



Programme Specification

PUB-2017: Public Services

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: 1

Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Public Services programme and the learning outcomes that you as a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate 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 Student Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

Key Programme Information

Programme Code	PUB-2017
Programme Title	Public Services
Teaching Institution	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation	None
UCAS Code	TBC
Language of Study	English
Version	1
Approval Status	Approved
Approval Date	01 August 2017
JACS Code	
Programme Leader	Sarah Rodriguez

Programme Awards

Award	Award Type	Level	Awarding Body
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

If you are considering a career in the uniformed Public Services or aspiring to be involved in a management role in a public services related career then this course is for you. The programme provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for employment in both the uniformed and non-uniformed Public Services, both in the UK and overseas.

The programme would equally suit those who are new to this area and those already employed in it and who wish to progress to management level roles. Successful graduates will be able to embark on careers in organisations such as the Emergency Services, National Probation Service, Armed Forces (Officer level), HMRC, Criminal Justice Agencies and the Civil Service or alternatively continue their studies on a relevant postgraduate course.

Admission Criteria

Admission Criteria

Fd Public Service

Level 4 entry to the programme would normally be on the basis of either:

120 UCAS points or 48 UCAS points (2017 tariff)

Discretionary entry for non-standard applications based on current/previous employment and experience. Applicants may seek AP(E)L but this will only be permissible for Level 4 credit. Direct entry to Level 5 would normally be on the basis of mapping the learning outcomes from the current HNC against the Level 4 Fd module learning outcomes.

BA (Hons) Public Service

Direct entry to Level 6 would normally be on the basis of :

A pass from the FdA in Public Services.

Career Options and Progression Opportunities

Fd Public Services

It is expected that as a graduate from the foundation degree you will progress onto further study at level 6 onto the BA (Hons) Public Service Programme or obtain employment within the public services. The programme will enable you to develop the essential knowledge and skills that will prepare you for future success in work and life whether in the public services or other sectors or businesses.

Several career pathways are available to students successfully completing the foundation degree, these include:

- Police Community Support Officer
- Civil Servant
- Customs and Immigration Officer
- Welfare and Housing Advisor
- Fire fighter
- Paramedic
- Emergency Planning Officer
- Communication Operator
- Probation Officer
- Police Officer
- Prison Officer

The programme aims to set graduates up for careers in the Police, the Ambulance Service, the Fire Brigade, the Prison Service and Customs and Excise. While the main focus of the programme is on the uniformed public services it does also cover the non-uniformed public services such as Local Government, National Offender Management Service (NOMS), National Health Service, Criminal Justice Agencies and Social Services, which incorporate public service multi-agency partnerships. Within these organisations there are a range of job opportunities which include; front-line, emergency type job roles, support roles and volunteering job roles.

BA (Hons) Public Services

After successfully gaining the BA (Hons) Top-up at Level 6 the following career or progression opportunities are available:

- Police Sergeant / Inspector
- Fire Service Watch Manager
- Paramedic / Senior Paramedic
- Senior Probation Officer
- Local Government Emergency Officer
- Senior Communications Officer
- Immigration and Customs Officer

The programme aims to set graduates up for careers in the Police, the Ambulance Service, the Fire Brigade, the Prison Service and Customs and Excise. While the main focus of the programme is on the uniformed public services it does also cover the non-uniformed public services such as Local Government, National Offender Management Service (NOMS), National Health Service, Criminal Justice Agencies and Social Services, which incorporate public service multi-agency partnerships. Within these organisations there are a range of job opportunities which include; front-line, emergency type job roles, support roles and volunteering job roles.

Upon completion of the BA (Hons) Programme you will be able to progress onto a post-graduate programme in a relevant discipline. Programmes such as Criminal Investigation, Fire Management, Community Cohesion and Politics may be an option for a master's degree. Once you have completed your BA (Hons) Public Service degree you could apply for a graduate Fast Tracking scheme where available. All uniformed public services offer a graduate fast tracking scheme. The Metropolitan Police have an 'Accelerated Graduate Development Programme (AGDP) (Metropolitan Police, 2016) and MI5 security services only accept applicants with a degree. The fire service also has a fast track graduate scheme '*The UK Fire Service has a Graduate Entry Scheme where graduates will be fast-tracked into station manager roles*' (London Fire Brigade, 2014). "The Prison Service for England and Wales also operates a fast-track graduate entry called the Intensive Development Scheme open to graduates from a relevant discipline (HMPrison Service, 2016).

Programme Aims

Fd:

- To develop the knowledge, understanding and skills directly relevant to careers in public services.
- To provide opportunities for students to focus on theoretical concepts and perspectives which inform professional practice in public services.
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of the integrated and multi-agency approach to the delivery of public services nationally and internationally.
- To develop effective business and management techniques and models of practice to support career progression in public services.

