

First year courses

Master in Forensic Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Criminal Law

Full course description

Since forensic psychology is the application of the science and profession of psychology to questions and issues relating to criminal law and the criminal justice system, it stands to reason that a course in criminal law forms a substantial part of this Master program. The content of this course is therefore largely based on the idea that students in forensic psychology must have a general as well as a forensic specific knowledge of the principles and concepts of criminal law.

The main purpose of this course is to examine on an introductory level some basic principles and concepts of law in general and criminal law in particular. The course focuses primarily on criminal law; criminal procedure, substantive criminal law and criminal sanctions.

The course has two objectives. The first, more general, objective is to introduce psychology students to the basics of (criminal) law by examining its elementary concepts. But, since this course forms a substantial part of the Master Forensic Psychology, it also has a second, more specific, objective namely to create a better understanding of those criminal law topics that are especially interesting from a forensic psychological perspective. This means that a selection has been made of topics that are of particular interest for (future) forensic psychologists, e.g. the jurisprudential status of an insanity defence, the legal position of expert witnesses in criminal procedure, the human rights of mentally disturbed offenders as well as some basic aspects of international criminal law.

This twofold approach - a global overview combined with a forensic-psychological focus - also allows students to examine similarities and differences between psychological and legal views on crime related issues.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- Can explain and apply the basics of substantive and procedural criminal law. The elementary concepts will be examined;
- Can explain and apply those criminal law topics that are especially interesting from a forensic psychological perspective. This means that a selection has been made of topics that are of particular interest for (future) forensic psychologists, e.g. the jurisprudential status of an insanity defence, the legal position of expert witnesses in criminal procedure, the human rights of mentally disordered offenders as well as some basic aspects of international criminal law.

Recommended reading

Johannes Keiler and David Roef (eds.) (2015). Comparative Concepts of Criminal Law, Antwerp: Intersentia;

George P. Fletcher (1998). Basic Concepts of Criminal Law, New York: Oxford University Press;

Raymond Wacks (2008). Law: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: University Press;

Additional reading materials are either published in the course book or can easily be found on the internet or in the UB.

PSY4607

Period 4

3 Feb 2025

4 Apr 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [Y.F.N. Kortekaas](#)
- A. Giannini

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam

Keywords:

Criminal law, criminal procedure, expert witness, Human Rights

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Assessment Skills Lab I

Full course description

Forensic psychological assessment differs in several important respects from psychological assessment, which occurs in a general clinical context. First, subjects are mandated to undergo a mental health assessment at the request of the court, which may adversely affect their willingness to participate and lead to distorted response styles. In contrast, in most other assessment contexts, the subject is seeking help and is open to discuss his/her problems with the assessor.

Secondly, the forensic psychologist is asked to answer questions that are posed by the court, which requires the psychologist to 'translate' legal questions into questions that a psychologist can answer. Finally, the forensic psychologist needs to be able to administer, code, and interpret specific forensic assessment instruments (FAIs), relevant to the type of legal questions asked. Among these, the question of psychopathy is highly prominent.

Psycholegal questions posed to the assessment psychologist are very different from the common questions in other fields of psychology. Examples include: Is there a relationship between the

Master Forensic Psychology

mental disorder of this subject and his behaviour during the crime? What is the risk of future re-offending in this arsonist? The answers to these types of questions require extensive knowledge of offender types, base rates of recidivism of different offender types, relationships between different mental disorder symptoms and offending behaviours, and psychological assessment, employing the relevant FAIs.

Students receive specialised training in two essential forensic assessment instruments: the Psychopathy Check List-Revised and the PCL: Youth Version. They will learn how to conduct a biographical forensic interview, code the PCL based on interview and file information, write up the results of this assessments in a structured and transparent forensic report.

Course objectives

Students will:

- acquire knowledge of specific requirements of personality assessment in a forensic context (e.g., multimethod assessment; the importance of collateral information);
- conduct a biographical interview;
- learn to foster the therapeutic alliance with a patient;
- use the Psychopathy Check List-Revised and Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version to assess the level of psychopathic traits in individuals;
- draft a brief forensic report on the PCL findings

Recommended reading

Jackson, R.L. (ed). (2007). Learning forensic assessment. New York: Routledge; Heilbrun, K., Grisso, T., & Goldstein, A. M (2008). Foundations of forensic mental health assessment. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. E-reader

PSY4621

Period 1

2 Sep 2024

25 Oct 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [M.J.V. Peters](#)
- [K.I.M. van Oorsouw](#)
- M.E. Keulen - de Vos

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Skills, Work in subgroups, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

Forensic psychological assessment, psychopathy assessment

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Assessment Skills Lab II

Full course description

The purpose of this course is to help students acquire several specialised and complex forensic psychological assessment skills. This course builds on and is a sequel to Assessment Skills Lab I. During seven full-day workshops, students will receive state-of-the-art training in two principal areas; assessment of criminal responsibility and future violence risk.

