

Title of Programme: MSc Psychology

Programme Code: HHPSYM

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
25 September 2023

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
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

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 Psychology Society
Final Award (Qualification)	MSc
All Final Award titles	MSc Psychology
(Qualification and Subject)	
FHEQ level of award	7

A. Programme Rationale

The MSc Psychology is a programme accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS), which is designed for students who typically have completed an undergraduate course in a non-psychology discipline but wish to retrain to become a professional (chartered) psychologist. The purpose of this programme is to provide graduates with Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC, formerly known as GBR Graduate Basis for Registration) with the British Psychological Society. This is an essential criterion for any graduate who wishes to pursue a professional career as a chartered psychologist in specialist areas such as Clinical, Forensic, Occupational or Educational Psychology. Obtaining GBC through successful completion of the programme will allow students to undertake further training with a view to becoming a Chartered Clinical, Forensic, Occupational or Educational Psychologist, etc.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

Diversity and Inclusion

Our programmes are purposefully designed to enable all students to engage meaningfully with the curriculum by being accessible and representative. We will support students to shape their learning experience, removing barriers and enabling them to succeed. The curriculum explicitly includes multiple and representative perspectives, valuing collective identities and individual diversity. Learning, teaching and assessment activities help students to understand how they can enhance outcomes both for themselves and for others. All students belong to a learning community, and during their studies we really want to hear their voices, encourage them to listen to others, and express themselves.

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. This will allow students to pursue further doctoral training to become a chartered psychologist within specific areas of psychology (for more details please see [BPS Careers information](#)).

- 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 postgraduate programmes or professional training in psychology.
- Develop students' understanding of how psychological knowledge and theory can be applied by professional psychologists through the use of real-life case studies and authentic assessments.
- Enhance students' ability to exercise personal responsibility and to develop further their capacities as autonomous learners.
- Enable students 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 research that adheres to ethical principles in accordance with BPS guidelines.
- Facilitate amongst students the ability to adopt an independent and self-reflective approach to learning.

Further information is available in section D.

Graduate Attributes

Our graduates will be capable and professional, creative and enterprising, and will build their social and global awareness throughout. In addition to their subject expertise and proficiency, as a University of Hertfordshire graduate, they will be:

- Professionally focused
- Globally minded
- Sustainability driven
- Digitally capable and confident
- Inclusive and collaborative
- Evidence based and ethical

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 (2021) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
A1- The core domains within Psychology	Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of lectures, tutor-led study group sessions, workshops, laboratory experiments, coursework, and projects.	Knowledge and understanding are assessed through:
A2-Research methods in Psychology		Unseen written examinations (A1, A3, A4)
A3-Application of core domain knowledge to a range of contexts	A1 is taught in the modules <i>Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology, Individual Differences and Conceptual/Historical Issues in</i>	Laboratory reports (A2, A3) Class tests (A1, A2, A3, A4) MCQs (A1, A2, A3, A4) Essays (both standard and extended) (A1, A3, A4) Presentations (A1, A2, A3, A4)
A4-Selected specialist areas of Psychology to an		

advanced level.	<p><i>Psychology, and The Biological Basis of Psychology.</i></p> <p>A2 is taught in the modules <i>Using Data to Address Research Questions, Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology</i> and <i>Research Planning.</i></p> <p>A3 is through a combination of lectures and the <i>Advanced Psychology Project.</i></p> <p>Acquisition of A4 is through lectures for the option modules which may include two of, <i>Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Educational Psychology, Cognitive Neuropsychology</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 knowledge and understanding of the subject</p>	<p>Class Debates (A1, A3, A4) Projects reports (A1, A2, A3, A4) Research participation (A2)</p>
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) Laboratory reports (B1, B2) Essays (B3, B4, B5) Presentations (B1, B2, B3, B5, B6) Project reports (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6)</p>
Practical skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment

