Programme Specification

Programme Title: Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies

Awarding Institution:	University of Bolton
Teaching Institution:	University of Bolton, UK
Division and/or Faculty/Institute:	Faculty of Well-Being and Social Sciences

Professional accreditation

Professional body	Professional body URL	Status of graduates
British Psychological Society	www.bps.org.uk/	Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership

Final award(s):	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies
Interim award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies
Exit or Fallback award(s)	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Science
Programme title(s)	Psychological Studies
UCAS Code	
JACS Code	C800
University Course Code(s)	
QAA Benchmark Statement(s)	Psychology
Other internal and external reference points	QAA Academic Infrastructure, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and the Code of Practice
	UK Quality Code for Higher Education
	University of Bolton awards framework

Language of study   English

Mode of study and normal   Full time 1 year
period of study   Part time 1.5 years

Admissions criteria   At least an upper second class honours degree, or equivalent
OR A third class degree followed by a Masters degree
AND At least 60 credits in Psychology from previous study or completion of the Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology course
Overseas students minimum IELT 6.5 required

Additional admissions matters
None

Fitness to practise declaration

Not applicable

Aims of the programme

The principal aims of the programme are:
1. To provide eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society and underpin the opportunity to complete further postgraduate professional training in psychology.
2. To provide an advanced critical understanding of psychological theories, methods and debates
3. To develop general transferable skills in preparation for post-graduate employment
4. To provide a supportive and intellectually stimulating learning environment in which each person's knowledge is utilised to encourage discussion and debate, and to promote critical thought and inquiry.

Distinctive features of the programme
This course is accredited by BPS (British Psychological Society). The learning environment is characterised by: supportive and approachable staff in psychology with a diverse range of research interests; use of innovative methods of teaching and assessment; dedicated laboratory facilities are available for work of an experimental nature. In terms of facilities, there is an observation laboratory that contains two ceiling mounted video cameras, and boundary microphones, controlled by video editing hardware and software that can be used for student dissertation data collection. There is also a Psychophysiology lab that contains a Bio-pac (the bio-pac system allows the acquisition and analysis of physiological data, such as heart rate, respiratory rate, GSR, EOG), a Neuroscan (software and hardware applications for neuroscience research) and Stim2(stimulus design and presentation software). applications for neuroscience research)

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies the opportunity to gain 90 credits APL (Approved Prior Learning) towards the MSc Psychology degree.

Programme 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.

K. Knowledge and understanding
On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate:

1. Systematic and comprehensive subject knowledge in selected areas of psychology
2. Critical awareness of the conceptual frameworks underpinning psychology
3. Critical awareness of current problems, issues and debates at the forefront of topic areas
4. Comprehensive understanding of data analysis techniques including both qualitative and quantitative approaches relevant to psychology

C. Cognitive, intellectual or thinking skills
On completion of the programme successful students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate autonomous, systematic critical reasoning and analysis.
2. Demonstrate advanced skills in creative thinking
3. Comprehensively and critically evaluate theoretical concepts in psychology
4. Critically synthesise data/information and interpret complex research findings
5. Continued development of problem solving skills
6. Demonstrate an appreciation of the limits of knowledge in selected areas of psychology

P. Practical, professional or subject-specific skills
On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate:

1. Competence to carry out a systematic search, review and evaluation of psychological research findings (including electronic sources of information);
2. Ability to apply advanced critical analysis and evidence- based reasoning to current research and methodologies
3. Competence to design and execute an original, independent piece of research having due regard for ethical issues
4. Ability to write concisely and clearly to produce a research report in the standard format for the subject area

T. Transferable, key or personal skills

On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate:

1. How to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
2. High level numerical and quantitative skills appropriate to carrying out independent research
3. High level competency in the use of information technology
4. Self-management including time-management and willingness to take responsibility for thoughts and actions

Programme structure
Six module course covering core areas of Psychology as specified by British Psychological Society, 1 X 20 credit modules at Level 6, 5 X 20 credit modules at Level 7.

Module Code	Module title	Core/ Option/ Elective (C/O/E)	Credits	Length (1, 2 or 3 periods)
Advanced Research Methods	PSA6012	Core	20	1
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	Core	20	1
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	Core	20	1
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	Core	20	1
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	Core	20	1
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	Core	20	1

Learning and teaching strategies

The overall teaching and learning strategy for Psychology is 'student centred'. A variety of teaching and learning methods are employed in order to ensure the acquisition and development of appropriate concepts, knowledge and skills and to achieve the stated learning outcomes. Active learning is promoted via: practical classes; laboratory workshops; seminars; tutorials; self-directed study; lectures; video viewing and analysis; IT sessions; guided study, fieldwork.

