

School of Life and Medical Sciences

Title of Programme: MSc Psychology

Programme Code: HHPSYM

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
27 September 2021

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Dr Stefanie Schmeer

Signature



A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme

Date	Section	Amendment
30/03/21	C: Teaching/learning methods & strategies	<i>Occupational and Work Psychology</i> changed to <i>Occupational Psychology</i>
30/03/21	D: Optional Modules	Occupational and Work Psychology 7LMS0134 changed to Occupational Psychology 7LMS2017
30/03/21	Table 2	7LMS0134 Occupational and Work Psychology changed to 7LMS2017 Occupational Psychology

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification MSc Psychology

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	University of Hertfordshire
University/partner campuses	College Lane
Programme accredited by	British Psychological Society
Final Award (Qualification)	MSc
All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)	MSc Psychology
FHEQ level of award	7
Language of Delivery	

A. Programme Rationale

The rationale of this programme is to provide graduates with GBC (Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, formerly known as GBR Graduate Basis for Registration) with the BPS (British Psychological Society) allowing them to continue their studies in their chosen specialist area such as Clinical, Forensic, Health, Occupational, Counselling, Neuropsychology, Sport and Exercise, or Educational and Child Psychology with a view to becoming a Chartered Clinical, Forensic, Health, Occupational, or Counselling Psychologist, etc. In addition to gaining knowledge of the core domains of psychology through a combination of interactive and traditional lectures, students develop skills through practical laboratory assignments that enable them to design, carry out and evaluate psychological research. This culminates in the advanced project, conducted independently by the student under the guidance of a supervisor, which investigates a psychological research question of interest. The skills gained by successfully completing a psychology degree are transferrable and highly regarded by employers across a range of career pathways. Further details on careers in psychology can be found on the BPS website.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

Additionally this programme aims to:

- Provide graduates with GBC (Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership) with the British Psychological Society.
- Encourage a dynamic and supportive learning environment in which students are enthused about the academic study of psychology.
- Enable students to display a comprehensive understanding of psychological knowledge, and critical awareness of current problems, debates and insights in psychology.
- Develop students' knowledge, skills, and understanding of the principles, methods, theories and ethical requirements of psychology to progress to and benefit from other post-graduate programmes or professional training in psychology.
- Enhance students' ability to exercise personal responsibility and to develop further their capacities as autonomous learners.
- Enable students to be able to test claims and assertions using appropriate evidence to support or challenge a position.
- Equip students with the knowledge and skills to conduct advanced research and to understand comprehensively to design and to apply appropriate research methodologies and techniques.

- Enable students to conduct ethically sensitive research.
 - Facilitate amongst students the ability to adopt an independent and reflective approach to learning.
- Further information is available in section D.

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the discipline of Psychology.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>A1- The core domains within Psychology</p> <p>A2- Research methods in Psychology</p> <p>A3- Application of core domain knowledge to a range of contexts</p> <p>A4- Selected specialist areas of Psychology to an advanced level.</p>	<p>Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of lectures, tutor-led study group sessions, workshops, laboratory experiments, coursework, and projects.</p> <p>A1 is developed in the modules <i>Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology, Individual Differences/Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology, and The Biological Basis of Psychology</i>.</p> <p>A2 is developed through a combination of lectures in several modules, and in particular the practical aspects of <i>Using Data to Address Research Questions, Methods of Collecting Data to Address Research Questions</i> and the <i>Advanced Psychology Project</i>.</p> <p>Acquisition of A3 is through a combination of lectures and the <i>Advanced Psychology Project</i>.</p> <p>Acquisition of A4 is through lectures for the optional modules which may include two of, <i>Clinical Psychology, Cognitive Neuropsychology, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Occupational Psychology</i> and <i>Sports Psychology</i>, and through the <i>Advanced Psychology Project</i>.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through:</p> <p>Unseen written examinations (A1-A4)</p> <p>Laboratory reports (A2)</p> <p>In-class tests (A1-A3)</p> <p>Essays both standard (A1, A3, A4) and extended (A4)</p> <p>Projects reports (A2-A4)</p> <p>Research participation (A2).</p>

