

# BSC (HONS) PROFESSIONAL POLICING (TOP-UP)

Institute of Business, Industry and Leadership

<b>Academic Level:</b>	6	<b>Credits:</b>	120
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Awarding Body:</b>	University of Cumbria		
<b>Delivery Site:</b>	Online delivery		
<b>Programme Length:</b>	Standard registration period (part-time) - 2 years		
<b>Mode of Delivery:</b>	Online Learning		
<b>Pattern of Delivery:</b>	Part time		
	Total weeks of study:	48 weeks	
	Delivery pattern:	4 x 12-week semesters	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
<b>PSRB:</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Programme Webpage:</b>	<a href="https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/professional-policing-top-up/">https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/professional-policing-top-up/</a>		

## Entry Criteria

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the [Applicant Information](#) pages of the University website for more information. For alternative entry, please refer to the University website.

## PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

### Programme Aims

By the end of this programme you will be able to:

1. Apply the specialised and diverse base of graduate knowledge, understanding and skills developed during the programme in the context of the wider policing, law enforcement and/or criminal justice system environments
2. Utilise your knowledge of policing, its relationship with professional partnerships and the wider social and political context through a comprehensive understanding of the theories, themes and policies that impact modern policing
3. Think critically and reflectively within ethical and professional boundaries, providing a critical academic understanding of policing policy, practices, ethical values and moral codes
4. Utilise a range of analytical and research methodologies critically, allowing you to undertake ethically sound, professional, evidence-based empirical research
5. Progressively develop your intellectual capacities, career management skills and digital capability, whilst allowing for the development of a range of interpersonal and transferrable skills, commensurate with competencies as outlined in police officer role profiles.

### Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 120 credits of study at Level 6 (BSc Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- K1.** A critical understanding of principles, ethics, standards and values applied in the context of operational policing
- K2.** A deep understanding of policing structures, governance, policies and procedures at the strategic level
- K3.** A critical awareness of the types and styles of leadership and teamworking approaches that can be applied within the Police Service, and the importance of resilience and wellbeing of officers and staff
- K4.** An ability to apply appropriate research methodology to enable the design of an ethically sound and empirical evidence-based policing study
- K5.** A critical and demonstrable awareness of the requirements of operational competence in policing.

### Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 120 credits of study at Level 6 (BSc Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:**

- S1.** Application of theoretical concepts in differing operational contexts

- S2.** An understanding of professional discipline and its development and culture in line with the College of Policing Strategic Intent
- S3.** Research skills and interpretation of outcomes in order to be able to apply findings and enhance professional practice
- S4.** Skills in data collection and analysis from varying sources using ethical and professional means
- S5.** An understanding of the skills relating to operational competence to enhance professional practice
- S6.** An ability to challenge existing knowledge and construct evidence-based arguments.

## PROGRAMME FEATURES

### Programme Overview

The University of Cumbria has been at the forefront of the delivery of degree level policing programmes for the past 14 years. We have also played a key role in working with the professional body for policing, the College of Policing, the national employer 'trailblazer group' and other interested parties in developing both the National Policing Curriculum (NPC), and the Police Education Qualification Framework (PEQF) which has now become the basis for the current Police Constable Entry Routes (PCER) in England and Wales.

The BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (Top-Up) is an academic, knowledge-based top-up degree designed to allow those individuals with a recognised qualification at Level 5 (e.g. a Foundation Degree, DipHE) to 'top-up' to a full degree qualification in policing. It may also be of interest or benefit to those considering a career in non-police officer roles within policing or wider, 'policing' related occupations. The knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the top-up degree may also be of benefit to those seeking to understand how society is policed, who have an interest in law enforcement or want to enter the wider justice sector. Attitude and behaviours are vital aspects of a police officer's skill base (or for any wider Police Service role, as well as for many roles within the Criminal Justice Sector). Within our formal teaching, learning and assessment processes (for example, in presenting findings or discussing processes and procedures), the attitudes and behaviours expected of police officers are fostered and developed, alongside the vital knowledge, understanding and skills you will gain on the programme.

The introduction of degree-level qualifications in professional policing has set a modern benchmark for the educational standards of the police constable. Graduate-level skills and attributes (e.g., critical thinking and analysis, communication skills, reflection, independent decision-making, problem solving in complex and unpredictable contexts, research skills, and commensurate digital skills) are already demonstrated on a daily basis by members of the police service and will become increasingly important in policing. Such skills will be essential in embedding an evidence-based policing approach and will also support a highly skilled workforce capable of working more autonomously and efficiently, with less supervision.