Assessment strategy

Assessment serves several functions. The obvious and primary function is to evaluate student achievement of the stated learning outcomes. However, assessment also serves to help you organise and develop your learning. Feedback from assessment serves an important educational function and can help you develop your skills and understanding of your own strengths and weaknesses

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);

Many different forms of module assessment are employed, the major forms being as follows:

Coursework

essays, research reports, critical reviews, practical reports, statistical assignments - 2,000-2,500 words in length; seminar presentations, poster presentations, project - normally 6,000 words maximum in length

Exams

In class unseen exams

Assessment regulations

- Assessment Regulations for Postgraduate Modular Programmes

Grade bands and classifications

(*for information only at this stage – the Assessment regulations are being revised for September 12.*)

Grade Description			Hons Degree Classification
Work of exceptional quality	High	80+	i
	Middle	75-79	I
	Low	70-74	i

Work of very good quality	High	67-69	ii.i
	Middle	64-66	ii.i
	Low	60-63	ii.i
Work of good quality	High	57-59	ii.ii
	Middle	54-56	ii.ii
	Low	50-53	ii.ii
Work of satisfactory quality	High	47-49	iii
	Middle	44-46	iii
	Low	40-43	iii
Borderline fail		35-39	
Fail		Below 35	

Honours Classification

Not applicable

Role of external examiners

External examiners are appointed for all programmes of study. They oversee the assessment process and their duties include: approving assessment tasks, reviewing assessment marks, attending assessment boards and reporting to the University on the assessment process.

Support for student learning

- The programme is managed by a programme leader
- Induction programme introduces the student to the University and their programme
- Each student has a personal tutor, responsible for support and guidance
- Personal Development Planning (PDP) integrated into all programmes
- Feedback on formative and summative assessments
- A Student Centre providing a one-stop shop for information and advice
- University support services include housing, counselling, financial advice, careers and a disability
- A Chaplaincy
- Library and IT services
- Student Liaison Officers attached to each Faculty
- The Students' Union advice services
- Faculty and Programme Handbooks which provide information about the programme and University regulations
- The opportunity to develop skills for employment
- English language support for International students
- Specialist teaching facilities/resources

Methods for evaluating and enhancing the quality of learning opportunities

- Programme committees with student representation
- Module evaluations by students
- Students surveys, e.g. National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)
- Annual quality monitoring and action planning through Programme Quality Enhancement Plans (PQEPs), Data Analysis Report (DARs) Subject Annual Self Evaluation Report (SASERs), Faculty Quality Enhancement Plans (FQEPs), University Quality Enhancement Plan (UQEP)
- Peer review/observation of teaching
- Professional development programme for staff
- External examiner reports
- Professional body visits and reports

Other sources of information

Student portal (add link)
Students Union (add link)
Faculty or similar Handbook (add link)
Programme Handbook (add link)
Student Entitlement Statement (add link)
Module database (add link)
Moodle (for the programme?) (add link)
External examiners reports
http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Quality/QAEContents/ExternalExaminersReports/Home.aspx

Document control

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Approved by:

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Learning outcomes map

Module title	Mod Code	Status C/O/E	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	K6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Level 7																										
Advanced Research Methods	PSA6012	C																								
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	C																								
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	C																								
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	C																								
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	C																								
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	C																								

K. Knowledge and understanding   P. Practical, professional and subject specific skills C. Cognitive, Intellectual and thinking skills   T. Transferable, key or personal skills

Complete the grid using the following (Developed = D, Taught = T, Assessed = A)

Module listing

Module title	Mod Code	New? ✔	Level	Credits	Type	Core/Option /Elective C/O/E	Pre-requisite module	Assessment 1			Assessment 2			Assessment 3		
								Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item	Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item	Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item
Advanced Research Methods	PSA6012	No	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		CW	50	Y			
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	No	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50	Y	CW	50				
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	No	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		EX	50	Y			
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	No	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		CW	50	Y			
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	No	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		CW	50	Y			
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	No	7	20	DISS	Core	None	CW	100	Y						

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Bolton Key Core Curriculum requirements

Module Title	Module Code	C/O/E	Employability											Bolton Values		
			PDP	Communication	Team work	Organisation & Planning	Numeracy	Problem solving	Flexibility & adaptability	Action planning	Self awareness	Initiative	Personal impact & confidence	Inter-nationalisation	Environmental sustainability	Social, public and ethical responsibility
Advanced Research Methods	PSA6012	C	T	A	D	D	D, T, A	D	D	T	D	D	D	T	D	T
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	C		D, A		D		T			D			D, T		D, T
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	C		D, A	D	D	D				T			D,T	D	D,T
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	C		D, T, A	D	D		D,T	D	D	D	D				D,T
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	C		D, A		D			D		D	D	D	T		T
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	C	D	D, A		D	D, A	D,A	D	D, A	D	D	D	D		D,T, A

Complete the grid using the following (Developed = D, Taught = T, Assessed = A