Community Support Officers, Emergency Call Handlers, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, and other front-line or support positions within public service organisations.

A student graduating with an FdA & BA (Hons) in Protective Services would be able to access careers in both the statutory and non-statutory Protective Services. These bodies include general protective sector jobs, guidance and community work, public policy and research, probation service, private investigation and security, government, civil services, prison service as well as the Uniformed Emergency Protective Services such as the Police Service, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Ministry of Defence and Prison Service. Within these organisations there are a range of job opportunities that include front-line, Emergency response, support and logistical roles as well as a host of specialist and technical vocations.

In addition to embedded graduate skills the multi-agency nature of the course allows graduates to develop sector specific competences in community justice, community crime reduction and cohesion, strategic management and case management. The development of a non-uniformed Protective Services skill set equips graduates to follow careers in several sectors such as: Probation Service, HM Revenue and Customs, Local Government, charitable and organisations and other Criminal Justice Agencies. Blackpool Council has recently recruited Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, Community Safety Officers and Community Engagement Officers. There are also other job opportunities in the Emergency Planning Department, Democratic Services and Neighbourhood Services departments which have been mapped against our module provision.

There are also various graduate, fast-track schemes in place across the protective services in order to attract graduates to various protective service careers and including; NCA intelligence and Data Analyst Development Programme, Police Graduate Leadership Development Programme and the Civil Service Fast Stream in which you can progress from a Prison Officer to a managerial post within 3 years.

A student graduating with a BA (Hons) in Protective Services would also be able to continue their studies at a postgraduate level. Lancaster University offer a number of programmes for postgraduate study including: MA Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies, MSc Criminal Justice and Social Research Methods, LLM Criminology and Criminal Justice, MA Criminology and Criminal Justice, MA Gender and Women's Studies and Sociology, LLM International Human Rights. Other local institutions also offer a range of subject related postgraduate options.

The students could also progress onto Post graduate Certificate in Education to pursue a teaching career.

These Level 7 programmes will enable you to progress their studies further and enable them to access senior positions within the protective services quicker and specialise further in order to progress to specialist departments within the differing public service organisations. The majority of Protective Services offer graduate fast track routes to senior/managerial levels within the organisation.

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

CertHE Aims:

- To provide an alternative qualification for students who only require a level 4 qualification.
- To develop the skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable students to identify opportunities in the protective services sector or further studies.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop research and enquiry skills appropriate for today's workplace.
- To enable students' to develop effective communication skills and apply these to a variety of forms and a range of audiences.

FD Aims:

- To provide a foundation degree in Protective Services, which integrates theoretical and practical knowledge and enables a graduate to understand, analyse and evaluate the knowledge, skills and attributes which are required for a career in multi-agency protective services.
- To develop graduates with intellectual, problem solving, transferable, scientific, and transferable skills relevant to vocational practice.
- To provide students with work related learning opportunities, which enable them to apply their skills in the context of the world of work and engage in knowledge exchange with special reference to multi agency practice.
- To develop knowledge and understanding around the different theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of criminology, analysis of crime, deviance, rehabilitation, offender management and crime prevention.
- To develop a holistic approach to include diverse populations and underrepresented groups recognising the impacts of an inclusive and sustainable approach to vocational practice.
- To enable and encourage ethically, morally, socially and professionally minded protective service employees who are strategically focused and intellectually autonomous.
- To enable graduate to consider complex and diverse approaches to professional practice through the development of professional awareness.

BA (Top-up) Aims:

- To provide an honours level, degree in Protective Services, which integrates theoretical and practical knowledge and enables a graduate to understand, analyse and evaluate the knowledge, skills and attributes which are required for a career in multi-agency protective services.
- To develop graduates with intellectual, problem solving, transferable, scientific, and transferable skills relevant to vocational practice.
- To develop knowledge and understanding around the different theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of criminology, analysis of crime, deviance, rehabilitation, offender management and crime prevention.
- To evaluate situations in protective services using subject specific knowledge and skills and apply ethical and sustainable principles to decision making.
- To develop a holistic approach to include diverse populations and underrepresented groups recognising the impacts of an inclusive and sustainable approach to vocational practice.
- To enable and encourage ethically, morally, socially and professionally minded protective service employees who are strategically focused and intellectually autonomous.
- To enable graduates to review and critically reflect on complex and diverse approaches to professional practice through the development of performance related attributes that support resilience, career progression and workload management.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 4

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

1. Produce clear, logical protective services information using academic and digital literacies and present these in a variety of academic and professional formats.
2. Identify evidence-based initiatives in the context of protecting society in complex professional situations and contexts.
3. Assess frameworks in relation to managing risk, resilience and emergencies.
4. Explain human behaviour and the influence this may have on protective services.

