CORE MODULES: FdA Public Service

You must take modules worth 120 credits at each level of the course. Each module is worth a specified number of credits.

Year one for full-time students (Level 4)

Understanding Public Services (30 credits)

- *This module supports the development of an understanding of the origins and nature of public service work in the broadest sense, including the social and political environment within which public services emerged and currently operate. Teaching will provide an understanding of how and why public services developed, the cultural and political ethos behind public services, the legal and ethical frameworks informing the sector, the demands placed on public services and their employees, and possible developments in the future.*

Basic Criminalistics (15 credits)

- *Criminalistics is the core discipline of forensic science; indeed, in many uses, especially in North America, it is synonymous with forensic science. The study is built upon one basic premise, that every contact or action leaves some trace (Locard's Principle). As scientific methodologies have improved over the years, so the nature of what constitutes a trace has changed considerably. This module introduces the student to the main categories of trace evidence (finger and other body prints, fibres, hairs, glass and paint fragments, and body fluids) and will emphasise the importance of rigorous crime scene management and proper methods of evidence recovery.*

Introduction to Social Sciences (15 credits)

- *This module will address the ideas of some of some of the key thinkers in Sociology. These will include Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Goffman and Becker. The continuing relevance of their ideas to the analysis of contemporary societies and to an understanding of public services will also be examined. Students will be offered the opportunity to explore the significance of the sociological study of aspects of society such as the individual, groups, inequality, conflict and social change to understanding the social context within which public services are delivered.*

Working in Public Services (15 credits)

- *This module introduces students to the work environments and current operation of a range of uniformed public services. It builds on the material studied in the module Understanding Public Services which focused on the wider origins of public services broadly conceived. Typically, examples will be chosen from the military, fire, police, prison and ambulance services, but this range may be adapted according to the needs of students. Whilst most examples will be from the UK, European public services may also be considered. The focus of the module will be on the historical origins of these services, their current specific operation and any other issues that are relevant such as industrial relations. The work environments including entry, initial training, and conditions of service, professional development, career development, occupational cultures and relevant wider issues will be analysed.*

Work Based Learning 1 (15 credits)

- *Learning in the work place is an integral part of the foundation degree. The work environment provides a rich setting for exploration and discovery of a range of knowledge, skills and understanding. Three strands formulate an integrated approach to this unit: The module aims to enable students to reflect on work practice, critically appraise their own performance and report on the experience of learning at work. You will be expected to be able to demonstrate information gathering and descriptive skills. You will also be expected to demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues relevant to their practice and studies.*
- *Learning about work – relates to further developing the learners' knowledge and understanding of the workplace.*
- *Learning through work – examines the acquisition of practical skills in a real working environment, for example on a work placement, or through current employment.*
- *Learning for work – the learners' knowledge and skills are developed in a way that is directly relevant to the workplace.*

Political Ideologies and Social Controversies (15 credits)

- *This module offers a grounding in major political ideologies and key political concepts that will form the foundation for future study in practical and theoretical aspects of the social sciences. The module introduces students to the study of various political ideologies and helps them develop appropriate knowledge and understanding of key features of political ideas and behaviour. Through study of the core elements of ideologies, students will have the opportunity to engage in basic comparative study and some degree of historical analysis. Students can then utilise this understanding of key political ideologies in order to explore different political environments. In pursuit of this aim the module will reflect on forms of classical political thought and locate these in contemporary political and social settings.*

Researching Social Issues (15 credits)

- *This module introduces students on Criminology, Public Service and Sociology Courses to the range of research instruments available to social scientists. The module explains the value of empirical research as a means to understand social issues. It does this through sustained consideration of one such issue: the policing of ethnic minorities. The module shows how police minority relations can be analysed using a variety of methods including observation, experiment, quantitative surveys, official statistics, qualitative interviewing, ethnography, archive research, case studies and life histories. Via discussion of these approaches, students come to understand the potential contribution and limitations of each method, the practical issues around effective data gathering, sensitivity to cultural difference, and the ethical and political dimensions of the research process.*

Year two for full-time students (Level 5)

Leading Public Servants (15 credits)

