Programme Specification

Programme Title: Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology

Awarding Institution: University of Bolton	University of Bolton
Teaching Institution:	University of Bolton
Division and/or Faculty/Institute:	Faculty of Wellbeing and Social Sciences

Professional accreditation	Professional body	Professional body URL	Status of graduates
	Not applicable to this course		

Final award(s):	Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology
Interim award(s)	None
Exit or Fallback award(s)	None
Programme title(s)	Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology
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
	British Psychological Society Programme Standards

Language of study   English

Mode of study and normal   Full time 0.5 year
period of study   Part time 1 years

Admissions criteria
At least an upper second class honours degree, or equivalent
OR A third class degree followed by a Masters degree or equivalent

Overseas students minimum IELT 6.0 required.

Additional admissions matters
None

Fitness to practise declaration
Not applicable

Aims of the programme

The principal aims of the programme are:

To develop in students:
1. an appreciation of the diversity of perspectives in modern psychology;
2. a critical understanding of psychological theories, methods and debates;
3. 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;
4. an understanding of a range of applications of psychology;
5. key transferable skills in the areas of numeracy, communication, information technology and group work;
6. 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.

Distinctive features of the programme

Upon successful completion of this course with a 50% average aggregate mark overall (equivalent to a 2:2), there is the opportunity to progress directly on to the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies course, which itself confers Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS), upon successful completion.

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. 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 laboratory 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 and Stim2(stimulus design and presentation software).

Programme learning outcomes

To gain the qualification the learner will have demonstrated: i) knowledge and understanding ii) cognitive, intellectual or thinking skills iii) discipline-related practical, professional or subject-specific skills and iv) transferable, key and personal skills as specified in the learning objectives/outcomes for approved modules in the programme.

K. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate systematic knowledge and understanding of

1. the scientific orientation central to the discipline and alternatives to it
2. the key theories, conceptual frameworks, and debates central to the discipline
3. the range of empirical methods used to study human behaviour and awareness of any limitations associated with their use
4. a range of applications of psychological theory in contemporary society
5. the boundaries of psychology and the discipline's relationship with other cognate disciplines;

C. Cognitive, intellectual or thinking skills

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

1. for critical analysis and ability to develop an argument
2. to employ evidence based reasoning to make informed judgements
3. to understand data sets and identify relationships
4. to generate and explore research questions in a systematic way
5. for independent learning and problem solving

P. Practical, professional or subject-specific skills

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

1. carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection;
2. analyse data using quantitative and qualitative research methods and interpret the results of the analysis;
3. carry out a systematic search, review and evaluation of psychological research findings (including electronic sources of information);
4. apply critical analysis and evidence based reasoning to current research to identify a focus for further development;
5. design and execute an original, independent piece of research having due regard for ethical issues;
6. report research in an appropriate format;

T. Transferable, key or personal skills

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

1. communicate effectively orally and in writing;
2. problem solve and reason systematically;
3. utilise numerical and quantitative skills appropriate to carrying out independent research;
4. competently use information technology;
5. self-management including time-management and willingness to take responsibility for thoughts and actions;
6. engage in independent learning and critical self-reflection as a basis for personal development and life-long learning;
7. engage in supportive peer collaboration and constructive criticism;

Programme structure

Three module course covering an introduction to core areas of Psychology as specified by British Psychological Society (BPS), 3 X 20 credit modules at Level 4.

All three modules are core on this course and provide an essential introduction to core areas of Psychology as specified by BPS. Therefore, all modules contribute to the final award, i.e. Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology and need to be passed in order to progress onto the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies.

There is no opportunity to substitute any of these modules, should one or more be failed. However, previous equivalent study to any module(s) may result in an exemption through these modules, whilst still leading to the full award.

If you achieve an average mark across the three modules of less than 50%, you would not be able to progress onto the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies.

Module Code	Module title	Core/ Option/ Elective (C/O/E)	Credits	Length (1, 2 or 3 periods)
PSC4001	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology	C	20	1
PSC4002	Understanding the Person	C	20	1
PSC4003	Cognitive & Biopsychological Perspectives	C	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.

In addition, for each module, there will be a one-hour session per week where a member of staff will be available to answer any questions and give guidance relating to that module.

