

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

(Refer to the University's document: Graduate Standards and Programme Specification Requirements for further guidance and to the University's Learning and Teaching Policy)

MAY 2011

1. Qualification BSC (Hons) DipHE in Psychological Studies CertHE in Psychological Studies	2. Programme Title Counselling and Psychology	3. UCAS Code	4. Programme Type Modular: Single (S), Full- time and Part-time
<b>5. Main Purposes and Distinctive Features of the Programme</b>			
<p>To develop in students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. an appreciation of the diversity of perspectives in modern counselling and psychology;</li> <li>ii. a critical understanding of counselling and psychological theories, methods and debates;</li> <li>iii. the acquisition of research methods skills and a capacity to apply such skills to specific research problems in counselling and psychology, in the context of an appropriate awareness of relevant ethical issues;</li> <li>iv. an understanding of a range of applications of counselling psychology;</li> <li>v. key transferable skills in the areas of numeracy, communication, information technology and group work;</li> <li>vi. the acquisition of subject specific vocational skills (e.g. counselling)</li> <li>vii. the ability to engage in independent learning.</li> </ol> <p>The curriculum is consistent with the benchmarks for psychology, developed by both the Quality Assurance Agency and the British Psychological Society.</p> <p><u>Special Features</u> Opportunities for: Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (the Graduate Basis for Registration) of the British Psychological Society; self-negotiated career development and work-based learning. The qualification provides the basis for those students who wish to develop their professional qualifications within the counselling and psychology areas. The learning environment is characterised by: supportive and approachable staff with a diverse range of research interests; use of innovative methods of teaching and assessment; dedicated laboratory facilities.</p>			
<b>6. What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme</b> (objectives and learning outcomes)			
<p>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.</p>			
<p><i>Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject(s)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. critical awareness of the scientific orientation central to the discipline and alternatives to it</li> <li>ii. understanding of the key theories, conceptual frameworks, and debates central to the discipline</li> <li>iii. understanding of the range of empirical methods used to study human behaviour and awareness of any limitations associated with their use</li> <li>iv. awareness of a range of applications of counselling and psychological theory in contemporary society</li> <li>v. awareness of the boundaries of counselling and psychology and the discipline's relationship with other cognate disciplines</li> <li>vi. critical coherent understanding of a defined body of counselling and psychological knowledge informed by current research, and appreciation of the limits of that knowledge</li> <li>vii. understand the role and contribution of psychology and psychological theory and enquiry in the context of counselling</li> <li>viii. Awareness of how experiential learning from life may influence and inform the counselling process in both a positive and negative way</li> <li>ix. understanding of counselling within the professional context</li> </ol>		<p><i>Subject-specific practical/professional skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. competence to carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection;(especially within the context of counselling)</li> <li>ii. competence in analyzing data using quantitative and qualitative research methods and interpreting the results of the analysis</li> <li>iii. competence to carry out a systematic search, review and evaluation of psychological research findings (including electronic sources of information)</li> <li>iv. ability to apply critical analysis and evidence based reasoning to current research to identify a focus for further development</li> <li>v. competence to design and execute an original, independent piece of research in the area of counselling having due regard for ethical issues</li> <li>vi. competence to report research in an appropriate format</li> <li>vii. counselling and psychological awareness and understanding applicable to a range of situations and careers that can be used to enhance human experience</li> </ol>	

*Cognitive skills in the context of the subject(s)*

- i. the capacity for critical analysis and ability to develop an argument
- ii. the capacity to employ evidence based reasoning to make informed judgements
- iii. the capacity for creative thinking
- iv. the capacity to understand data sets and identify relationships
- v. the capacity to generate and explore research questions in a systematic way
- vi. the capacity for independent learning and problem solving
- vii. the capacity to apply and integrate findings across multiple perspectives
- viii. The ability to debate the application of psychological theory to counselling from an informed and appropriate critical stance

*Other skills (e.g. key/transferable) developed in subject or other contexts*

- i. to communicate effectively orally and in writing
- ii. to problem solve and reason systematically
- iii. numerical and quantitative skills appropriate to carrying out independent research
- iv. competent use of information technology
- v. self-management including time-management and willingness to take responsibility for thoughts and actions
- vi. independent learning and critical self-reflection as a basis for personal development and life-long learning
- vii. ability to engage in supportive peer collaboration and constructive criticism
- viii. Ability to evaluate strengths and weaknesses and intervene appropriately
- ix. Ability to reflect upon academic and personal development
- x. Ability to evaluate progress and performance in relation to long term academic and career progression

**7. Qualities, Skills & Capabilities Profile**

The educational and training goals of the programme seek to develop and demonstrate the following qualities, skills, capabilities and values in its graduates:

A Cognitive	B Practical	C Personal & Social	D Other
Conceptualization Critical reasoning Powers of analysis Flexibility of thought Synthetic thinking Creative thinking Theoretical and applied problem solving	Writing skills; Experimental design and quantitative research skills Fieldwork and qualitative research skills Information technology skills Presentation skills Communication skills Interview techniques	Self-expression Self-motivation Organisation and time management Teamwork Social interaction and communication Self-reflection Self awareness Self concept Stress Management	

**8. Subjects Studied, Levels, Credits & Qualifications**

(Duration and structure of programme/modes of study/credit volume of study units)  
 3 years full-time; organised on 2 semesters per year basis.