As in course PSY4621, forensic psychological assessment is shown in contrast to psychological assessment in a general clinical context. Students will receive specialised training in a forensic risk assessment instrument, the HCR-20. Furthermore, they will receive training in the use of the MMPI-2, to assess personality factors relevant to the assessment of the relationship between mental disorder and the alleged offense (criminal responsibility) and violence risk assessment. They will also learn how to write up the results of these assessments in a structured and transparent way resulting in a report to the court. Special attention will be paid to risk communication to legal professionals.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students will:

- understand the differences between various models of violence risk assessment;
- conduct a violence risk assessment of an individual based on the HCR-20 Version 3;
- use the MMPI-2, to arrive at a comprehensive picture of an individual's personality and psychopathology;
- understand the legal concept of criminal responsibility;
- identify the most important aspects of a good forensic report;
- write parts of a forensic report based on forensic assessment instruments covered in this course.

Recommended reading

Jackson, R.L. (Ed). (2007). Learning forensic assessment. New York: Routledge [or the new edition, if available];

Friedman, A.F., Bolinsky, P.K. Lewak, R., & Nichols, D.S. (2014). Psychological assessment with the MMPI-2/MMPI-2-RF (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge;

de Ruiter, C., & N. Kaser-Boyd (2015). Forensic psychological assessment in practice: Case studies. New York, NY: Routledge.

PSY4622

Period 2

28 Oct 2024

20 Dec 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

- V. de Vogel
- M.E. Keulen - de Vos

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Skills, Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper

Keywords:

Forensic psychological assessment, criminal responsibility assessment, violence risk assessment

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Forensic Assessment in Child Custody and Child Abuse Cases

Full course description

Forensic assessment in child custody and child abuse cases (CCA) is the most complex form of assessment a forensic psychologist can be asked to conduct. This type of assessment requires extensive knowledge of child development, child and adult psychopathology, family dynamics and the causes and consequences of trauma, including parental separation. During this course, students will be exposed to best-evidence standards for CCA and will examine real-life CCA forensic evaluations considering these best-evidence standards and the latest empirical research.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can perform a critical review of a forensic report in a child custody/child abuse case;
- are familiar with the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child and with ethical Best Practice Guidelines in this domain of forensic psychological practice in child custody and child abuse cases
- can judge which tools to use for a forensic evaluation in an alleged child abuse or child custody case.
- Have basic knowledge and experience with a child forensic interview protocol (i.e., NICHD protocol), a child abuse risk assessment instrument (i.e., CARE-Version 2), and a screening tool for intimate partner violence (MASIC).

Recommended reading

J.W. Gould & D.A. Martindale (2009). The art and science of child custody evaluations. New York: Guilford Press. E-reader.

PSY4616

Period 4

3 Feb 2025

4 Apr 2025

[Print course description](#)

Master Forensic Psychology

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [K.I.M. van Oorsouw](#)
- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Skills, Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment

Keywords:

Child custody, child abuse, forensic evaluation, parenting capacity, children's rights, risk assessment

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Psychology of Eyewitnesses Testimony

Full course description

This course provides contemporary insights into the psychology of eyewitness testimony. For example, students will learn about eyewitness memory, if and why eyewitnesses report details of a crime, how well eyewitnesses can recall details of a crime and identify the perpetrator from a lineup. Students will also learn about human face recognition, the principles underlying composite construction, and the best practices for constructing and administering lineups. Other issues addressed in this course relate to whether claims of repression and subsequent recovery of traumatic experiences can be valid or whether they (sometimes) reflect false memories, whether the testimonies provided by young children are as reliable as those provided by adults, and the implications of these topics in court. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with current issues and controversies in eyewitness research, be able to give descriptions of typical methods and experimental work in this discipline, and have insight into the problems that arise from court decisions, which hinge upon testimonies from eyewitness.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can apply theories of memory to cases on the reliability of testimonies;
- can discuss important research methods and paradigms in legal psychology;
- can denote important factors related to the reliability of eyewitness memory (e.g., co-witness effects, cognitive interview);
- can assess the reliability of eyewitnesses' testimony in a given case;
- can discuss relevant theories and link them to legal cases;
- can discuss controversies revolving around psychology of testimony (e.g., repression);
- can design research studies by using the studied research paradigms and methodology.