C1-Design and execute investigations	Practical skills are developed through the programme by:	Practical skills are assessed through:
C2-Interact ethically and professionally with research participants	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)	Laboratory reports (C3, C4), Statistics in-class tests (C3, C5) Essays (C7) Project reports (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7).
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:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
D1-Communicate effectively both orally and in writing	Transferable skills are developed through the programme by:	Transferable skills D1, D3, D4, D5 and D7 are assessed through unseen examinations, class tests, laboratory reports, essays, presentations, group discussions, critical self-reflection, and the project report.
D2-Work effectively within a group	D1 is taught through tutor-led study group sessions and developed through feedback on reports and essays written.	D2 is assessed through laboratory group work.
D3-Manage time and work to deadlines efficiently	D2 is taught through tutor-led study group sessions, laboratory group work.	D6 is assessed through group discussions and class debates.
D4-Learn independently with an enquiring mind	D3 is introduced through tutor-led study group sessions.	
D5-Effectively use information and communication technology	D4 is developed by encouraging students to search for and use supplementary materials to support their learning.	
D6-Show respect for the views and ideas of others	D5 is taught through formal instruction and practice in producing all types of coursework	
D7-Recognise the need to continually update knowledge and skills	D6 is developed through critical evaluation of published research and through class discussions and debates.	
	D7 is developed through critical self-reflection.	
	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-year part-time modes and leads to the award of a MSc Psychology. Entry is normally at level 7 with a good honours degree (at least upper second class classification or equivalent) in any subject area. Intake is normally in Semester A (September).

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

The programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society and upon successful completion of the course (180 credits, see Table 1b below) students are eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society. In order to obtain the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership the modules marked * in Table 1a must be passed.

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

N/A

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

Entry point Semester A (September)

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology*	7PSY0072	30	0	70	30	0	AB
The Biological Basis of Psychology*	7PSY0075	15	0	60	40	0	B
Individual Differences and Conceptual/ Historical Issues in Psychology*	7PSY0076	15	0	0	100	0	A
Research Planning*	7LMS2045	15	0	0	20	80	B
Using Data to Address Research Questions*	7LMS2046	15	0	0	100	0	A
Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology*	7LMS2047	15	0	0	90	10	A
Advanced Psychology Project*	7LMS2048	45	0	0	100	0	C

Modules marked * in the table above must be completed in order to be eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society.

In addition, any 2 of the following modules which have shared delivery with the final year BSc Psychology programme must be chosen (subject to availability in that academic year).

Optional Modules Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Forensic Psychology	7LMS0204	15	0	0	100	0	B
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205	15	0	100	0	0	B
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267	15	0	0	100	0	B
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017	15	0	0	100	0	B
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7LMS2049	15	0	0	100	0	B

The award of an MSc degree requires 180 credit points at level 7 including a 45-credit project.

Mode of study Part-Time

Entry point Semester A (September)

Year 1

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology*	7PSY0072	30	0	70	30	0	AB
The Biological Basis of Psychology*	7PSY0075	15	0	60	40	0	B
Individual Differences and Conceptual/ Historical Issues in Psychology*	7PSY0076	15	0	0	100	0	A

In addition, one of the following modules which have shared delivery with the final year BSc Psychology programme must be chosen (subject to availability in that academic year). Students must choose one option module in their first year of study and one option module in their second year of study.

Optional Modules Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Forensic Psychology	7LMS0204	15	0	0	100	0	B
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205	15	0	100	0	0	B
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267	15	0	0	100	0	B
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017	15	0	0	100	0	B
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7LMS2049	15	0	0	100	0	B

Students are typically required to complete all first-year modules before proceeding with the second-year modules.

Year 2

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Research Planning*	7LMS2045	15	0	0	20	80	B
Using Data to Address Research Questions*	7LMS2046	15	0	0	100	0	A
Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology*	7LMS2047	15	0	0	90	10	A
Advanced Psychology Project*	7LMS2048	45	0	0	100	0	C

Modules marked * in the table above must be completed in order to be eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society.

In addition, one of the following modules not previously studied must be chosen (subject to availability in that academic year). Students must choose one option module in their first year of study and one option module in their second year of study.