Part 1 (120 credits) - 6 HE4 20 credit modules (80 credits in core psychology / 40 credits in Counselling and Psychology). Part 2 (240 credits) - 6 HE5 (100 credits in core psychology / 20credits in Counselling and Psychology) and 6 HE6 20 credit modules (20 credits in core psychology / 100 in Counselling and Psychology).

*Core Modules*  
 prerequisite modules shown in brackets

*Optional Modules (may be varied)*  
 prerequisite modules shown in brackets

<b>Part 2 Level HE6</b>	PSC3300 The Honours Project (40 credits); (COP2500) Research Methods for Counselling  PSC3300 Psychology Practicum (PSC1221 and PSC2501)  PSC3204 Psychology And Counselling  COP3001 Skills and Practice in Counselling	PSC3207 Abnormal Psychology (PSC2514) PSC3225 Mental Health Perspectives PSC3227 Assessment of Personality (PSC2514) PSC3236 Psychology of Loss and Trauma
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<b>Part 2 Level HE5</b>	<b>PSC2500 Cognitive Psychology;</b> (PSC1202) <b>PSC2501 Biopsychology;</b> (PSC1202) <b>PSC2503 Research Methods in Psychology</b> (PSC1223) <b>PSC2514 Personality &amp; Developmental;</b> (PSC1217) <b>PSC2515 Social &amp; Critical Psychology;</b> (PSC1217) <b>COP2000 Research Methods for Counselling</b> (PSC2503)	<i>HE Diploma 240 Credits</i>
<b>Part 1 Level HE4</b>	<b>PSC1202 Cognitive &amp; Biopsychological Perspectives</b> <b>PSC1217 Understanding the Person</b> <b>PSC1223 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology</b> <b>PSC1228 Exploring Psychology II</b> <b>CMM1000 Career Management</b> <b>COP1000 Coaching for Life Skills, Stress and Transition</b> <b>COP1001 Introduction to Counselling Concepts</b>	<i>HE Certificate 120 Credits</i>
<p align="center"><b>9. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy</b></p> <p><u>Learning and Teaching Methods</u> Active learning is promoted via: practical classes; laboratory workshops; seminars; tutorials; self-directed study; lectures; video viewing and analysis; IT sessions; guided study; fieldwork, residential workshops.</p> <p><u>Assessment Methods</u> 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);</p> <p>Types of assessment include:  <b>Coursework</b>  essays – 1,500-2,000 words in length  practical reports  analysis of tapes  statistical assignments  seminar presentations  seminar reports  posters  poster presentations  project - normally 6-10,000 words in length</p> <p><i>Time-limited assessments</i>  examinations (seen / unseen)  in-class assessments of various types</p> <p><u>Assessment Classification System</u>  Pass mark for individual assessments - 40%  The degree classification is based on 30% of the best 4/6 modules at level HE5 and 70% of all modules at level HE6.</p> <p><u>Honours Classification Bands</u></p> <p>(Marginal Criteria operate within final 2% of each category)</p> 70% and above - First Class 60% - 69% - Upper Second Class 50% - 59% - Lower Second Class 40% - 49% - Third Class		<p align="center"><b>10. Other Information</b></p> <p><u>Date programme first offered</u> 2004/5</p> <p><u>Admissions Criteria</u></p> <p><i>Standard Requirements</i> 260 UCAS tariff points from at least two, but preferably three A2 levels (or equivalent) in any subjects plus 5 subjects at GCSE including Mathematics and English (Grade C or above); Equivalent EU, Scottish or Irish qualifications; appropriate number and level of Edexcel / BTEC qualifications; Kite marked Access Certificate.</p> <p>Other cases dealt with by Admissions Tutor on an individual basis. Special consideration is given to mature applicants aged 21 years or over, without the above qualifications, but who have relevant work/life experience.</p> <p><u>Indicators of Quality and Standards</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Course is accredited as providing Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (the Graduate Basis for Registration) of the BPS, which is the first step towards attaining Chartered Membership (Chartered Psychologist).</li> <li>ii. Research Assessment Exercise 2001, achieved a rating of 3b; in 2008 90% of research activity judged to be of national or international standing with a proportion judged to be "internationally excellent".</li> <li>iii.</li> </ol>