Level 5

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

5. Evaluate key criminological concepts, theories and use them to develop strategies for rehabilitation, offender management and crime prevention.
6. Evaluate evidence-based initiatives in the context of protecting society in complex professional situations and contexts.
7. Analyse contending ideological frameworks in relation to a diverse range of global issues including cyber enabled crime and their significance for digital protective services.
8. Demonstrate contemporary practice and skills required for the preservation of human life.
9. Proactively consider equality, diversity and inclusivity as a core function of professional practice and people management in the different protective services.
10. Enable the acquisition and knowledge of a range of criminological research skills and methods, quantitative and qualitative, culminating in an ability to conduct research independently.
11. Conduct primary and secondary research to investigate a contemporary issue employing the concepts of evidence base practices.

Level 6

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

12. Apply an awareness of the challenges facing different protective services nationally and globally to decision making and planning
13. Critically appraise debates, issues and situations to develop viable, inclusive and equitable solutions to enhance diversity and inclusion in protective services.
14. Investigate and interpret the contemporary advances in the promotion of community cohesion in relation to positive interactions between citizens, protective service provision, wider agencies
15. Apply democratic principles and inclusive approaches to enhance community and multi-agency relationships
16. Critically evaluate key issues, paradigms and ethical concerns in relation to social research, research practice and practitioner based enquiry
17. Identify and apply ethical and sustainable leadership strategies to promote effective management practice in the protective services

Programme Structure

Module	Level	Credits	%	Category	Description	Length/Word Count	Grading Method
Stage 1							
B4HUPPS: Introduction to Academic Study (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	Coursework: Other	Written piece and reflection	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Practical: Other	Case study, analysis, interpretation (1500 words) and poster presentation (15 minutes)	15	Letter Grade
PPS407: Evidence Based Policy (Mandatory)	4	20	100%	Coursework: Research Portfolio	Small-Scale Research Project	2000	Letter Grade
PPS408: Introduction to Protecting Contemporary Society (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2500	Letter Grade
			30%	Practical: Presentation	n/a	20	Letter Grade
PPS409: Risk, Resilience and Emergencies (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	Coursework: Essay	-	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Practical: Other	Scenario based Table-top Exercise	30	Letter Grade
PPS410: Public Protection (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Coursework: Case Study	n/a	1500	Letter Grade
PPS411: Understanding Human Behaviour (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	Coursework: Report	n/a	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Practical: Other	Podcast	20	Letter Grade
Stage 2							
B5PPS-32: Work Based Learning (Mandatory)	5	20	30%	Practical: Presentation	Poster - Critical Reflection & Target Setting	2000	Letter Grade
			70%	Coursework: Report	Project	3000	Letter Grade
PPS507: Preserving Life (Mandatory)	5	20	40%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2000	Letter Grade
			60%	Coursework: Other	Resource creation	2000	Letter Grade
PPS508: Public Protection in a Digital Era (Mandatory)	5	20	60%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Practical: Group Presentation	n/a	20	Letter Grade
PPS509: Offender Management and Rehabilitation (Mandatory)	5	20	50%	Practical: Presentation	n/a	20	Letter Grade
			50%	Coursework: Report	Briefing paper	1500	Letter Grade
PPS510: Leadership, Innovation and Change in Protective Services (Mandatory)	5	20	40%	Coursework: Plan	Change Management Plan	2000	Letter Grade
			60%	Written Exam: Formal Written Examination	Open Book	120	Letter Grade

PPS511: Multi-agency Approach to the Criminal Justice System (Mandatory)	5	20	60%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2500	Letter Grade
			40%	Coursework: Report	Briefing paper	1500	Letter Grade
Stage 3							
PPS606: Dissertation (Mandatory)	6	40	80%	Coursework: Dissertation	n/a	8000	Letter Grade
			20%	Practical: Presentation	n/a	10	Letter Grade
PPS607: Case Management (Mandatory)	6	20	60%	Coursework: Report	n/a	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Practical: Other	Seminar	20	Letter Grade
PPS608: Global Challenges and Governance (Mandatory)	6	20	70%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2500	Letter Grade
			30%	Practical: Other	Podcast	15	Letter Grade
PPS609: Community Cohesion and Engagement (Mandatory)	6	20	60%	Coursework: Essay	n/a	2000	Letter Grade
			40%	Coursework: Case Study	n/a	1500	Letter Grade
PPS610: Ethical Considerations and Professional Standards (Mandatory)	6	20	40%	Coursework: Report	Briefing paper	1500	Letter Grade
			60%	Written Exam: Formal Written Examination	Open Book Examination	120	Letter Grade

Study Workload

Attendance at the institution is only 1 day a week, to enable you to carry out independent research alongside developing theoretical knowledge. For each module there will be a minimum requirement of 152 hours of independent study. This will consist of guided reading activities, online tutorials, seminars and workshops, supported through excellent CANVAS (VLE) online resources that enable you to study in your own time. The delivery of contact lectures, seminars, workshops and guest speakers from local protective service agencies will form the remaining hours of study. It is essential, in order to be successful, that you engage in additional and wider independent study outside of the designated course contact time in order to develop a broader understanding of the wider protective services environment. As well as being available digitally through your VLE a calendar of all academic assessments will be provided in your handbook at the start of the year; these involve work based research projects, written reports, and consideration of theory and supporting you to develop your independent study skills.

Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

The programme will be delivered at the University Centre campus and in your induction the programme team will highlight the extensive range of learning resources and additional support available to you whilst undertaking your course – these resources range from IT support, access to libraries and study areas to academic support, student wellbeing and support from learning mentors. Whilst lectures, seminars and practical workshops feature strongly in this programme, there are a range of other opportunities available due to the advantages of being taught in small cohorts. This means that multi agency practices, research skills and wider protective services knowledge can be developed as part of tutor- and student-led activities in the lectures, seminars and through role plays and tabletop scenarios. Regular trips to both local agencies such as Lancashire Constabulary's Hutton HQ as well as attendance at Protective Service conferences will serve to give you a vocational and experience-based curriculum.

Evidence-based practice is increasingly being recognised and promoted in the field of Protective Services and major incident policy. Over the course of the CertHE/FdA/BA(Hons) Protective Services programme you will be given opportunities and experiences that allow you to develop and implement innovative and effective solutions to support a multi-agency response to a range of scenarios ranging from a major incident to civil protection.

A multi-agency approach to emergency major incidents allows for a truly co-ordinated response. Gaining knowledge and understanding around a range of protective agencies tactical responses and their statutory duty of care allows you to develop transferable skills and challenges you to create innovative and effective plans when dealing with a range of scenarios. You will learn how, with a little planning, smarter decisions-based upon theoretical/empirical evidence you can inform resource deployment to drive effective practice.

Over the course of the programme, you may get the chance to listen to visiting speakers from other areas such as offender profiling, youth offending, probation services and other law enforcement and community agencies. Our flexible and responsive approach to learning means these events and activities can be built-in to the programme in order enhance sessions where appropriate.

Programme Delivery: Assessment

All assessments on this programme have been designed to support you and are relevant to policing practice. Your assessments will consist of essays, simulations, reports, briefing papers, role plays, oral presentations, case studies, briefing reports a research project and open book and multiple choice examinations. Guidance on academic regulations around misconduct, research integrity and ethical research approval will be provided via your programme handbook and also provided on your VLE page. Blackpool & Fylde College current taught regulations can be found here

Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning

The programme follows a traditional degree structure with a module at level five specifically designed to support work based learning.

A unique feature of the programme is that it is very employer focused and reflects contemporary society and the protective services. You will complete formative and summative assessments which will be sector focused which will include live briefs, sector simulations and real-world case studies. There are many voluntary placements which you will be encouraged vehemently to access outside of normal curriculum timetable.

Students are encouraged to volunteer across a range of support agencies and develop their practice-based understanding of taught material and prepare them for a range of employment opportunities within the sector.

Programme Delivery: Graduate Skill Development

The protective services programme will support a wide range of skills development, enabling students to commit to a career in a number of multi-agency organisations. The programme is designed to build these skills over time and to embed a strong commitment to lifelong learning. You will be given opportunities to focus on your role as a global citizen, by considering ethical and professional issues related to a range of incidents and emergencies (as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004). Students will develop excellent communication skills, verbal, written and digital, so that you can engage with the wider criminological research community. Whilst carrying out practical research and work-based experiences, you will strengthen your evidence-based decision making skills, leadership and teamwork skills, and also become an independent and autonomous student.

Study Costs: Equipment Requirements

Resources required to study on the programme are largely provided by the College. There are small costs associated with printing of work and posters over the duration of the course. Students are encouraged to bring their own lap-top device to lectures, seminars and workshops, but access to computer facilities is provided by the college. A one-day conference trip to a venue in the region, including conference fee and transport, typically costs around £60/student, although this will be partially funded by the college and is also subject to discount rates offered by conference organisers for group visits.

Study Costs: Additional Costs

As part of the programme, you are strongly recommended to attend external events, aimed at developing your knowledge, understanding and appreciation of course material, develop practical skills and embed theoretical concepts. There will also be the opportunity to attend Protective Services and criminal justice conferences involving law enforcement practitioners, policy-makers and academic researchers. Costs may be incurred to cover transport, accommodation and food. Travel for local trips is paid for by the college. Though most of the course material is available online, there may be additional costs to consider, such as printing and photocopying of course material, though students will be given a photocopying allowance to cover this.

You are encouraged to purchase an introductory textbook in multi-agency protective service books in support of your studies.

Related Courses

Related courses delivered at B&FC:

Access Higher Education Diploma – Policing and Criminology (Level 3)
FdA/BA(Hons) Criminology
BA (Hons) Professional Policing (Pre-Join)

Further study:

Some career paths will require additional qualifications and training. Post graduate qualifications that Protective Service graduates will go on to study include Master's courses such as MA or MSc in Criminal Investigation, Counter Terrorism, Criminal Justice, Cybercrime Investigation, DNA Profiling, Forensic Psychology, Forensic Psychology, LLM Law, LLM in Law and International Security.

Other post graduate qualifications you have the option of studying include Law conversion courses, LLM in Law and teaching courses such as Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in primary, secondary or further education.