PSY4619

Period 1

2 Sep 2024

25 Oct 2024

Master Forensic Psychology

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M. Sauerland](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

Eyewitnesses, interviewing, lineup, face recognition, child memory of trauma

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Practical Training: Malingering and All That

Full course description

Several tools exist that allow for the detection of faking. In this workshop – consisting of two sessions - students will be trained to use these so-called symptom validity tests (SVTs) by applying them in a known scenario where someone will be instructed to fake or deny symptoms. In addition, students will become familiar with concepts that are relevant in the context of symptom validity testing (e.g., fantasy proneness).

Course objectives

Knowledge of:

Malingering, Symptom Validity Testing, Faking good, Faking bad, and Fantasy proneness.

At the end of this practical, students:

- can apply these tests, score them, and summarize the results;
- can present the results in the form of a patient vignette/grand round.

PSY4653

Period 4

3 Feb 2025

4 Apr 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

0.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- B. Dandachi - Fitzgerald

Teaching methods:

Master Forensic Psychology

Skills, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper

Keywords:

malinger, SVT, faking good, faking bad, fantasy proneness

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Expert Witness Skills Lab

Full course description

Every forensic psychologist occasionally must appear in court. When this happens, (s)he is faced with two basic problems: firstly, (s)he must apply psychological knowledge in a legal context and, secondly, (s)he must inform legal professionals such as lawyers and judges (who lack expertise in psychology) about the case at hand. In addition to this, (s)he has to avoid confusing the therapeutic role and the forensic role, which may serve conflicting goals. During this course, the following subjects are covered: the differences between judicial and psychological knowledge and ways of reasoning, the practical and ethical aspects of serving as an expert witness in legal cases, training on how to serve as an expert witness and to write an expert witness report, as well as how to avoid common misconceptions and complications.

Course objectives

Students are able to:

- follow and apply judicial reasoning;
- avoid expert bias;
- follow courtroom procedure;
- write an expert witness report;
- present an expert witness report in court;
- analyse a case or a case file;
- apply their knowledge of witness memory
- can identify and explain ethical dilemmas in forensic psychology
- can differentiate between different professional roles and infer respective responsibilities, rights, and obligations.

PSY4627

Period 5

7 Apr 2025

6 Jun 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.J. Schreuder](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Skills

Master Forensic Psychology

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment, Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

expert witness, court appearance, report writing, judicial reasoning, case analysis

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Proposal Workshop

Full course description

This workshop will familiarise students with the separate phases of drafting scientific research proposals and research reports. Specifically, they will define a scientifically relevant research question based on prior research findings, prepare, and structure the research protocol, and think about suitable designs and research methods for data acquisition and analysis. To this end, students must integrate the learned material (i.e., literature) into skill-based practice (i.e., by writing a research protocol). The writing skills acquired in this workshop can be used by the students to complete their upcoming thesis and obtain research grants later in their careers.

Course objectives

At the end of this course:

- students can write a proposal for an empirical study in forensic psychology;
- they can conduct a peer-review of another student's work;
- students are familiar with APA Publication Style;
- they can apply APA style in their writing assignments;
- students are familiar with research ethics and integrity
- students are familiar with the key concepts of open science, including preregistration

PSY4634

Period 6

9 Jun 2025

4 Jul 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

1.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E.H. Meijer](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), Skills

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper

Keywords:

Research proposal, APA style

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Psychotic Disorders

Full course description

This course deals with disorders of processes involving perception and thinking. In films or books, psychotic characters usually display bizarre and unpredictable behaviours that people have difficulty identifying with. Therefore, most people feel uncomfortable around someone who is (or has been) diagnosed as suffering from a psychotic disorder.

The aim of this course is to make psychotic disorders more relatable and understandable for students. It aims to allow them to view such disorders within the context of experiences they are familiar with. In principle, anyone can become psychotic, but some people are more prone to becoming so than others, and in some people such disorders are more likely to become chronic. More specifically, students will develop an in-depth knowledge of the relationship between psychotic disorders and violent behaviour, including its intersection with substance use problems. This knowledge will be gained through considering questions such as 'Can we argue that psychotic patients have an increased risk to become violent? If so, does that relate to specific symptomatology, such as hearing voices telling you to do certain things? Is it possible to feign symptoms of a psychotic disorder?'

