

## Programme Specification

**Programme Title:** Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies

**Awarding Institution:** University of Bolton

**Teaching Institution:** University of Bolton, UK

**Division and/or Faculty/Institute:** Faculty of Wellbeing and Social Sciences

<b>Professional accreditation</b>	Professional body British Psychological Society	Professional body URL <a href="http://www.bps.org.uk/">www.bps.org.uk/</a>	Status of graduates Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership
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**Final award(s):** Postgraduate Diploma

**Interim award(s)** None

**Exit or Fallback award(s)** Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies  
Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Science

**Programme title(s)** Psychological Studies

**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

**Language of study** English

**Mode of study and normal period of study** Full time 1 year  
Part time 1.5 years

**Admissions criteria**

At least an upper second class honours degree, or equivalent  
**OR** A third class degree and a Masters degree, or equivalent

**AND** At least 60 credits in Psychology from previous study or completion of the Graduate Foundation Studies in Psychology course with an average of 50% or more (equivalent to a 2:2)

Overseas students minimum IELTS 6.5 required

**Additional admissions matters**

None

**Fitness to practise declaration**

Not applicable

**Aims of the programme**

The principal aims of the programme are:

1. To provide eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society and underpin the opportunity to complete further postgraduate professional training in psychology.
2. To provide an advanced critical understanding of psychological theories, methods and debates
3. To develop general transferable skills in preparation for postgraduate employment
4. To provide a supportive and intellectually stimulating learning environment in which each person's knowledge is utilised to encourage discussion and debate, and to promote critical thought and inquiry.

**Distinctive features of the programme**

This course is accredited by BPS (British Psychological Society) and provides the opportunity for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. The learning environment is characterised by supportive and approachable staff in psychology, with a diverse range of research interests and the use of innovative methods of teaching and assessment.

In terms of facilities, 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 applications for neuroscience research) and Stim2 (stimulus design and presentation software).

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies there is the

opportunity to gain 90 credits APL (Approved Prior Learning) towards the MSc Psychology degree.

### **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. all areas of core psychology
2. the conceptual frameworks underpinning psychology
3. current problems, issues and debates at the forefront of topic areas
4. data analysis techniques including both qualitative and quantitative approaches relevant to psychology

### **C. Cognitive, intellectual or thinking skills**

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

1. for autonomous, systematic critical reasoning and analysis.
2. for creative thinking
3. to comprehensively and critically evaluate theoretical concepts in psychology
4. to critically synthesise data/information and interpret complex research findings
5. for continuous development of problem solving skills
6. to appreciate the limits of knowledge in selected areas of psychology

### **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 a systematic search, review and evaluation of psychological research findings (including electronic sources of information);
2. apply advanced critical analysis and evidence-based reasoning to current research and methodologies
3. design and execute an original, independent piece of research having due regard for ethical issues
4. write concisely and clearly to produce a research report in the standard format for the subject area

### **T. Transferable, key or personal skills**

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

1. communicate effectively, both orally and in writing

2. utilise numerical and quantitative skills appropriate to carrying out independent research
3. competently use Information Technology
4. Self-manage, including time management and willingness to take responsibility for own thoughts and actions

### Programme structure

Six module course covering core areas of Psychology as specified by British Psychological Society:

1 X 20 credit modules at Level 6

Advanced Research Methods,

5 X 20 credit modules at Level 7

Advanced Social and Critical Psychology,

Advanced Biopsychology,

Advanced Cognitive Psychology,

Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology,

Psychology Dissertation .

All these modules are core and contribute to the final award granted, i.e. Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies. It is this award that confers eligibility for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of British Psychological Society, provided it is completed with an average mark over the six modules of 50% or more (equivalent to an upper second class honours undergraduate degree).

If you fail any of these core modules, you can substitute the failed module with another from the postgraduate level within Psychology, but you would be awarded the fallback award of Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Science. This does not confer GBC.

Similarly, if you achieve an average mark across the six modules of less than 50%, you would be awarded the fallback award of Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Science.