BA (Hons):

- To enable and encourage the development of ethically, morally, socially and professionally minded public servants who are strategically focused and intellectually autonomous.
- To engage students in an interchange between theory, research and practice, and to foster understanding of contemporary society and its impact on public services and communities.
- To develop students interrogation skills in order to critically analyse theory surrounding public policy and organisational management in public service organisations.

- To provide students with the requisite skills, knowledge and competencies of a public service professional while investigating the impact of contemporary issues on public sectors nationally and internationally.

- To develop critical, analytical and evaluative public service professionals who can manage, plan, conduct and report on research investigations in a variety of public service organisations.

- To provide opportunities which encourage personal and professional development, in a context of organisational change, while embracing a commitment to lifelong learning and public sector employment.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 5

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

1. Explain concepts, theories and approaches to Public Service provision and intervention in communities.
2. Apply cultural and social sensitivity to solving psychosocial problems in a vocational context incorporating both moral and ethical principles of practice.
3. Discuss national occupational standards for the public services and apply these to diverse public sector contexts.
4. Present information in a variety of formats which evidences both academic and digital literacy skills.
5. Conduct primary and secondary research to investigate a contemporary issue in Public Services.
6. Explain community engagement models and relate these to individual, societal and global issues and concerns.
7. Analyse Public Service and Community problems in order to propose and communicate solutions.
8. Discuss and evaluate the appropriateness of theoretical and professional models and approaches for managing teams and projects.
9. Explain the link between political agendas, policies and practices which impact on public service provision.

Level 6

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

10. Critically evaluate theoretical concepts which affect the quality of public service provision and implement strategies to effectively manage equality and diversity issues, within the workplace and wider sector.
11. Critically interrogate the key concepts and theoretical models, perspectives and treaties of crime locally, nationally and internationally and their associated impact upon the public services and society.
12. Investigate and interpret the contemporary advances in the promotion of community cohesion in relation to public service provision, wider agencies and the community.
13. Critically evaluate the contending moral, ethical and legal issues that underpin public service practice.
14. Conduct a systematic research enquiry, drawing relevant conclusions and making recommendations to inform future practices in the public service sector.

15. Critically analyse contending ideological frameworks in relation to a diverse range of contemporary issues impacting upon public services.

Programme Structure

Pathway	Module	Level	Credits	Coursework	Practical	Written Exam
Stage 1						
Stage exit award: LU Certificate of Higher Education (Awarded by Lancaster University)						
All	B4HUPUB: Introduction to Academic Study (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	40%	
	PUB402: Multi-Agency Approach to Managing a Major Incident (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	30%	
	PUB403: Contemporary Social Problems (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	30%	
	PUB404: Mental and Physical Resilience (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	30%	
	PUB405: Business Enterprise (Mandatory)	4	20	100%		
	PUB406: Applied Psychology (Mandatory)	4	20	100%		
Stage 2						
Stage exit award: LU Foundation Degree in Science (Awarded by Lancaster University)						
All	BFC502-T: Work Based Research Project (Mandatory)	5	20	80%	20%	
	PUB501: Government and Policy (Mandatory)	5	20	70%	30%	
	PUB502: Managing Change and Performance in Public Organisations (Mandatory)	5	20	40%		60%
	PUB503: Pre-Hospital Emergency Care (Mandatory)	5	20	100%		
	PUB505: Criminal Justice and the Community (Mandatory)	5	20	100%		
	PUB506: Contemporary Issues (Mandatory)	5	20	70%	30%	
Stage 3						
Stage exit award: LU Bachelor of Science with Honours (Top-up) (Awarded by Lancaster University)						
All	PUB601: Dissertation (Mandatory)	6	40	80%	20%	
	PUB602: Ethical Considerations in Public Service Provision (Mandatory)	6	20	40%		60%
	PUB603: Globalisation and the Impact upon the Public Services (Mandatory)	6	20	70%	30%	
	PUB604: Community Cohesion (Mandatory)	6	20	100%		
	PUB605: Multi-Agency Partnership in Case Management Issues (Mandatory)	6	20	80%	20%	

Course Options

The Fd and BA (Hons) Public Services Programme does not have any optional modules. All the modules are mandatory.

Study Workload

Each credit on the programme equates to approximately ten hours of learning, some of this will be delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials, however the vast majority of time will be spent in independent learning utilising resources and the virtual learning environment.

Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

Fd Public Services

The programme will be taught using a wide range of methods including lectures which provide content on theories, perspectives legislation and related concepts. Seminars, workshops and tutorials are a key element of the programme where group, pair and individual activities will be used to help you to develop your understanding and meet the assessment requirements. Guest lectures and visits are an integral part of our teaching and learning strategy, providing you with a real world context in which to apply theoretical principles, perspectives and approaches to working in the public sector. Relating theory to work related practice is central and through a work based research project you will be able to apply learning to the needs and requirements of public service organisations and employers. In addition to class sessions and collaborative learning activities, you will be encouraged through tutorial and individual supervision to work independently, utilising a wide variety of traditional text based and on line resources available on the virtual learning environment.