Acquiring the attributes demonstrated by graduates complimented with knowledge and understanding is likely to compliment your aspirations in career development whether through specialisation or seniority.

Those applicants without degree study experience will be required to successfully complete a 'bridging' module which addresses academic convention in studying and assessments to support you in demonstrating your knowledge and understanding across the compulsory modules confident in your ability to work within academic frameworks. As this is a preparatory module no fees are levied.

Teaching on this programme will be delivered using asynchronous online methodologies, allowing you to access each learning event at a time and place convenient to you. This delivery will be complemented by guided online study tasks, and the opportunity to attend individual tutorials.

This approach is specifically designed to recognise the professional demands of students who are already operating in a 24/7 environment.

You will use your knowledge of evidence-based policing and research skills to create a problem-solving study based on local priorities and issues enabling you to directly apply your learning in complex Policing environments.

You will also examine coaching, mentoring and leadership theories and practice and you will consider and analyse the challenges faced in today's complex policing environment.

Complimenting sought after communication and interpersonal skills in work-based interactions with colleagues and members of the public of all categories.

The BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (top-up) will utilise IT in support of this online learning experience. This will include the Blackboard Ultra Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), to facilitate communication during your learning experience and to provide access to programme and module level information, module materials, and relevant web links. The programme is further enhanced digitally through the inclusion of digital aspects of assessment and commensurate teaching approaches to cover the requisite digital knowledge and skills required.

The BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (top-up) will develop your critical and analytical thinking about the role and context of policing in society, the challenges that exist within policing and the wider criminal justice system and the legislation, policies and professional practice that inform and govern the delivery of policing to communities across England and Wales. This is enabled and delivered through a range of complementary modules covering the theoretical and practical aspects of policing and criminal justice combined with the requisite academic skills, research skills and digital skills. Individual learning is supported through a structured system of personal tutoring.

Graduates are equipped to evaluate evidence, inform policy and practice, contribute to organisational learning, and support data-driven operational and strategic decision-making.

Your learning will be further enhanced by our partnerships and collaborations with a number of Constabularies in England and Wales, including Cumbria, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Surrey and Sussex and Thames Valley Police. This allows us to maintain an ongoing dialogue regarding current innovations, trends, local concerns and best practice solutions, all of which adds to the richness of your learning experience.

We also embrace sustainability, both in terms of university practices (e.g. a requirement for very little paper use on the programme) and course content. For example, rural crime trends and wildlife crime are both threats to sustainability and are researched and discussed at appropriate points in the curriculum.

Whatever your aspirations once you have successfully completed the programme, you will be educationally and digitally equipped to enter the employment market, regardless of the professional direction you choose to take. Whilst this programme is primarily designed to complement the degree aligned routes of entry to the Police Service, there are many other applications for this robust academic qualification.

## Learning and Teaching

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in an online, collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

The University of Cumbria has developed a **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan** with the aim of ensuring that:

“Learning, teaching and assessment at the University of Cumbria will be active, applied and authentic. Drawing upon a powerful sense of place, a deep intellectual tradition of pedagogic thought within Cumbria, and an unswerving commitment to partnership working, the UoC learning and teaching model provides a distinctive, enabling framework to unlock innovation in programme design and delivery and prepare our graduates for sustainable success in their workplace, their community and the world”.

**Our learning environment** is firmly based on the UoC learning and teaching model and is composed of the following interconnected elements:

- Our signature pedagogy – Place-based Engaged Learning
- Our graduate attributes – Agile and Adaptive, Collaborative and Networked, Critically Curious, Digitally Fluent and Innovative and Creative
- Our enhancement themes – Authentic Assessment, Digital Augmentation, Learning Optimisation and Universal Design for Learning
- Our approach to student engagement – Belonging through Partnership.

### **Learning and Teaching**

The BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (Top-Up) has been developed by the University of Cumbria to allow individuals with a relevant Level 5 qualification or relevant, recognised previous learning or experience, to undertake and gain a degree level Policing qualification. The programme has been based around the requirements of the Police Qualification and Education Framework (PEQF) and incorporates key aspects of the optimised National Policing Curriculum. You will be taught the knowledge and gain the understanding required in order to apply and contextualise these attributes in the workplace. You will also be taught a range of skills relevant to the professional policing role and appropriate to the HE learning environment. In addition, you will be encouraged to undertake self-directed study both to supplement and consolidate your learning and to broaden your individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance; this community will develop in a learning environment that is well equipped, digital, flexible, and stimulating.