This course examines psychosis from many theoretical perspectives, and students will be expected to delve into the various theories while developing an understanding of their strengths and limitations.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can describe the differences between the DSM-5 psychotic disorders and use this knowledge to make a differential diagnosis;
- understand what psychomimetic drugs are and how they have been used to model psychosis
- have knowledge of the different theoretical models explaining psychotic disorders;
- can explain the relationship between psychotic disorders and violence and describe possible risk factors (such as substance use problems) and protective factors;
- can explain the features and theoretical underpinnings of command hallucinations and paranoid delusions;
- can describe the different treatment options that are the current state of the science;
- can explain what the features of feigned hallucinations and delusions are.

Recommended reading

E-reader.

PSY4604

Period 5

7 Apr 2025

6 Jun 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

- L. Kloft - Heller

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL, Skills

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

Psychotic disorders, clinical picture, differential diagnosis, etiological models, treatment, violence, command hallucinations, feigning, cultural differences

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Personality Disorders

Full course description

This course deals with one of the major mental health problems in forensic mental health services: personality disorders (PDs). PDs are found in approximately 10% of the adult population and approximately 50%-80% of the forensic psychiatric and prison population. They are mental disorders defined by chronic, maladaptive personality traits that cause dysfunctional behaviour. In the forensic field, this behaviour includes aggression and criminality. The most prevalent PDs in forensic populations are Antisocial, Borderline, and Narcissistic PDs, although the entire range of DSM-5 PDs are represented. Over the years, there has been a strong focus on so-called Psychopaths, which is the most severe subgroup of patients with Antisocial PD. People with PDs consider their personality traits to be normal (i.e., “ego syntonic”), although they may perceive some of the effects of the disorder as undesirable. Consequently, there is often no clear request for help. At times, patients only start treatment under pressure or force (i.e., by order of the law). PDs can only be diagnosed in adulthood, from age 18, because before that, personality has not fully consolidated. However, in many patients, chronic patterns of antisocial behaviour are often evident by adolescence or even earlier. Historically, PDs have always had a negative connotation. People suffering from these disorders are perceived as untreatable, though there is little solid evidence to support this view. Recently, several treatments for PDs have been developed which show good evidence of effectiveness, including some promising approaches for forensic patients with PDs. In this course, we consider PDs from a theoretical, research, and treatment perspective with particular attention to PDs that dominate in the forensic field.

Course objectives

In this course students:

- classify personality disorders (PDs) based on their clinical description in the DSM-5;
- apply the diagnostic criteria for PDs to forensic populations;
- explain the connection between PDs violence, and substance use problems;
- understand which factors play a role in the development of PDs;
- explain the cognitive and neurobiological bases of PDs;
- compare treatment alternatives for PDs;
- administer, score, and interpret a PD diagnostic interview (SCID);

- develop rapport with patients during diagnostic interviewing.

Recommended reading

E-reader.

PSY4605

Period 3

6 Jan 2025

31 Jan 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R. Mooney](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Skills, PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment

Keywords:

Personality disorders, treatment, assessment, clinical picture, aetiology, theoretical models

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Applied Statistics for Forensic Psychologists

Full course description

The course consists of six units.

The first unit will focus on a review of multiple linear and logistic regression analysis, which will form the basis for most of the advanced techniques that will be covered in the remainder of this course. This general introduction into regression techniques is followed by a unit that focuses on ROC curve analysis. ROC curves are becoming increasingly more important to forensic psychologists, for instance, to help find optimal cut-off scores for instruments that should help decide on whether an institutionalized offender can be granted parole or leave, or for studying whether verbal veracity assessment tools can discriminate between truth or falsehood of incriminating or exculpatory statements. In studies on the accuracy of identification of crime suspects, a comparison of ROC curves can be used to decide which of several line-up procedures is superior in terms of maximizing correct and minimizing false identification rates. The third unit will cover meta-analysis.

The last three units are devoted to mixed (multilevel) regression for nested designs and longitudinal studies. This mixed regression starts with a unit on marginal models for repeated measures (for instance, a time series of observations on institutionalized offenders receiving specialized treatment). Especially in cases of missing data or within-subject covariates, such models are known to be more efficient than traditional techniques such as repeated measures ANOVA. In this first of three units on multilevel regression, students are shown the pros and cons of various models for the

correlational structure of repeated measures, such as compound symmetry and AR1. The second unit covers the random intercept model for repeated measures as a method to include individual effects in marginal models for longitudinal data (growth curves) or single trial analyses of lab data. Students learn how this can be combined with e.g. ARMA modelling to distinguish between interpersonal and intrapersonal outcome variation. The random intercept model will also be applied to a cluster randomised trial - i.e. an RCT where organisations, like institutions treating justice-involved adolescents, are randomised. The third and last unit on mixed regression covers random slope models for longitudinal data (individual differences in change over time), single trial analysis (individual differences in stimulus effects) and multicentre trials (RCT within each of a number of organisations).

