

NOV 2004

Revised

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<p>1. Qualification MSc</p>	<p>2. Programme Title Critical Psychology (by distance learning)</p>	<p>3. UCAS Code</p>	<p>4. Programme Type Postgraduate</p>
<p>5. Main Purposes and Distinctive Features of the Programme</p> <p>The programme has been designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) enhance the development of participants' intellectual and creative powers; (ii) facilitate the development of problem solving skills; (iii) facilitate the extension of knowledge; (iv) enhance student's ability to communicate and their capacity to relate to both existing and new knowledge. 			
<p>6. What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme</p>			
<p><u>Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject(s)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) be able to use a body of critical perspectives in psychology to inform particular problems; (ii) have gained a comprehensive and systematic understanding of specialised/cutting-edge areas of knowledge in critical psychology and the human sciences; (iii) have gained a comprehensive awareness of and expertise in a range of methodological critical approaches which may be pertinent to specific research topics; (iv) be able to evaluate and apply alternative methodological approaches to their chosen research topic and to critique these various approaches; (v) have developed a value base and commitment to responsible radical research in specific contexts; (vi) have developed the competence and confidence necessary to contemplate/carry out research at PhD level. <p><u>Cognitive skills in the context of the subject(s)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the ability to think independently. (ii) advanced skills in analytic thinking. (iii) advanced skills in synthetic thinking. (iv) advanced skills in creative thinking. (v) advanced skills in evaluative thinking. (vi) development of problem solving skills. (vii) ability to make informed judgements in the absence of complete information or the presence of ambiguous information. (viii) appreciation of the limits of knowledge in psychology. 		<p><u>Subject-specific practical/professional skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) able to carry out an evaluative literature search using primary sources. (ii) able to carry out a critical evaluation of research using primary sources. (iii) able to design a substantial research study and write a research proposal. (iv) able to carry out a substantial piece of independent research using appropriate methods and analyses with due regard to ethical issues. (v) able to write concisely and clearly to produce a research report in a standard format for the subject area suitable for journal publication. <p><u>Other skills (e.g. key/transferable) developed in subject or other contexts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) able to communicate in a coherent, creative and structured manner. (ii) the commitment to engage in self-motivated study. (iii) ability to study independently and willingness to take responsibility and be accountable for ideas and judgements. (iv) confidence to examine and criticise the views of others. 	

7. Qualities, Skills & Capabilities Profile			
A Cognitive	B Practical	C Personal & Social	D Other
Independent thinking	Advanced skills of written communication	Self confidence	
Analytic thinking	Advanced information search skills	Self development	
Synthetic thinking	Advanced research design skills	Self motivation	
Creative thinking		Able to work independently	
Evaluative thinking		Willingness to make decisions and accept responsibility for them	
Problem solving			

8. Duration and Structure of Programme/Modes of Study/Credit Volume of Study Units			
MSc (180 credits)	<u>Core Modules</u> Critical Psychological Conceptual Foundations Critical Psychological Research Practice	<u>Options</u> (normally 30 credits each) Critical Psychological Politics Critical Psychological Subjectivity Feminist Psychology: Theory and Practice Independent Research	<u>Project (M)</u> (60/120 credits) Dissertation (60 credits) [or] Dissertation (120 credits)
The MSc may be completed by i) taking the two core modules, the two option modules and the 60 credit dissertation (total = 180 credits), or ii) taking the two core modules and the 120 credit dissertation (total = 180 credits).			
9. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy <u>Learning and Teaching Methods</u> Study guides and reading packs. Independent Research. Email/"chat programme" tutorials <u>Assessment Methods</u> Assessment tasks are linked to the learning outcomes of each module. <u>Assessment Classification System</u> Pass mark 40% Masters assessment criteria for coursework.		10. Other Information (including compliance with relevant Institute policies) <u>Date programme first offered</u> 1998 <u>Admissions Criteria</u> Degree in psychology or related discipline or related experience. Admission essay. <u>Indicators of Quality and Standards</u> The psychology subject group received a 24 QAA rating in November 1999. This assessment included a specific focus on the MSc Critical Psychology by distance learning.	