BA (Hons) Public Service

Whilst lectures, seminars and practical workshops feature strongly in the teaching and learning strategy, we will be making considerable use of alternative methods of delivery and study, particularly online options such as tutor and self-assessment materials and formative exercises. You will be expected to participate in a wide variety of learning activities including; live and online projects, presentations and discussions alongside more traditional modes of delivery. A key feature of the BA (Hons) programme is the dissertation, which will require you to work in close supervision with your tutor to plan and construct a research proposal, design a research study, collect data drawing informed conclusions and make recommendations. This approach is very individualised and enables you to pursue research, which is relevant to your personal interests and chosen area of professional practice. When studying on the BA (Hons) programme you will experience more independent learning techniques which are fully supported by tutorials and individual supervision activities as well as the VLE.

The programme prides itself for having very close links with both the uniformed and non-uniformed Public Services to further enhance your student experience whilst studying. You will have the opportunity to visit various public service organisations, departments and specialist units and be provided with a number of keynote guest speakers from the sector to further enhance the curriculum

Programme Delivery: Assessment

Fd Public Service

All assessments on this programme have been designed to support you and are relevant to the public service sector. Your assessments will consist of essays, simulations, reports, briefing papers, podcasts, oral presentations, case studies, a research project and an open book examination.

BA (Hons) Public Service

The assessments on the BA (Hons) programme are designed to support your advanced development and comprise of oral presentations, essays, practical skills assessments, case studies, reports and a dissertation.

Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning

Fd Public Service

A unique feature of the programme is that it is very employer focused and reflects contemporary society and the public sector. You will complete formative and summative assessments which will be sector focused and include live briefs, sector simulations and real-world case studies.

There are many voluntary placements which you will be encouraged to access outside of the taught sessions. There is a Work Based Research Project Module delivered at Level 5 which will require you to undertake a minimum of 96 hours work placement in your chosen public service sector. Due to the large number of uniformed and non-uniformed public service organisations in the Blackpool area, there are numerous opportunities to participate in voluntary work and undertake your Work Based Research Project to enable you to apply your theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to organisation and sector requirements. Some staff members are actively working in the public services both uniformed and non-uniformed and have excellent links to organisations and contacts with employers to facilitate your work based experience in the public services sectors.

BA Public Service

A unique feature of the programme is that it is very employer focused and explores real world contemporary issues relevant to the public sector. You will complete formative and summative assessments which are sector focused including live briefs, simulations and real-world case studies.

There are many voluntary placements which you will be encouraged to access outside of your normal class sessions to help you to apply ideas and approaches and place your learning in context. Our excellent links to public service organisations and employers and our wealth of guest speakers from industry enhance the development of employability in our curriculum. Some members of staff are actively working within the public services both uniformed and non-uniformed and have contacts with employers and organisations to facilitate any additional voluntary work experiences.

Programme Delivery: Graduate Skill Development

Fd and BA (Hons) Public Service

In addition to developing your knowledge and understanding of the theories, perspectives and complexities of public service provision, you will also be provided with the opportunity to develop transferable graduate skills and attributes which will enhance your future employability. You will develop your skills in academic and digital literacies, key skills for today's professional and appreciate the need for lifelong learning to support your future continuing professional development. You will develop your ethical, social and professional understanding of legislation approaches and strategies employed in the public services through lectures, group and project work. Throughout the programme you will be presented with lots of opportunities to develop collaborative team work and communication skills through learning activities, presentations and seminars. You will be encouraged to consider global and international perspectives through lectures, seminars independent study and assignments. Through class based activities, assignment work, guest lectures and visits you will be supported in the development of research scholarship and enquiry skills which will be evidenced in your major research project and dissertation. This programme will help you to develop the necessary, transferable skills required to work across the public services and wider community provision. It will also develop graduates who are able to problem solve and draw on relevant theories and perspectives to inform their decision making. The modernising public service agenda and multi agency partnership working has been incorporated into this programme where there is a need for graduates to understand business needs and management and leadership principles, applying both enterprise and entrepreneurial skills to public service contexts.

Study Costs: Equipment Requirements

Fd and BA (Hons) Public Services

No equipment requirements.

Study Costs: Additional Costs

Fd Public Services

You may need to obtain Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) in order to carry out certain placements within the Work Based Research Project module.

BA (Hons) Public Services

You may need to obtain Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) if you wish to complete voluntary work within the sector.

Related Courses

Programmes which are related to the Fd and BA (Hons) Public Service are:

- Level 3 Diploma in Public Services
- FdA and BA (Hons) Criminology
- FdA and BA (Hons) Management
- FdA Physical Activity, Nutrition and Health

Related post graduate programmes are:

- MSc in Criminal Justice and Social Research Methods (Lancaster University)
- MA in Community Leadership (UCLan University)
- MSc in Forensic Psychology (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- MSc Criminal Investigation (UCLan University)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Education