

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc Psychology				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSPSYGY_C (MSc)				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Psychological Sciences				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Diploma Psychology PG Certificate Psychology				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 years full-time, 2 years part-time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	Level 7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	British Psychological Society http://www1.bps.org.uk				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>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).</p> <p>Mathematics GCSE at Grade C or equivalent qualification.</p> <p>English proficiency (e.g., IELTS 6.5).</p>

(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.)

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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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>Part-time PGDip / MSc in Psychology Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Methods 1 (P) (SCPS211H7) Social Psychology (P) (SCPS210H7) Research Methods 2 (P) (SCPS212H7) Neuroscience (P) (SCPS208H7) <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual differences (P) (SCPS206H7) Perception, Attention and Performance (P) (SCPS209H7) Developmental Psychology (P) (SCPS205H7) Learning and Memory (P) (SCPS207H7) Dissertation (SCPS222D7) <p>Full time PGDip / MSc in Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (SCPS222D7)
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19	Programme Structure			
Part-Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SCPS211H7	Research Methods 1 (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS210H7	Social Psychology (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS212H7	Research Methods 2 (P)	15	Core
7	SCPS208H7	Neuroscience (P)	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SCPS206H7	Individual Differences (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS209H7	Perception, Attention and Performance (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS205H7	Developmental Psychology (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS207H7	Learning and Memory (P)	15	Compulsory
Students undertaking the PGDip would exit the programme at this point.				
The following module is only for students taking the MSc:				
7	SCPS222D7	MSc Psychology Dissertation	60	Core
Full-Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SCPS211H7	Research Methods 1 (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS210H7	Social Psychology (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS212H7	Research Methods 2 (P)	15	Core
7	SCPS208H7	Neuroscience (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS206H7	Individual Differences (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS209H7	Perception, Attention and Performance (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS205H7	Developmental Psychology (P)	15	Compulsory
7	SCPS207H7	Learning and Memory (P)	15	Compulsory
The following module is only for students taking the MSc:				
7	SCPS222D7	MSc Psychology Dissertation	60	Core

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

20	Programme Director	Dr Eddy Davelaar
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn term 2009
22	Date approved by TQEC	June 2008
23	Date approved by Academic Board	November 2008
24	Date(s) updated/amended	29 March 2021