

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

May 2011

(Refer to the University's document: Graduate Standards and Programme Specification Requirements for further guidance and to the University's Learning and Teaching Policy)

1. Qualification BSC (Hons) DipHE in Psychological Studies CertHE in Psychological Studies	2. Programme Title Psychology	3. UCAS Code C800	4. Programme Type Modular: Single (S), Major (Mj), Joint (J) and Minor(Mn) Full-time and Part-time
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5. Main Purposes and Distinctive Features of the Programme

To develop in students:

- i. an appreciation of the diversity of perspectives in modern psychology;
- ii. a critical understanding of psychological theories, methods and debates;
- iii. the acquisition of research methods skills and a capacity to apply such skills to specific research problems in psychology, in the context of an appropriate awareness of relevant ethical issues;
- iv. an understanding of a range of applications of psychology;
- v. key transferable skills in the areas of numeracy, communication, information technology and group work;
- vi. the ability to engage in independent learning.

The curriculum is consistent with the benchmarks for psychology, developed by both the Quality Assurance Agency and the British Psychological Society.

Special Features

Opportunities for: the Graduate Basis for Registration of the British Psychological Society for single honours, joint honours and major students; self-negotiated career development and work-based learning. The learning environment is characterised by: supportive and approachable staff with a diverse range of research interests; use of innovative methods of teaching and assessment; dedicated laboratory facilities.

6. What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme

(objectives and learning outcomes)

To gain the qualification the learner will have demonstrated: i) subject knowledge and understanding ii) cognitive skills iii) discipline-related practical and professional skills and iv) other general skills and capabilities (e.g. key/transferable/common) as specified in the learning objectives/outcomes for approved modules in the programme. Further details of module outcomes can be found in the programme document.

Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject(s)

- i. critical awareness of the scientific orientation central to the discipline and alternatives to it;
- ii. understanding of the key theories, conceptual frameworks, and debates central to the discipline;
- iii. understanding of the range of empirical methods used to study human behaviour and awareness of any limitations associated with their use;
- iv. awareness of a range of applications of psychological theory in contemporary society;
- v. awareness of the boundaries of psychology and the discipline's relationship with other cognate disciplines;
- vi. critical coherent understanding of a defined body of psychological knowledge informed by current research, and appreciation of the limits of that knowledge.

Cognitive skills in the context of the subject(s)

- i. the capacity for critical analysis and ability to develop an argument;
- ii. the capacity to employ evidence based reasoning to make informed judgements;
- iii. the capacity for creative thinking;
- iv. the capacity to understand data sets and identify relationships;
- v. the capacity to generate and explore research questions in a systematic way;
- vi. the capacity for independent learning and problem solving;
- vii. the capacity to apply and integrate findings across multiple perspectives.

Subject-specific practical/professional skills

- i. competence to carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection;
- ii. competence in analysing data using quantitative and qualitative research methods and interpreting the results of the analysis;
- iii. competence to carry out a systematic search, review and evaluation of psychological research findings (including electronic sources of information);
- iv. ability to apply critical analysis and evidence based reasoning to current research to identify a focus for further development;
- v. competence to design and execute an original, independent piece of research having due regard for ethical issues;
- vi. competence to report research in an appropriate format;
- vii. psychological awareness and understanding applicable to a range of situations and careers that can be used to enhance human experience.

Other skills (e.g. key/transferable) developed in subject or other contexts

- i. to communicate effectively orally and in writing;
- ii. to problem solve and reason systematically;
- iii. numerical and quantitative skills appropriate to carrying out independent research;
- iv. competent use of information technology;
- v. self-management including time-management and willingness to take responsibility for thoughts and actions;
- vi. independent learning and critical self-reflection as a basis for personal development and life-long learning;
- vii. ability to engage in supportive peer collaboration and constructive criticism.

- viii. Ability to evaluate strengths and weaknesses and intervene appropriately.
- ix. Ability to reflect upon academic and personal development.
- x. Ability to evaluate progress and performance in relation to long term academic and career progression.
- vi.

7. Qualities, Skills & Capabilities Profile

The educational and training goals of the programme seek to develop and demonstrate the following qualities, skills, capabilities and values in its graduates

A Cognitive	B Practical	C Personal & Social	D Other
Conceptualisation; Critical reasoning; Powers of analysis; Flexibility of thought; Synthetic thinking; Creative thinking; Theoretical and applied problem solving.	Writing skills; Experimental design and quantitative research methods; Fieldwork and qualitative research methods; Information technology; Presentation skills; Communication.	Self-expression; Self-motivation; Organisation and time management; Teamwork; Social interaction and communication; Self-reflection.	