Optional Modules Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	% Test	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Forensic Psychology	7LMS0204	15	0	0	100	0	B
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205	15	0	100	0	0	B
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267	15	0	0	100	0	B
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017	15	0	0	100	0	B
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7LMS2049	15	0	0	100	0	B

The award of an MSc degree requires 180 credit points at level 7 including a 45-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)
Master of Science	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	Psychology	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2, 3 Semesters	A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7
Postgraduate Certificate	Psychology	60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters	A1, A3, B3, B4, B5, D1, D2, D3, D4, 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/UPR AS13](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

- As specified by the external validating body, no compensation for failed modules is permitted.
- For the final award, the project module must be included in the final degree classification.
- For the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society all core modules marked * must be passed.

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

- The maximum period within which a student may gain an award on the programme is 5 years from their date of registration on it.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- The Head of Department, the Dean of School and the Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance)
- A Programme Leader who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the programme as well as the recruitment and admissions
- Module leaders are responsible for individual modules
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the programme
- A programme committee, the membership of which includes the Programme Leader, Module Leaders and student representatives

Support

Students are supported by:

- An intensive induction session at the beginning of each new academic session
- A Programme Leader to help students understand the course structure and assessment regulations
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and pastoral support
- Detailed module guide information
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
- Programme administration team
- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Guided student-centred learning on Canvas module sites
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- Attractive modern study environments in 2 Learning Resources Centres
- A Mathematics Drop-in centre
- Medical Centre
- University Disability Advisors
- An Equality Office
- Careers and Employment Service
- The Students' Union
- School Academic Support Unit

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 dedicated programme site
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) 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/>.

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

- A good honours degree (at least upper second class classification or equivalent) in any subject area.
- International students should have an overall IELTS score of no less than 6.5 and with a minimum of 6.0 in each band. However, students with an IELTS score less than 7.0 are expected to attend Academic English alongside their studies.

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus.

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:
icaq@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to ago@herts.ac.uk

Master of Science in 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 & 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 & Conceptual/Historical Issues in Psychology	7PSY0076	X	X	X				X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Research Planning	7LMS2045	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Using Data to Address Research Questions	7LMS2046		X			X		X				X		X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology	7LMS2047		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advanced Psychology Project	7LMS2048		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								X			X		X	X
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205			X	X			X	X	X	X								X			X		X	X
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267			X	X			X	X	X	X								X			X		X	X
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017			X	X			X	X	X	X								X			X		X	X
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7LMS2049			X	X			X	X	X	X								X			X		X	X

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

Table 3: Development of Graduate Attributes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the Graduate Attributes are delivered in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the development of the Graduate Attributes (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own personal and professional development as the programme progresses. [Note that there is no requirement for the Graduate Attributes to be assessed through these modules]

D = Delivered

Module Title	Module Code	Professionally Focused	Globally Minded	Sustainability Driven	Digitally capable & confident	Inclusive and collaborative	Evidenced based and Ethical
Developmental, Social and Cognitive Psychology	7PSY0072		D	D		D	D
The Biological Basis of Psychology	7PSY0075		D	D		D	D
Individual Differences and Conceptual/ Historical Issues in Psychology	7PSY0076		D	D		D	D
Research Planning	7LMS2045	D	D	D	D	D	D
Using Data to Address Research Questions	7LMS2046	D	D	D	D	D	D
Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology	7LMS2047	D	D	D	D	D	D
Advanced Psychology Project	7LMS2048	D	D	D	D	D	D
Forensic Psychology	7LMS0204	D	D	D		D	D
Clinical Psychology	7LMS0205	D	D	D		D	D
Educational Psychology	7LMS0267	D	D	D		D	D
Occupational Psychology	7LMS2017	D	D	D	D	D	D
Cognitive Neuropsychology	7LMS2049	D	D	D	D	D	D

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements

Type of programme

Date of validation/last periodic review

Date of production/ last revision of PS

Relevant to level/cohort

Administrative School

Language of Delivery

Psychology

Taught Postgraduate

February 22

September 2020

Level 7 entering September 2023

School of Life and Medical Sciences

English

Table 4 Course structure

Course details			
Course Code	Course Description	HECOS	UCAS
HHPSYM	MSc Psychology	100497	N/A