	knowledge and understanding of the subject.	
Intellectual skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>B1- Formulate and test psychological hypotheses</p> <p>B2-Plan, conduct, and report a programme of research</p> <p>B3-Identify and select relevant sources of information</p> <p>B4-Integrate and critically evaluate information and data from a variety of sources to construct cogent arguments</p> <p>B5-Attend to the distinction between primary and secondary sources of information</p> <p>B6-Assess the relevance of theoretical knowledge to applied contexts</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are developed through learning and teaching methods where students are guided to apply these skills in constructing critical reviews (B3, B4 and B5), developing and evaluating research proposals (B1, B2 and B6), and in presenting and defending their ideas to other students and to staff (B2,B4,B5).</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through:</p> <p>Unseen examinations (B3, B4,B5)</p> <p>Laboratory reports (B1, B2)</p> <p>Essays (B3, B4, B5)</p> <p>A project report (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6)</p>
Practical skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>C1-Design and execute investigations</p> <p>C2-Interact ethically and professionally with research participants</p> <p>C3-Analyse and interpret quantitative and qualitative data</p> <p>C4-Write research reports</p> <p>C5-Effectively employ specialist computer packages</p> <p>C6-Search specialist databases</p> <p>C7-Write literature reviews</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through the programme by:</p> <p>Workshops of searching electronic databases (C5, C6), tutor-led study group sessions (C2, C6), laboratory classes and statistics workshops (C1, C3, C4, C5, C6), carrying out a project under supervision (C1, C2, C3, C4, C7), acting as a participant in research (C1, C2)</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through laboratory reports (C3, C4), statistics class tests (C3, C5), essays (C7), project reports (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7).</p>
Transferable skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>D1-Communicate effectively both orally and in writing</p> <p>D2-Work effectively within a group</p> <p>D3-Manage time and work to deadlines efficiently</p> <p>D4-Learn independently with an enquiring mind</p> <p>D5-Effectively use information and communication technology</p> <p>D6-Show respect for the views and ideas of others</p>	<p>Transferable skills are developed throughout the programme:</p> <p>D1 is developed through tutor-led study group sessions and through feedback on essays and written reports.</p> <p>D2, D3, D4, D6, D7 are developed through tutor-led study group sessions, laboratory group work.</p> <p>D4 is developed by the introduction of supplementary material.</p>	<p>Transferable skills D1, D4, D5 and D7 are assessed through unseen examinations, in-class tests; D1, D3, D4, D5 through laboratory reports, essays, an oral presentation task for the assessment of oral skills, and the project report.</p> <p>D1-D6 in laboratory group work.</p>

D7-Recognise the need to continually update knowledge and skills	D5 is developed through formal instruction and practice in producing all types of coursework. D6 is introduced in the induction programme.
	Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.

D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in 1 year full time and 2 years part time modes, and leads to the award of a Master of Science degree in Psychology. Entry is normally at level 7 with any degree (typically an upper second class classification).

Intake is normally in Semester A (September).

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

In order to obtain Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society modules marked * must be passed.

Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

Mode of study Full time, Part time

Entry point Semester A (September)

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
*Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology	7PSY0072	30	English	70	30	0	AB
*The Biological Basis of Psychology	7PSY0075	15	English	60	40	0	B
*Individual Differences and Conceptual/Historical Issues in Psychology	7PSY0076	15	English	0	100	0	A
*Using Data to Address Research Questions	7PSY0082	15	English	0	100	0	A
*Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology	7PSY0083	15	English	0	100	0	A
					Lab reports 95%, Research participation 5%		
*Advanced Psychology Project	7PSY0071	60	English	0	100	0	BC

Plus any 2 of the following modules which have shared delivery with the final year BSc Psychology programme (subject to availability in that academic year, depending on student demand and timetabling constraints).