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can identify and apply appropriate regression models for continuous and binary outcome variables, for data with independent as well as with correlated residuals;
- will be able to explain the use of ROC curves and will understand how to apply these in the context of classification based on test scores;
- will understand how to apply basic multilevel analysis for both longitudinal and nested data;
- will be able to explain the key concept of a covariance structure;
- lastly, students will be able to explain the basic concepts used in meta-analysis, and to read and interpret basic output from the Metafor-package in R.

Prerequisites

Good understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics at the elementary and intermediate level, including multiple linear regression. Skilled in the use of SPSS for statistical data analyses.

Recommended reading

Lecture handouts and a suitable book chapter or article per unit.

PSY4617

Period 2

28 Oct 2024

20 Dec 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [N.J. Broers](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Training(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam

Keywords:

Linear and logistic regression, ROC curve analysis, mixed (multilevel) regression, marginal versus random effects models

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Malingering and All That

Full course description

This course will deal with illness fabrication (faking bad) and illness denial (faking good) in forensic contexts. It will investigate phenomena of fantasy proneness and related concepts, such as pseudologia fantastica and super normality. Also, attention will be given to defendants or claimants who feign conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), psychosis, and memory disorders. The psychometric detection of feigning is also relevant and therefore included in this topic.

Experts are not considered skilled at detecting malingered symptoms, although they often think they are. To fully grasp the problems that surround the issue of detecting faking good and faking bad, one must understand the idea of signal detection and how there exists a tradeoff between sensitivity (correctly classifying fakers) and false positives (classifying honest people as fakers). Only when students are familiar with this way of thinking can they critically evaluate methods and tests used to screen for faking. This psychometric approach is strongly advocated in the current course, and students will gain hands-on experience with several detection methods.

The corresponding practical for this course is: Malingering and All That

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can explain the key concepts of response bias, faking good, faking bad, malingering, feigning, factitious disorder, and super normality, and how they relate to relevant sections from the DSM;
- can explain the rationale behind widely used symptom validity tests, specifically over-reporting tests and tasks measuring underperformance;
- can apply these tests, score them, and summarize their results;
- can present the results in the form of a patient vignette/grand round.

PSY4632

Period 4

3 Feb 2025

4 Apr 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- B. Dandachi - Fitzgerald

Teaching methods:

Master Forensic Psychology

Lecture(s), PBL, Training(s), Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper

Keywords:

faking bad, faking good, response bias, symptom validity

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Interrogation & Interviewing

Full course description

Interrogation and interviewing are at the core of many police investigations. In this course, students will learn about the different strategies that can be used when interrogating or interviewing a suspect. The course will deal with the difference between the accusatory interrogation style (i.e., an interrogation aimed at eliciting a confession), and the information gathering approach (i.e., an interview aimed at gathering relevant information), and their effects on eliciting false confessions. The information gathering approach has gained traction in recent years as a result of greater attention to inhumane and unethical police interrogation methods. In addition, the course will deal with the best way to detect deception in such interrogation/interviews. Students will discuss the use of non-verbal and verbal cues, but also the use of the polygraph to detect deception. Finally, the course will deal with mediation in criminal and civil law.

Course objectives

- At the end of this course students are familiar with the best practices in investigative interviewing;
- are familiar with the etiology of false confessions, and practices to prevent them;
- are familiar with the theories of deception and deception detection;
- are familiar with the ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct as they relate to investigative interviewing
- are familiar with article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Méndez Principles
- are familiar with the role mediation in penal and civil law.

PSY4618

Period 1

2 Sep 2024

25 Oct 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [E.H. Meijer](#)
- [G. Bogaard](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Thinking Like an Expert

Full course description

Some have argued that the story behind miscarriages of justice is, in fact, the story of expert errors and misjudgements. Indeed, experts play an important role in judicial decision-making; the law expects them to base their decisions on scientifically grounded principles. Consider the handwriting expert who has to decide whether a ransom note was written by the defendant. Or the child psychologist who has to decide whether a child should stay with an emotionally labile mother who psychologically abuses her. Should we trust the expertise of these professionals? How can their decisions be improved? Psychometrics, decision-making and other issues typically thought of as province of expert witnesses are discussed in depth in this course. The course focuses on cognitive biases that affect experts.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can explain and critically evaluate the theoretical background/anchors of the literature on biases, specifically the notion of dual processing;
- can explain key concepts in the psychological literature on expertise and feedback;
- can articulate biases that have been particularly well-studied in the context of legal decision making. Specifically, they can explain what these biases are and how they are operationalized in and evoked by experimental procedures;
- can explain and use key terms from the decision making literature, notably sensitivity, specificity, base rate, positive and negative predictive power, ROC, and AUC;
- can perform calculations required to determine Odds ratios, Likelihood ratios, and optimal cut-offs on tests;
- can specify procedures that may reduce the risk of biases, i.e., effective de-biasing methods.

