Programme Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>University of London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Birkbeck College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Programme Title(s)</td>
<td>MSc Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Programme Code(s)</td>
<td>TMPSYGY_C (MSc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCAS code</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Home Department</td>
<td>Psychological Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Exit Award(s)</td>
<td>PG Diploma in Psychology, PG Certificate in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Duration of Study (number of years)</td>
<td>1 years full-time, 2 years part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>FT X PT X DL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Level of Award (FHEQ)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Other teaching depts or institution</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>QAA Benchmark Statement</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Programme Rationale & Aims

This course offers a comprehensive coverage of psychological theory and research. The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

- Key principles of psychological theory, including perception, attention and performance, developmental psychology, memory and cognition, social psychology, psychobiology, individual differences.
- Develop practical skills in: research methodology including the formulation of hypotheses, designing and reporting experiments using a range of research methodologies, and subject-specific IT skills.
- Design and execute an independent research project, under supervision.
- Transferable skills in critical thinking; learning how to evaluate hypotheses, presentation writing and delivery, report writing, essay writing.

Entry Criteria

At least a lower second-class honours degree from a UK university, or overseas equivalent. Relevant prior study of psychology and research methods (subject to agreement by the admissions tutor).

Mathematics GCSE at Grade C or equivalent qualification.

English proficiency (e.g., IELTS 6.5).

(Please note: international students who will require a Tier 4 student visa are only eligible to be considered for the full time MSc/PG Diploma Psychology route.)
### Learning Outcomes

*On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:*

#### Subject-specific knowledge

- understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline, its historical origins, development and limitations
- recognise the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning and its significance
- demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of a range of influences on psychological functioning, how they are conceptualised across biological psychology, cognitive psychology, individual differences, developmental psychology, and social psychology, and how they interrelate
- demonstrate detailed knowledge of several specialised areas and/or applications, some of which are at the cutting edge of research in the discipline
- demonstrate a systematic knowledge of a range of research paradigms, research methods and measurement techniques, including statistical analysis, quantitative and qualitative methodology, psychometrics and measurement techniques, and be aware of their limitations

#### Subject-specific skills

- reason scientifically, understand the role of evidence and make critical judgements about arguments in psychology
- adopt multiple perspectives and systematically analyse the relationships between them
- detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and experience and evaluate their significance
- pose, operationalise and critique research questions
- demonstrate substantial competence in research skills through practical activities
- reason statistically and use a range of statistical methods with confidence
- competently initiate, design, conduct and report an empirically-based research project under appropriate supervision, and recognise its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations
- be aware of ethical principles and approval procedures and demonstrate these in relation to personal study, particularly with regard to the research project, and be aware of the ethical context of psychology as a discipline.

#### Generic skills

- communicate ideas and research findings, both effectively and fluently, by written, oral and visual means
- comprehend and use numerical, statistical and other forms of data, particularly in the context of presenting and analysing complex data sets
- be computer literate and confident in using word processing, database and statistical software
- solve problems by clarifying questions, considering alternative solutions and evaluating outcomes
- be sensitive to, and react appropriately to, contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams
• undertake self-directed study and project management, in order to meet desired objectives
• take charge of their own learning, and reflect and evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses for the purposes of future learning

17 Learning, teaching and assessment methods

The course combines structured teaching in the form of lectures and seminars, combined with self-directed learning consistent with a masters level course. Students will be required to draw on a range of sources (e.g. primary and secondary readings, undergraduate lecture courses) and answer challenging essay questions. Throughout the programme, there will be extensive coverage of research and research methodologies, with students completing directed laboratory reports, and a masters level empirical dissertation.

The MSc dissertation will be carried out under the supervision of a member of academic staff with research interests in the area of the project. This will provide students with access to a specialist in their project area who can provide expert advice on all aspects of the research. The project will also ensure that taught skills are exercised within a constructive environment during the course.

Assessment procedures will ensure that students develop a portfolio of work over the duration of the programme, and feedback on coursework required for some of the modules will encourage personal development.

18 Programme Description

Part-time PGDip / MSc in Psychology

Year 1
- Research Methods 1 (P) (SCPS211H7)
- Social Psychology (P) (SCPS210H7)
- Research Methods 2 (P) (SCPS212H7)
- Neuroscience (P) (SCPS208H7)

Year 2
- Individual differences (P) (SCPS206H7)
- Perception, Attention and Performance (P) (SCPS209H7)
- Developmental Psychology (P) (SCPS205H7)
- Learning and Memory (P) (SCPS207H7)
- Dissertation (PSYC078D7)

Full time PGDip / MSc in Psychology

Research Methods 1 (P) (SCPS211H7)
Social Psychology (P) (SCPS210H7)
Research Methods 2 (P) (SCPS212H7)
Neuroscience (P) (SCPS208H7)
Individual differences (P) (SCPS206H7)
Perception, Attention and Performance (P) (SCPS209H7)
Developmental Psychology (P) (SCPS205H7)
Learning and Memory (P) (SCPS207H7)
Dissertation (PSYC078D7)

19 Programme Structure

Part-Time programme – 2 years
### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS211H7</td>
<td>Research Methods 1 (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS210H7</td>
<td>Social Psychology (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS212H7</td>
<td>Research Methods 2 (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS208H7</td>
<td>Neuroscience (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS206H7</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS209H7</td>
<td>Perception, Attention and Performance (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS205H7</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SCPS207H7</td>
<td>Learning and Memory (P)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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Students undertaking the PGDip would exit the programme at this point.

The following module is only for students taking the MSc:

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PSYC078D7</td>
<td>MSc Psychology Research Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
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### Full-Time programme – 1 year

**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>SCPS212H7</td>
<td>Research Methods 2 (P)</td>
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<td>MSc Psychology Research Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Status*

**CORE** – Module must be taken and passed by student; **COMPULSORY** – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; **OPTIONAL** – Student can choose to take this module

### Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/AccreditedPriorLearning.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/AccreditedPriorLearning.pdf)

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)
### Student Attendance Framework – in brief

The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf).

**Principle**

Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**

Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

**E-Registers**

All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

### Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities).

### Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality).

### Programme Director

Dr Eddy Davelaar

### Start Date (term/year)

Autumn term 2009

### Date approved by TQEC

June 2008

### Date approved by Academic Board

November 2008

### Date(s) updated/amended

May 2018