Module Code	Module title	Core/ Option/ Elective (C/O/E)	Credits	Length (1, 2 or 3 periods)
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Advanced Research Methods	PSC6012	Core	20	1
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	Core	20	1
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	Core	20	1
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	Core	20	1
Advanced Personality & Developmental	PSA7004	Core	20	1

Programme specification: [Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies]

Date: [3/03/2012]

Psychology				
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	Core	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 required for this course. This course is a conversion course for graduates wishing to attain eligibility for membership of British Psychological Society. Its is delivered at Level 6/7 but the majority of the lectures are shared with undergraduate Psychology programmes.

### **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.

## Assessment regulations

- Assessment Regulations for Postgraduate Modular Programmes

## Grade bands and classifications

Grade Description	Mark %
Work of exceptional quality	70+
Work of very good quality	60-69
Work of good quality	50-59
Work of satisfactory quality	40-49
Borderline fail	35-39
Fail	Below 35

## Grading

The award of Masters with Distinction may be made where your overall average mark is at least 70% and you have achieved at least 70% in your dissertation or project. If your overall performance falls within the marginal boundary grade of 68-69.99 a modal profile will be used to enable the Assessment Board to make an award with distinction. If you have an aggregate mark within the relevant boundary grade (68-69.99%) and you have a majority of module grades, including the dissertation/project, in the higher classification band you may be awarded the Masters Degree with Distinction.

## 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

Programme specification: [Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies]

Date: [3/03/2012]

- 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
- Student 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](http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Students)

Students Union (add link)

[www.ubsu.org.uk](http://www.ubsu.org.uk)

Faculty or similar Handbook (add link)

[www.bolton.ac.uk/Students/FacultyofWellbeingSocialSciencesHandbook.pdf](http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Students/FacultyofWellbeingSocialSciencesHandbook.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/QAECContents/ExternalExaminersReports/>

## **Document control**

**Author(s)** Pauline Matthews

**Approved by:**

**Date approved:**

**Effective from:** 2012/13

**Document History:**



### Learning outcomes map

Module title	Mod Code	Status C/O/E	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	P1	P2	P3	P4	T1	T2	T3	T4	
Advanced Research Methods	PSC6012	C	D	D	T	A	A	D	D	A	D	T	T	T, A	D, T,	A	A	A	A	A	D, T
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	C	D, T, A	D, T, A	D, T, A		D, T, A	D	D, T, A	D, A		D	A	T, A			A				
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	C	A	D, T	A	D	D, T	D	D, T, A	D	D, T	D	D	D	D	D	D, T	D	D	D	T
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	C	D, T, A	D, T, A	D, T, A		D, A	D, T, A	D, T, A		D, T, A	D, T, A		D, T, A			D, A				D
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	C	A	A	T		D		A	A		D	D	D		D	D				D
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	C	A	A	T	A	A	A	A	A	T, A	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	T, A

**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

Module title	Mod Code	New? ✓	Level	Credits	Type	Core/Option /Elective C/O/E	Pre-requisite module	Assessment 1			Assessment 2		
								Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item	Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item
Advanced Research Methods	PSC6012	Yes	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		CW	50	Y
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	Yes	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50	Y	CW	50	
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	Yes	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		EX	50	Y
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	Yes	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		CW	50	Y
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	Yes	7	20	STAN	Core	None	CW	50		CW	50	Y
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	Yes	7	20	DISS	Core	None	CW	100	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
Advanced Research Methods	PSC6012	C	T	A	D	D	D, T, A	D	D	T	D	D	D	T	D	T
Advanced Social and Critical Psychology	PSA7001	C		D, A		D		T			D			D, T		D, T
Advanced Biopsychology	PSA7002	C		D, A	D	D	D				T			D, T	D	D, T
Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSA7003	C		D, T, A	D	D		D, T	D	D	D	D				D, T
Advanced Personality & Developmental Psychology	PSA7004	C		D, A		D			D		D	D	D	T		T
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7005	C	D	D, A		D	D, A	D, A	D	D, A	D	D	D	D		D, T, A

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

Programme specification: [Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies]

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