PSY4635

Period 2

28 Oct 2024

20 Dec 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A. Sagana](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Forensic Neuropsychology

Full course description

Defendants in criminal cases increasingly state that they do not have any memory of the offence. This raises the question whether this is a valid defence. Furthermore, defendants (and witnesses) with traumatic brain injury, , and/or who are intoxicated with substances (alcohol, drugs) are becoming more common in legal settings. How accurate are their statements? Criminal courts are becoming increasingly aware of the unique and important contribution of neuropsychological assessment to forensic mental health evaluations. Neuropsychologists are being asked to prepare reports in both civil and criminal cases: physical/psychological injury cases, and competency assessment (competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility). A neuropsychological evaluation is typically based on multiple sources of information (case files, medical files, neuropsychological assessment, etc.). The most difficult part of the assessment is often the interpretation of the neuropsychological evaluation within the legally relevant criteria. Because every expert witness could be confronted with neuropsychological issues, it is important to have basic knowledge on brain structure and function, brain-behaviour relationships, neuropsychological assessment and legal issues related to neuropsychology. In addition, the use of brain imaging techniques to assess defendants, to explain or underscore specific brain-behaviour relationships, is becoming increasingly common. But what is the probative value of such brain images in individual cases? Given the increased demand for forensic psychological experts, it is crucial they have expertise in neuropsychology.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- understand neuropsychological test procedures;
- can specify and explain the role of specific brain structures in, for example, aggression and amnesia;
- can explain and criticize the use of brain scans in individual legal cases;
- know how to make appropriate judgments about specific brain-behaviour relationships;
- understand the effect of different drugs and drug disorders on eyewitness memory and perpetrator behaviour

PSY4636

Period 2

28 Oct 2024

20 Dec 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

3.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- L.M.J. Sliotmaekers

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam

Keywords:

forensic neuropsychology, brain structure, aggression, amnesia, intellectual disability, intoxication

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Therapy Skills Lab

Full course description

Forensic patients can be highly challenging to treat. Many exhibit psychopathic personality traits, such as deficient empathy, remorselessness, and manipulativeness. Some are highly impulsive or have difficulties controlling anger or aggression. Many have substance use disorders, deviant sexual preferences (e.g., paedophilia), or other Axis I problems. Fifty to ninety percent of forensic patients have Personality Disorder (PDs), particularly Antisocial, Borderline, and Narcissistic PDs. These patients are at elevated risk for recidivism and have often been considered untreatable. In recent years, however, advances in psychotherapy have led to new hope for forensic patients with PDs.

Schema Therapy (ST) is an integrative form of psychotherapy for personality disorders (PDs) that has shown effectiveness in recent clinical trials, and is being increasingly adopted in forensic settings worldwide, including the Netherlands. Students are not expected to achieve a complete mastery of ST by taking this course alone. However, by learning ST concepts and skills, students will benefit in several ways. Firstly, ST provides a theoretical framework covering early maladaptive schemas, coping responses, and schema modes, which help to make antisocial behaviour more explicable. Secondly, ST incorporates concepts and techniques drawn from several schools of psychotherapy, including cognitive, behavioural, humanistic/existential, and psychodynamic approaches. Thus, students will learn methods that form the basis for several forms of psychotherapy. In this course, specific topics will be covered: the ST conceptual model; the therapy relationship; empathic confrontation; limited re-parenting; assessment and case conceptualisation; cognitive and behavioural therapy skills; experiential techniques; limit setting; and counter-transference reactions. In addition, students will learn basic therapy skills, including active listening, and cognitive therapy techniques, such as challenging automatic thoughts.

Course objectives

In this course students:

- acquire basic skills of psychotherapy for offenders;
- learn to establish a therapeutic relationship;
- respond empathically to patients;
- focus on patients' early unmet developmental needs;
- enhance patients' motivation for treatment;
- conduct an assessment and case conceptualization;
- identify maladaptive cognitive schemas, coping responses, and emotional states;
- analyse criminal behaviour patterns;
- modify maladaptive cognitions;

Master Forensic Psychology

- utilise experiential techniques, such as imagery rescripting and role play, to reprocess traumatic experiences;
- analyse counter-transference responses.