We are also committed to a blended learning approach that maximises the strengths of face-to-face learning with a breadth of multimedia e-learning resources. All modules have a presence on Moodle (our Virtual Learning Environment) and all lecture materials as well as additional resources are available to you here. You can also use Moodle to communicate with fellow students on that Module as well as the teaching team.

Learning activities (KIS entry)

Not applicable.

This is a short 60 credit course, designed to provide the necessary grounding in and introduction to, core areas of Psychology. Completion of this course is required for

progress onto the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies. The modules on this course are however drawn directly from level four of the undergraduate programmes in Psychology.

Assessment strategy

The obvious and primary function of the proposed assessment strategy is to help you organise and develop your learning and to evaluate your achievement of the stated learning outcomes. Hence 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, including essays, practical reports, statistical assignments, seminar presentations and the dissertation. Much of your assessed work is submitted online via Moodle with feedback also given through the VLE.

In addition to assessed work that contributes to your overall module grade, you will also take part in 'formative assessment'. This is designed to provide you with feedback on your progress and can help you develop your skills and understanding of your own strengths and weaknesses. This formative assessment takes place during lectures and workshops, as well as using activities on Moodle.

ssessment serves several functions, with the obvious and primary function being to evaluate students' achievement of the stated learning outcomes. However, assessment also serves to help students organise and develop their learning. Feedback from assessment serves an important educational function and can help students develop their skills and understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses. Formative assessment is designed to support students' ongoing learning process, whereas summative assessment focuses on demonstration of what has been learned and therefore counts towards final module results.

Hence 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 in this course, the major forms being as follows:

Coursework

essays – 1,500 words in length, practical reports, statistical assignments,

Time-limited assessments

examinations (seen or unseen), in-class assessments of various types

Assessment methods (KIS entry)

Not applicable.

This is a short 60 credit course, designed to provide the necessary grounding in and introduction to, core areas of Psychology. Completion of this course is required for progress onto the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies. The modules on this course are however drawn directly from level four of the undergraduate programmes in Psychology.

Assessment regulations

- Assessment Regulations for Undergraduate Modular Programmes

Grade bands and classifications

Undergraduate Honours Degrees

Grade Description	Mark %	Honours Degree Classification
Work of exceptional quality	70+	i
Work of very good quality	60-69	ii.i
Work of good quality	50-59	ii.ii
Work of satisfactory quality	40-49	iii
Borderline fail	35-39	
Fail	Below 35	

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

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)
- 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)
www.bolton.ac.uk/Students

Students Union (add link)
www.ubsu.org.uk

Faculty or similar Handbook (add link)
www.bolton.ac.uk/Students/FacultyofWell-BeingSocialSciencesHandbook.pdf

Programme Handbook (add link)

Student Entitlement Statement (add link)

Module database (add link)

Moodle (add link)
http://elearning.bolton.ac.uk/

External examiners reports
http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Quality/QAEContents/ExternalExaminersReports/

Document control

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Approved by:	
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Learning outcomes map

Module title	Mod Code	Status	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
HE4																									
Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology	PSC 4001	C	DTA	D	DTA			D	DTA	DTA	DTA	DT	DTA	DTA	DT	DT	D	DTA	DTA	DT	DTA	DT	D		D
Understanding the Person	PSC 4002	C	T	TA	TA	T	T	DA	D										A			D	D	D	D
Cognitive and biopsychological Perspectives	PSC 4003	C	T	TA	TA	D		D	D				T						D	D		D	D	D	

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

Programme specification: [Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology]
Date: [27/01/2012]

Module title	Mod Code	New? ✓	Level	Credits	Type	Core/Option /Elective C/O/E	Pre-requisite module	Assessment 1			Assessment 2		
Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology	PSC4001	Yes	4	20	STAN	C	None	CW	50%		CW	50%	Y
Understanding the Person	PSC4002	Yes	4	20	STAN	C	None	EX	100%	Y			
Cognitive and Biopsychological Perspectives	PSC4003	Yes	4	20	STAN	C	None	EX	50%		EX	50%	Y

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
Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology	PSC4001	C		D, T, A	D		D,T, A	D, T	D	T	D	D	D			D, T, A
Understanding the Person	PSC4002	C		D, A		D			D		D	D	D	T	T	T
Cognitive and Biopsychological Perspectives	PSC4003	C		A		D	D	D, T, A	D	D	D	A	D	D		

N.B. PDP is not covered in modules on this course, but rather is taught and developed during personal tutoring sessions and online resources, along with career planning.

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