

1.5.1 PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

1. Qualification M.Sc.	2. Programme Title Psychology	3. UCAS Code	4. Programme Type Postgraduate
5. Main Purposes and Distinctive Features of the Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide learning opportunities, underpinned by staff research, for graduate psychologists to develop systematic and comprehensive knowledge of selected areas of psychology. • To provide research training to enable graduate psychologists to conceptualise, design and implement a substantial piece of independent research which will contribute to the development of new ideas and approaches at the forefront of a particular area of psychology. • To provide a basis for and a route towards research degree registration in psychology. • To provide opportunities, support and encouragement for graduate psychologists to enhance their independence/autonomy. <p>Distinctive features: a diverse range of topic areas taught by active researchers reflecting current research interests and applications; learning in small groups; learner-centred, supportive learning environment responsive to individual needs and expectations; a programme aimed towards widening access to achieve regional targets for higher level skills attainment; modules which are designed to be relevant and attractive to local and regional learners with an emphasis on applications and applying psychology.</p>			
6. What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme			
<u>Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject(s)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic and comprehensive subject knowledge in selected areas of psychology • Critical awareness of the conceptual frameworks underpinning psychology • Critical awareness of current problems, issues and debates at the forefront of topic areas • Advanced knowledge of research design, ethics and methods relevant to psychology • Comprehensive understanding of data analysis techniques including both qualitative and quantitative approaches relevant to psychology 		<u>Subject-specific practical/professional skills</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to carry out an electronic literature search • Able to carry out an evaluative literature review using primary sources • Able to critically evaluate current research and methodologies • Able to design a substantial research study and write a research proposal • Able to carry out a substantial piece of independent research using appropriate methods and analyses with due regard to ethical issues • Able to write concisely and clearly to produce a research report in the standard format for the subject area suitable for publication. 	

1.5.1 PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<p><u>Cognitive skills in the context of the subjects(s)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to think independently and act autonomously • Advanced skills in analytic thinking • Advanced skills in synthetic thinking • Advanced skills in creative thinking • Advanced skills in evaluative thinking • Continued development of problem solving skills • Ability to make informed judgements in the absence of complete or ambiguous evidence • Appreciation of the limits of knowledge in selected areas of psychology 	<p><u>Other skills (e.g. key/transferable) developed in subject or other contexts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of competence in IT skills • Able to communicate, present information and conclusions and take questions from both an informed and naive audience • Advanced data handling skills • Ability to study independently and willingness to take responsibility and be accountable for ideas and judgement • Confidence to be responsive to the views and ideas of others • Confidence to examine and criticise the ideas of others • Able to engage in supportive peer collaboration and constructive criticism • The commitment to engage in self-motivated study • Able to engage in independent learning appropriate for continued professional development • Awareness of and willingness to engage in Personal Development Planning with respect to life-long learning.
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7. Qualities, Skills & Capabilities Profile

A Cognitive	B Practical	C Personal & Social	D Other
Independent thinking	Advanced skills of written communication	Self-confidence	Presentation skills
Analytic thinking	Advanced skills of oral communication	Self-development	
Synthetic thinking	Advanced IT skills	Self-awareness	
Creative thinking	Advanced information search skills	Able to work independently	
Evaluative thinking	Advanced research design skills	Self-motivation	
Critical thinking	Advanced data handling/analysis skills	Willingness to make decisions and accept responsibility for them	

8. Duration and structure of Programme/Modes of Study/Credit Volume of Study Units

One year full-time, two years part-time.

M.Sc. Psychology comprises 180 credits of which at least 30 credits are taken from HE7 mandatory modules and 10 credits from HE8 mandatory modules; 80 credits are taken from HE7 optional modules, and the remaining 60 credits comprises a research dissertation taken at HE8.

P/G Dip Psychology is an exit award and comprises 120 credits of HE7 optional or mandatory modules.

P/G Cert Psychology is an exit award and comprises 60 credits of HE7 optional or mandatory modules.

<p>M.Sc. (180 credits)</p>	<p><u>Mandatory Modules (HE7&8)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological and Social Research, Review, Evaluation and Design (10 credits) • Either Quantitative Inquiry¹ or Qualitative Inquiry (20 credits) • Psychology Dissertation Proposal 	<p><u>Options (HE7) (normally 20 credits each)</u></p>	<p><u>Project (HE8) (60 credits)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation (60 credits, level HE8) mandatory for M.Sc.
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1.5.1 PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

	module (10 credits, level HE8)		
PG Diploma (120 credits)	No core modules 120 credits at level HE7 taken from the list of 20 credit (unless indicated) optional modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Issues in Developmental Psychology • Current Issues in Cognitive Psychology • Computing & Cyberpsychology • Psychology of Decision Making • Independent Study (10 credits) • Cognitive and Neuropsychological Assessment for Clinical Populations 	
PG Certificate (60 credits)	No core modules 60 credits at level HE7 from the list of 20 credit (unless indicated) optional modules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Issues in Developmental Psychology • Current Issues in Cognitive Psychology • Computing & Cyberpsychology • Psychology of Decision Making • Independent Study (10 credits) • Cognitive and Neuropsychological Assessment for Clinical Populations 	

1.5.1 PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

9. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Learning and Teaching Methods

Independent and active learning promoted by small group lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, open learning materials, practical exercises

Assessment Methods

Assessment tasks are linked to the learning outcomes of each module and are normally completed throughout the module to facilitate both formative and summative assessment. Diverse range of assessment including essays, practical reports, presentations, research proposals and dissertation.

Assessment Classification System

Pass mark 40%

Masters assessment criteria for coursework.
Specific criteria for non-standard assessments.
Opportunity for M.Sc. with Distinction.

Distinction Classification Bands

Average 70% or over in taught modules AND
Dissertation 70% or over

10 Other Information (including compliance with relevant Institute policies)

Date programme first offered

Programme first offered in 1992, revised to accommodate modular framework in 1996.

Admissions Criteria

Standard Requirements

2(i) or above honours degree in psychology which is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) of BPS.

Students with a high 2(ii) classification will be offered a place on the M.Sc. initially as an associate student.

Non Standard Entry

Indicators of Quality and Standards

QAA rating of 24 November 1999.