- *This module is designed to develop students' critical view of public services in a broad sense, through an understanding of current perspectives on leadership and management in public service and how these relate to the ever-changing political, social and economic contexts within which they operate. The importance of effective management and leadership will be discussed, along with the influence of the structures of public services and the impact of these on an organisation. Different perspectives and styles of leadership will be evaluated and students will develop an understanding of the complexities and debates around this topic.*

Police and Crime Control (15 credits)

- *Laws do not have an impact unless they are enforced, or unless there is an anticipation of enforcement. Enforcement is the responsibility of specialist agencies or organisations and the Police constitute the most highly visible and most pivotal agency involved in the maintenance of order, with debates and controversies about their role in society never far from the centre of legal, political and public attention. This module reflects on some of the key sociological and political issues surrounding the maintenance of social order. It considers the development of and the contemporary role of the police, exploring in detail the nature and demands of police work, in the context of its occupational culture. It addresses continuities and changes in public attitudes and expectations of the police and also focuses on the impact of technological and organisational changes in styles of policing and maintaining social order. Contrasts will be highlighted by considering the growth, on the one hand, of para-military-style policing and, on the other, of community policing initiatives.*

Resilience and Emergency Management (15 credits)

- *Bringing together all the skills that the student has learnt on the Public Service Foundation Degree, this module involves students working to identify and understand how the emergency services prepare for and operate at major disasters. Delivery will involve looking at the ways that government and emergency services prepare for and react to major disasters, and will consider the advantages and difficulties of the multi-agency approach. Students will be involved in team working to solve problems and be innovative in their preparation for and taking part in major disaster exercises. Students will carry out a tabletop exercise (TTX) as a way of completing their studies and of putting into operation the work they have completed on this subject.*

Equality and Cultural Diversity at Work (15 credits)

- *The aim of this module is to develop students' appreciation of equality and cultural diversity issues, particularly within the public services. Delivered through a series of lectures, seminars and workshops, the module provides an understanding of equality legislation, and the social causes and outcomes of prejudice, bullying and harassment. The module will also provide an understanding of institutional practices that have reduced service delivery and led to internal bullying, and the public services' reaction to this.*

Work Based Learning 2 (15 credits)

- *In the second year of the Public Service Foundation Degree, you will, as far as possible, undertake a work placement within a public service or in an organisation closely aligned with the work of the Public Services. However, gaining work experience for public service for those preparing to work in the sector is not an easy task; some areas of the work are off limits for those not employed and even for those employed could not be recorded for transparent public examination. The aim will be to give you as real as possible an experience of working in public services. Building on the experience of Work Based Learning 1 you will be encouraged to continue your exploration of professional/occupational practice, along the strands developed previously, as a source of learning. In this module you will be expected to demonstrate a greater degree of autonomy in the management of your learning, will demonstrate a more detailed knowledge of relevant theoretical underpinning and be able to analyse and evaluate both information and argument. You will be required to demonstrate the application of theory to practice.*

Cultures of War and Peace (15 credits)

- *The media is saturated with reports of war, ethnic and political conflict in various countries around the world. Whilst there are rules of engagement for war, crimes are nevertheless committed during conflicts. Cultures of War will offer you the opportunity to consider and evaluate the concept of 'war', through the conduct of governments and international bodies as well as combatants and non-combatants. Through a 'Cultural Criminological' lens, you will examine the causes of war and crimes committed in conflict-torn environments. Is war a natural consequence of human interaction? Is there a difference between a 'terrorist' and a 'freedom fighter'? Are there effective methods for resolving global conflicts? You will explore some historical, political, legal and sociological explanations of combat, conflict and political unrest, agendas as well as the impact of patriotism, nationalism and fanaticism. You will examine theories of war, rules of armed conflict and the roles of international courts and tribunals. You will evaluate crimes and weapons of war as well as representations of war in the media (including the 'war on drugs' and 'war on terror'), conflict prevention and effective peace processes.*

Research Design and Project Preparation (15 credits)

- *This module aims to provide guidance, support and information, in order to prepare students for the major project in their final year. The topics covered in the module will largely be built around student academic need. The weekly sessions will include guidance on the following: appropriate use of supervisor, selecting a suitable topic, literature reviews and how to develop research aims and objectives, ethics and research methodology. The assessment consists of two tasks; both of which can be amended and used for the major project in the final year. The first assessment is an ethics portfolio (including an ethics quiz and research ethics application form). The second assessment is a literature review in your chosen topic area.*