### **Teaching sessions**

The programme is divided into modules allowing you to study topic-based elements in a constructive manner, connecting to theory to practical experience. A Particularly effective approach for serving professionals bringing rich operational experience to the learning experience. Resulting in increased knowledge retention with associated knowledge transfer into practice.

On this programme, each of the 2 years of study comprise of 2 modules; one 20-credit module in Semester 1 followed by a 40-credit module which runs for Semesters 2 and 3. You can expect to undertake one module session during each 12-week semester of study, which will be delivered asynchronously to facilitate a fully flexible distance learning experience. These sessions can be broken down to suit your own learning needs.

Module sessions will include online asynchronous lectures, online facilitated tasks and the use of a discussion board to facilitate module discourse. A detailed module learning plan will be issued for each module, which will provide fine detail on the topic areas to be covered during each session, and the teaching approach and methods to be used. In addition, you can expect 2 x personal academic tutorial sessions each year and, in your final year of study, you will also receive a minimum of 3 x dissertation supervision meetings.

### **Independent Learning**

When not undertaking online learning activities you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. This may include (but is not limited to) directed study tasks and reading, note taking and research. Guidance and signposting is provided to ensure your independent learning is targeted and efficient. Tutors are available to clarify, guide and discuss where needed.

### **Teaching Staff**

The programme is led and facilitated by staff who are expert practitioners, engaged in research and scholarly activity and at the forefront of their disciplines. Our Policing Team teaching staff are all former practitioners who come from a wide variety of policing backgrounds and specialisations. Staff from other disciplines (e.g. criminology, law, forensic science, security, intelligence) may teach on specific modules, utilising their expert knowledge of the subject matter. Specific subject area guest speakers, most especially serving Police Officers in a variety of specialist roles, are utilised where appropriate. Above all, our learning environments offer an accessible, safe space for critical thinking, discussion and debate.

## **Assessment**

### **Summative assessment**

Many of the assessments within the BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (Top-Up) have been designed with authenticity in mind, either in terms of the format of the assessment or the content required. We conduct authentic assessments wherever possible and practical in order to align the assessments that you undertake with the working practices you may encounter in the police, law enforcement or wider criminal justice sector workplaces. The parameters of our assessments reflect the professional requirements of report and document writing within policing, including specific reports (e.g. road traffic collisions, sudden deaths) and briefing documents to initiate operations or inform senior command. A number of vital skill areas are also incorporated into the assessment process; for example, operational briefing delivery. Wherever possible, authentic assessments are developed in consultation with our Force partners to ensure relevance and currency of process.

Our Learning and Teaching Assessment (LTA) approaches will be continually evaluated and improved by using module evaluations, feedback, peer review, focus groups, and module enhancement and development sessions. As a student you will be encouraged to contribute to this process of development via surveys and staff/student focus (SSF) groups. This will ensure an enhanced student learning experience and continuing professional development by the academic team to maintain contemporary LTA best practice.

### **Formative assessment**

The use of formative assessment is an important feature within our BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (Top-Up) programme. The nature of the formative work varies across the programme and within each module it is aligned to the summative assessment. Formative work may include presentation practice or presenting work-in-progress plans and reports. Self-assessment is also used to provide feedback on formative tasks. Feedback methods for formative assessment include:

- Immediate verbal or written feedback where possible and practical
- Feedback on-line via blackboard
- Peer feedback through seminars via discussion or presentation feedback

### **Assessment methods**

During your Level 6 studies you will be assessed using essays/formal reports, a structured dissertation in a relevant research area, assessed presentations and portfolio submissions which comprise of multiple elements of work including digital items.

The practice led approach to learning and assessment will enhance decision making, facilitating a critical evidence-based approach.

Wherever possible, module assessments are aligned to authentic professional practice as used in the police, law enforcement and criminal justice system sector.

### **Feedback**

A high level of importance is placed on the feedback process following any assessment. You will receive detailed feedback appropriate to the assessment type.

Written, structured feedback will be provided for all written assessments, whereas verbally based or presentation type assessments will receive verbal feedback. The feedback will be aligned to the assessment brief and learning outcomes for the module, and to the marking guide for the specific assessment. Whatever the assessment outcome for the student, feedback will be positive, constructive and developmental, to enable you to be able to improve continually on all aspects of your work.

## **Graduate Prospects**

The BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (top-up) is specifically designed to enable you to capitalise on your previously gained qualification or on your recognised previous experience by undertaking study directly at Level 6 and securing a degree qualification.

Specific to the BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (Top-Up), the graduate attributes associated with this programme include, but are not limited to:

- Study and research skills,
- A digital skills base,
- Subject specific knowledge aligned to many aspects of the optimised National Policing Curriculum
- An understanding of collaboration and partnership working
- An ethically sound approach to professional practice
- An understanding of decision making, problem solving, innovation and risk management.

