

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

Grace Liddicoat¹



Grace is pictured with Paul Richards, Lecturer in Police Studies and Superintendent Chris Singer of Devon and Cornwall Police.

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies in September 2014. I have greatly appreciated my experience of studying at Plymouth University for three years. My final year was by far the most challenging and interesting year, but although it was the toughest year, it was undoubtedly the most enjoyable too. Prior to applying for university I yearned for a career in the police service, and so my degree offered the ideal preparation for a potential policing career, given that it included a module entitled the National Police Pre-Join Award.

Studying for the first two years of my degree allowed me to gain knowledge in a variety of criminology and criminal justice topics. In my final year I chose to focus directly on policing as I knew I would find this an interesting topic, and so undertook the National Police Pre-Join Award as well as focusing my dissertation on policing. Within the module I was given the chance to take part in role-play with police drug dogs training which was very rewarding. My voluntary participation provided important training for the dogs that fight drug crime in Devon and Cornwall. The National Police Pre-join Award allowed an in-depth focus on the practical

¹ Grace Liddicoat was awarded a first class BSc (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies in 2014. Grace also won the 2014 Devon and Cornwall Police Prize for the Highest Achieving Student Overall in the Certificate in Knowledge in Policing.

knowledge and understanding of policing, police law, and the contemporary social context in which policing operates in England and Wales. I was awarded the National Police Pre-join Award in addition to my Honours degree, and the Devon and Cornwall Police prize for the highest achieving student overall in the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing.

I would strongly recommend any student who is interested in a career with the police to study the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing as part of their studies. As well as its academic focus the module also provides practical experience of working with a criminal justice agency such as the police, and so showing employers that students have such experiences. Whilst this module offers relevant and practical experience for students aspiring for a career with the police, I feel very strongly that I have gained skills and knowledge that contribute to my general employability. Indeed since graduating I am now considering a career in the Army and will be making an application in the near future.