Optional Modules (delete this part if not applicable)

Module Titles

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% examination	% coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Forensic Psychology	7LMS0204	15	English	50	50	0	B
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205	15	English	100	0	0	B
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7PSY0081	15	English	0	100	0	B
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267	15	English	0	100	0	B
Sports Psychology	7LMS0268	15	English	100	0	0	B
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017	15	English	0	100	0	B

The award of an MSc degree requires 180 credit points, including a 60 credit project.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Masters	MSc Psychology	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7	3 Semesters	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)
Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Postgraduate Diploma	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2, 3 Semesters	A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, D1, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7
Postgraduate Certificate	Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology	60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters	A1, A2, A3, B4, B5, D1, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in [UPR AS14](#), Section D and the students' handbook are met.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below:

- As specified by the external validating body no compensation for failed modules is permitted

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- A Programme Leader to help students understand the course/programme structure
- Student representatives on programme committees
- A designated programme administration team
- Module Leaders

Support

Students are supported by:

- Induction days at the beginning of each new academic session
- Orientation for overseas students
- A Personal Tutor to provide academic and pastoral support
- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, etc.
- Office of the Dean of Students, incorporating the Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- A versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resources Centres
- A Mathematics Drop-in Centre
- Medical Centre
- University Disability Advisors
- An Equality Office
- Careers Enterprise and Employment Services
- The Students' Union

F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Student Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's

report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

A good BSc or BA Honours degree (at least a 2:1 degree classification) in any subject;

All International students are required to demonstrate an English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 overall, with at least 6.0 in each band.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact: Student Administrator, ask@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

MSc Psychology

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

		Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																									
		Knowledge & Understanding				Intellectual Skills						Practical Skills							Transferable Skills								
Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7		
Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology	7PSY0072	x							x	x									x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
The Biological Basis of Psychology	7PSY0075	x	x						x	x									x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Individual Differences and Conceptual/Historical Issues in Psychology	7PSY0076	x	x	x					x	x	x								x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Using Data to Address Research Questions	7PSY0082		x			x		x				x		x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology	7PSY0083		x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Advanced Psychology Project	7PSY0071		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Forensic Psychology	7LMS0204			x	x														x			x		x	x		
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7PSY0081			x	x														x			x		x	x		
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205			x	x														x			x		x	x		
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267			x	x														x			x		x	x		
Sports Psychology	7LMS0268			x	x														x			x		x	x		
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017			x	x														x			x		x	x		

Key: Learning Outcome which is assessed as part of the module

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. The core domains within Psychology
- A2. Research methods in Psychology
- A3. Application of core domain knowledge to a range of contexts
- A4. Selected specialist areas of Psychology to an advanced level

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Formulate and test psychological hypotheses
- B2. Plan, conduct and report a programme of research
- B3. Identify and select relevant sources of information
- B4. Integrate and critically evaluate information and data from a variety of sources to construct cogent arguments
- B5. Attend to the distinction between primary and secondary sources of information
- B6. Assess the relevance of theoretical knowledge to applied contexts

Practical Skills

- C1. Design and execute investigations
- C2. Interact ethically and professionally with research participants
- C3. Analyse and interpret quantitative and qualitative data
- C4. Write research reports
- C5. Effectively employ specialist computer packages
- C6. Search specialist databases
- C7. Write literature reviews

Transferable Skills

- D1. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- D2. Work effectively within a group
- D3. Manage time and work to deadlines efficiently
- D4. Learn independently and with an enquiring mind
- D5. Effectively use information and communication technology, manipulate, sort and present data
- D6. Show respect for the views and ideas of others
- D7. Recognise the need to continuously update knowledge and skills

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements	Psychology
Type of programme	Taught postgraduate
Date of validation/last periodic review	January 14
Date of production/ last revision of PS	March 2021
Relevant to level/cohort	Level 7 entering September 2021
Administrative School	School of Life and Medical Sciences

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECOS
HHPSYM	MSc Psychology	100497