Core Modules

prerequisite modules shown in brackets

Optional Modules (may be varied)

prerequisite modules shown in brackets

	S	Mj	J	Mn
PSC3300 The Honours Project; * (PSC2503)	•	•		
PSC3200 Single Module Honours Project; * (PSC2503)	•			•
PSC3223 Cognitive Psychology; ** (PSC1202)		•	•	•
PSC3224 Biopsychology; ** (PSC1202)		•	•	•
PSC3222 Social & Critical Psychology; ** (PSC1217)		•	•	•
PSC3221 Personality & Developmental Psychology; ** (PSC1217)		•	•	•

Bachelor Honours Degree 360 Credits

HE5 Pre-requisite(s)

	S	Mj	J	Mn
PSC3207 Abnormal Psychology; (PSC2514 or PSC3221)	•	•	•	•
PSC3204 Psychology & Counselling; (PSC2514 or PSC3221 & PSC2515 or PSC3222)	•	•	•	•
PSC3218 Studying Brain Function; (PSC2500 or PSC3223 or PSC2501 or PSC3224)	•	•	•	•
PSC3209 Cognitive Neuropsychology; (PSC2500 or PSC3223)	•	•	•	•
PSC3227 Assessment of Personality; (PSC2514 or PSC3221)	•	•	•	•
PSC3217 Psychology, History and Society; NONE	•	•	•	•
PSC3214 Issues in Mind and Consciousness; (PSC2500 or PSC3223)	•	•	•	•
PSC3213 Contemporary Issues in Critical Psychology; (PSC2515 or PSC3222)	•	•	•	•
PSC3219 Language and Learning in Context; (PSC2514 or PSC3221)	•	•	•	•
PSC3302 Psychology Practicum; (PSC1215 & PSC2503)	•			
PSC3228 Criminological Psychology; (All Level HE5 Core Modules)	•			
PSC3225 Mental Health Perspectives; (None)	•	•	•	•
PSC3230 Psychoanalytical Approaches to Psychotherapy (PSC2514 or PSC3221) and (PSC2515 or PSC3222)	•	•	•	•
PSC3231 Psychometric Testing (Ability) (None)	•	•	•	
PSC3232 Psychology of Visual Media (None)	•	•	•	
PSC3233 Psychology of Cyberspace (None)	•	•	•	
PSC3234 Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology (None)	•	•	•	
PSC3235 Children's Learning and Development (None)	•	•	•	
PSC3236 The Psychology of Loss and Trauma (None)	•	•	•	

S Mj J Mn	PSC2503 Methods in Psychology II; (PSC1220) PSC2513 Further Methods in Psychology; (PSC2503) PSC2500 Cognitive Psychology; (PSC1202) PSC2501 Biopsychology; (PSC1202) PSC2515 Social & Critical Psychology; (PSC1217) PSC2514 Personality & Developmental Psychology (PSC1217)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	<i>HE Diploma 240 Credits</i>
S Mj J Mn	PSC1223 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology PSC1202 Cognitive & Biopsychological Perspectives; PSC1217 Understanding the Person;	• • • • • • • • • • •	<i>HE Certificate 120 Credits</i> PSC1227 Exploring Psychology I PSC1228 Exploring Psychology II CMM1000 Career management

• = Core/Option modules for programmes of study

Note: For Major Honours Psychology students one or two HE6 options may be taken (depending on the credit value of the Honours Project (20 or 40 Credits).

Note: For Joint Honours Psychology students, one HE6 option may be taken if the Honours Project is not in Psychology.

* One of these modules (as specified within the programme of study) must be completed by all students wishing to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Registration of the British Psychological Society

**These modules are only available to Major, Joint and Minor students and only then where they have not already been taken at level HE5. There are no programme constraints about the ordering of completion of these mandatory modules except that modules selected at HE5 should proceed those selected at HE6. There are no programme constraints about the level at which core modules are studied in Part II except that HE5 core modules may be prerequisite for HE6 option modules.

<p style="text-align: center;">9. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy</p> <p><u>Learning and Teaching Methods</u> Active learning is promoted via: practical classes; laboratory workshops; seminars; tutorials; self-directed study; lectures; video viewing and analysis; IT sessions; guided study; fieldwork.</p> <p><u>Assessment Methods</u> Assessment tasks are linked to the learning outcomes of each module and are completed at selected points within the module (chosen to facilitate student learning via feedback on the tasks);</p> <p>Types of assessment include: <i>Coursework</i> essays – 1,500-2,000 words in length practical reports statistical assignments seminar presentations seminar reports posters poster presentations project - normally 6-10,000 words in length <i>Time-limited assessments</i> examinations (seen or unseen) in-class assessments of various types</p> <p><u>Assessment Classification System</u> Pass mark for individual assessments - 40% The degree classification is based on 30% of the best 4/6 modules at level HE5 and 70% of all modules at level HE6.</p> <p><u>Honours Classification Bands</u> (Marginal Criteria operate within final 2% of each category) 70% and above - First Class 60% - 69% - Upper Second Class 50% - 59% - Lower Second Class 40% - 49% - Third Class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10. Other Information</p> <p><u>Date programme first offered</u> 1995/1996</p> <p><u>Admissions Criteria</u> 260 UCAS Tariff points or equivalent qualifications Access Diploma</p> <p>Other cases dealt with by Admissions Tutor on an individual basis.</p> <p><u>Indicators of Quality and Standards</u> i. Achieved 24/24 in QAA Review, November, 1999; ii. Three External Examiners (University of Huddersfield, Napier University and University of Bristol) moderate coursework, examinations and projects; iii. Research Assessment Exercise 2001, achieved a rating of 3b; iv. Single and Joint Honours awards are currently accredited as providing the Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the BPS, which is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.</p>
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