PSY4637

Period 4

3 Feb 2025

4 Apr 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [K.I.M. van Oorsouw](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Patient contact, Skills, Work in subgroups, PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Observation, Assignment

Keywords:

forensic psychotherapy, Personality disorders, schema focused therapy, cognitive-behavioural, therapy skills, experiential techniques

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Young Offenders

PSY4628

Period 5

7 Apr 2025

6 Jun 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Coordinator:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Sex Offenders

PSY4629

Period 5

7 Apr 2025

6 Jun 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Coordinator:

- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Research Internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Proposal

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;
- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

Recommended reading

Search for relevant literature.

PSY5607

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

Master Forensic Psychology

- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)
- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Graded

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;
- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

Recommended reading

Search for relevant literature.

PSY5609

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

Master Forensic Psychology

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)
- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Participation, Observation, Final paper

Keywords:

Research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Professional Reflections & Observations

Full course description

The goals of PRO-F are to increase self-reflective skills through a number of individual and group exercises and Zoom meetings. Students will be invited to discuss common issues encountered during the internship year and learn from each other. Groups of max. 6 students will meet every 8 weeks (6 meetings of 2h in total) via Zoom in the presence of a 'group mentor' to discuss specific tasks and activities that have been performed in the weeks before it. Each meeting will have a specific theme and sometimes themes that have been discussed earlier in the year will return in another form towards the end.

The themes are: character strengths and challenges, energy management, professional boundaries, and ethical dilemmas in forensic psychology.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students have the ability:

- to reflect on their own professional behavior (incl. ethical standards) and development as they apply to forensic psychology (including specific best practice ethical standards for forensic psychologists);
- to work effectively in a research setting and/or in an applied/forensic-clinical setting.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5611

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

Master Forensic Psychology

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [M.J.V. Peters](#)
- [H.P. Otgaar](#)
- B. Dandachi - Fitzgerald

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance

Keywords:

Professional reflection, Networking, continued education

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Ungraded

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;
- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5612

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

Master Forensic Psychology

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

16.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Observation, Participation, Final paper

Keywords:

Research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal

Clinical Internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Clinical Internship

Full course description

Students specialising in forensic psychology are required to conduct a clinical internship in an approved setting. The clinical internship can be conducted in conjunction with the research internship or separately. Students are required to submit a report on their experiences during the clinical internship. Requirements for this report are provided to students via Canvas. Students start their internship by defining their Intended Learning Outcomes.

This clinical internship lasts a minimum of 5 months (520 hours). In addition to the clinical internship, Dutch students may want to acquire a qualification in Psychodiagnostics ("NIP Basisaantekening Psychodiagnostiek"). The Master's in Forensic Psychology will also allow graduates from the programme to meet the entry demands of the postmaster's education as a Health Care Psychologist ('GZ-Verklaring').

Course objectives

Students are able to:

- apply scientific knowledge to forensic-clinical practice;
- reflect on performance of clinical skills;
- use forensic psychological assessment instruments;
- apply forensic treatment and risk management;
- practice forensic report writing.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

Master Forensic Psychology

PSY5604

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

16.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Teaching methods:

Paper(s), Skills, Presentation(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Forensic assessment, forensic treatment, evidence-based practice, professional ethics

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Clinical Activities Report

Full course description

Students specialising in forensic psychology are required to conduct a clinical internship in an approved setting. The clinical internship can be conducted in conjunction with the research internship or separately. Students are required to submit a report on their experiences during the clinical internship. Requirements for this report are provided to students via Canvas. Students start their internship by defining their Intended Learning Outcomes.

This clinical internship lasts a minimum of 5 months (520 hours). In addition to the clinical internship, Dutch students may want to acquire a qualification in Psychodiagnostics ("NIP Basisaantekening Psychodiagnostiek"). The Master's in Forensic Psychology will also allow graduates from the programme to meet the entry demands of the postmaster's education as a Health Care Psychologist ('GZ-Verklaring').

Course objectives

Students are able to:

- apply scientific knowledge to forensic-clinical practice;
- reflect on performance of clinical skills;
- use forensic psychological assessment instruments;
- apply forensic treatment and risk management;
- practice forensic report writing.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5606

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Teaching methods:

Paper(s), Skills, Presentation(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Forensic assessment, forensic treatment, evidence-based practice, professional ethics

Internships

Research Internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Proposal

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;

Master Forensic Psychology

- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

Recommended reading

Search for relevant literature.

PSY5607

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)
- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Graded

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;
- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

Recommended reading

Search for relevant literature.