These attributes can be applied to service in the Police and to employment opportunities within the wider law enforcement and others as follows:

- The criminal justice sector, including police staff support roles,
- HM Prison Service,
- Border Force,
- Armed Forces policing and intelligence units
- Home Office and the Security Services.

Opportunities to utilise your graduate attributes also exist within the private security sector and within partner agencies such as the Probation Service. You can also use the knowledge, understanding and skills gained during the programme as a platform to undertake higher education studies at Masters level.

Furthermore, the University's graduate attributes outline the qualities we seek to develop in you to shape your impact in the workplace and society and enable you to respond positively to the grand challenges of the decades to come:

- Agile and adaptable – you will be able to respond positively and productively to shifting landscapes in the world of work and the community
- Collaborative and networked – you will develop valuable professional networks and relationships with peers, employers and practitioners
- Critically curious – you will perceive the world as a global citizen through a critical lens, assessing and evaluating information and perspectives to challenge established thinking
- Digitally fluent – you will be able to engage thoughtfully with existing and emerging technologies to harness digital solutions where they add the most value
- Innovative and creative – you will develop creative solutions to recognised challenges, adding value through thinking 'outside of the box'.

## MODULES

<b>Year 1</b>			
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status</b>
POLI6512	Coaching and Mentoring	20	Compulsory
POLI6513	Complex Policing	40	Compulsory
<b>Year 2</b>			
POLI6514	Leading Police Teams and Operations	20	Compulsory
POLI6515	Dissertation	40	Core
<p><b>Students exiting at this point with 60 credits would receive an Ordinary BSc Professional Policing</b></p> <p><b>Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a BSc (Hons) Professional Policing (Top-Up)</b></p>			

<b>Key to Module Statuses</b>	
Compulsory	Must be taken although it may possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).

<b>Timetables</b>
<p>Timetables are normally available in the August immediately prior to the commencement of study. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the working week.</p> <p>Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to you as far in advance as possible, however there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The UoC academic calendar runs from August to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.</p>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Student Support

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Advice Service](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at [www.ucsu.me](http://www.ucsu.me).

You can email at any time on [studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk).

### Course Costs

#### Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found at:

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/professional-policing-top-up/>

#### Additional costs

There will be some additional costs associated with the programme including stationery, textbooks and laptops, although these are optional.

- Books and Journals:-  
Core texts are available online via the University's library; however, you may wish to buy copies of any texts used to support your learning on your programme. This could cost between £50 - £100 per year.

- Stationery and laptops:-

You should budget for stationery and consumables for your own personal use. This should include notebooks, pens and pencils for taking notes during online lectures or whilst undertaking private study. You should also consider budgeting for the digital storage. If you are considering purchasing a laptop, the approximate cost is likely to be a minimum of £300.

As an online learning programme, internet access is a requirement. This can be accessed in a variety of ways varying from free public access to mobile devices circa £10 monthly data fees to fixed point Broadband access which can be obtained from £20 per month.

Data storage can be integrated with broadband fees or be used via freely available options. Removable drives are available from £10 upwards.

## Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

## External and Internal Benchmarks

In line with the requirements of the University of Cumbria and with cognisance of the optimised National Policing Curriculum and aspects of the degree entry programmes as detailed by the College of Policing, the following areas have provided benchmarks for this programme:

- The PCER BSc (Hons) Professional Policing Degree (PPD) optimised National Policing Curriculum
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (revised in 2024). ([https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/the-frameworks-for-higher-education-qualifications-of-uk-degree-awarding-bodies-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=3562b281\\_11](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/the-frameworks-for-higher-education-qualifications-of-uk-degree-awarding-bodies-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=3562b281_11))

The following will be considered when undertaking review and oversight:

- The UK Quality Code for Higher Education, specifically programme monitoring and review [UK Quality Code](#)
- The Police Service Quality Assurance Framework (PSQA, specifically for evaluation and performance outcomes)
- The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for this programme, owned by the University of Cumbria.

This academic programme is owned by the University of Cumbria and, as such, it will remain accountable for academic quality assurance as determined by internal policy and processes, which are compliant with QAA processes and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

Other internal reference points are:

- UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan
- UoC Institutional Business Plans

- [UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes](#)

### Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for online learning. This allows a level of potential flexibility but does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage: <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/professional-policing-top-up/>

<b>Date of Programme Specification Production</b>	November 2025
<b>Date Programme Specification was last updated</b>	April 2026