



**WINNER OF THE 2014 DEVON AND  
CORNWALL POLICE PRIZE  
FOR HIGHEST ACHIEVING STUDENT  
OVERALL IN THE  
CERTIFICATE IN KNOWLEDGE OF  
POLICING**

***Louise Hall***

I graduated from Plymouth University in September 2015 with a first class BSc (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. The three years at university were the best years of my life, although they also proved to be challenging. However with the excellent support in both academic and personal areas of my life, and the in-depth knowledge and opportunities provided to me by the university, I was able to achieve my success. Prior to undertaking my degree I had always aspired to a career within the police service, and although the final year was the most challenging, it was most definitely my favourite and most rewarding year of study. In that year I was able to select modules that fitted in with my career aspirations, the most vital and beneficial being for my future goals being the National Police Pre-Join Award Module and being awarded the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing.

Undertaking the National Police Pre-Join Award allowed me to gain in-depth practical knowledge and understanding of police law, the nature of policing and what the role of being a police officer entails. It also provided the contemporary social context of how policing operates in England and Wales. Not only did I gain vital knowledge surrounding policing, I was also given the unique opportunity to volunteer for role-play with Devon and Cornwall's drug dogs on several occasions, and I was also able to volunteer to assist in the training of new police officers. These highly valuable experiences gave me a closer look at what is expected from officers by putting me closer to operational policing whilst also offering an enjoyable and practical way of learning.

In addition to my degree I was awarded the Devon and Cornwall Police prize for the highest achieving student overall in the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing. With regards to the module I would strongly advise and recommend anyone who is aspiring for a career within the police to undertake this module as part of their studies. Not only does it provide students

with academic knowledge, the practical areas of the module allow students to gain crucial relevant experience, which is highly beneficial for future employability.

I believe that the National Police Pre-Join Award Module and the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing have already helped me on the way to achieving my future career aspirations, as since leaving university I have begun working as a member of police staff for Avon and Somerset police. I am also currently going through the police officer recruitment process. I believe that without the skills, knowledge and overall confidence that the module has provided me over the last year, I would not be in the position I am now, therefore I would like to thank Plymouth University for offering such an insightful and rewarding module as part of my degree programme.