PSY5609

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)
- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Participation, Observation, Final paper

Keywords:

Research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Professional Reflections & Observations

Full course description

The goals of PRO-F are to increase self-reflective skills through a number of individual and group exercises and Zoom meetings. Students will be invited to discuss common issues encountered during the internship year and learn from each other. Groups of max. 6 students will meet every 8 weeks (6 meetings of 2h in total) via Zoom in the presence of a 'group mentor' to discuss specific tasks and activities that have been performed in the weeks before it. Each meeting will have a specific theme

Master Forensic Psychology

and sometimes themes that have been discussed earlier in the year will return in another form towards the end.

The themes are: character strengths and challenges, energy management, professional boundaries, and ethical dilemmas in forensic psychology.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students have the ability:

- to reflect on their own professional behavior (incl. ethical standards) and development as they apply to forensic psychology (including specific best practice ethical standards for forensic psychologists);
- to work effectively in a research setting and/or in an applied/forensic-clinical setting.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5611

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [M.J.V. Peters](#)
- [H.P. Otgaar](#)
- B. Dandachi - Fitzgerald

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance

Keywords:

Professional reflection, Networking, continued education

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Ungraded

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

Master Forensic Psychology

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;
- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5612

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

16.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Observation, Participation, Final paper

Keywords:

Research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal

Clinical Internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Clinical Internship

Full course description

Students specialising in forensic psychology are required to conduct a clinical internship in an approved setting. The clinical internship can be conducted in conjunction with the research internship or separately. Students are required to submit a report on their experiences during the clinical internship. Requirements for this report are provided to students via Canvas. Students start their internship by defining their Intended Learning Outcomes.

This clinical internship lasts a minimum of 5 months (520 hours). In addition to the clinical internship, Dutch students may want to acquire a qualification in Psychodiagnostics (“NIP Basisaantekening Psychodiagnostiek”). The Master’s in Forensic Psychology will also allow graduates from the programme to meet the entry demands of the postmaster’s education as a Health Care Psychologist (‘GZ-Verklaring’).

Course objectives

Students are able to:

- apply scientific knowledge to forensic-clinical practice;
- reflect on performance of clinical skills;
- use forensic psychological assessment instruments;
- apply forensic treatment and risk management;
- practice forensic report writing.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5604

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

16.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Teaching methods:

Paper(s), Skills, Presentation(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Forensic assessment, forensic treatment, evidence-based practice, professional ethics

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Clinical Activities Report

Full course description

Students specialising in forensic psychology are required to conduct a clinical internship in an approved setting. The clinical internship can be conducted in conjunction with the research internship or separately. Students are required to submit a report on their experiences during the clinical internship. Requirements for this report are provided to students via Canvas. Students start their internship by defining their Intended Learning Outcomes.

This clinical internship lasts a minimum of 5 months (520 hours). In addition to the clinical internship, Dutch students may want to acquire a qualification in Psychodiagnostics (“NIP Basisaantekening Psychodiagnostiek”). The Master’s in Forensic Psychology will also allow graduates from the programme to meet the entry demands of the postmaster’s education as a Health Care Psychologist (‘GZ-Verklaring’).

Course objectives

Students are able to:

- apply scientific knowledge to forensic-clinical practice;
- reflect on performance of clinical skills;
- use forensic psychological assessment instruments;
- apply forensic treatment and risk management;
- practice forensic report writing.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

PSY5606

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C. de Ruiter](#)
- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)

Teaching methods:

Paper(s), Skills, Presentation(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Forensic assessment, forensic treatment, evidence-based practice, professional ethics

Master's Thesis

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Master's Thesis

Full course description

In the second year of the Forensic Psychology Master's programme, students are expected to conduct a research internship.

The research undertaken to complete a Master's Thesis will offer students opportunities for critical reflection and problem solving. The research must be empirical (either quantitative or qualitative) and will preferably include all phases of the empirical cycle. The Master's Thesis will be written in the format of an empirical article, including, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion. Students start their internship with the writing of a research proposal.

Course objectives

Students understand how to:

- formulate a research question;
- search for relevant literature;
- design an empirical study;
- collect data;
- analyse data
- write a Master's Thesis.

Prerequisites

Completion of all first year Forensic Psychology courses.

Recommended reading

Search for relevant literature.

PSY5603

Year

1 Sep 2024

31 Aug 2025

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

Master Forensic Psychology

- [L.H.C. Raymaekers](#)
- [C. de Ruiter](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Skills

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

research, design, data collection, analysis, master's thesis, Research proposal