

Psychology MSc Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027	
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford	
Main Location:	City Campus	
Subject Benchmarks:	Psychology (Quality Assurance Agency 2019)	
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)	
Target Degree Award:	Master of Science (MSc) Psychology	[FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) Psychological Studies	[FHEQ Level 7]
	Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) Psychological Studies	[FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students	
Programme Start Dates:	September	
Programme Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (direct applicants)	
	12-18 months full-time (international incorporated Masters, partner entry only)	

This MSc programme is accredited by the [British Psychological Society \(BPS\)](#) as conferring eligibility for its [Graduate Membership \(GMBPsS\)](#) provided a minimum standard of 50% is achieved. GMBPsS provides a basis for progression to BPS-accredited postgraduate professional training in psychology for training to become a Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol). Applicants who already have a BPS-accredited psychology degree are not eligible to apply for this MSc Psychology programme.

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Changes Schedule

1. March 2024: Annual review and formatting: PGD [target] route withdrawn.
2. July 2025: Annual changes for the 2025 academic year including changes to academic regulation.
3. September 2025: Confirmed simplified curriculum structure and learning outcomes.
4. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry including admissions.

Introduction

The scientific and empirical study of psychology at undergraduate and postgraduate levels allows the development of skills and knowledge relevant to a wide variety of careers and professions. Whilst many students study psychology as part of their undergraduate programmes, not all of these provide eligibility for the [British Psychological Society](#) Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. This qualification is currently necessary for most postgraduate training in professional psychology, for example, clinical psychology, educational psychology, forensic psychology, health psychology, counselling psychology. If students have not taken an accredited award in psychology, they may undertake what is commonly referred to as a 'Conversion Award' like this MSc Psychology programme. If successful, graduates will be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society. In order for this eligibility the empirical project must be passed and a minimum overall mark of 50% (2:2) must be achieved.

The Department of Psychology is located within the Faculty of Management, Sciences and Engineering and offers a number of programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Teaching excellence is a priority for the Faculty. Teaching is informed and supported by a commitment to research; the departmental staff consists of researchers who bring expertise from their ongoing academic studies to the lectures and laboratory classes.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. apply scientific principles generally, though specifically in understanding the mind, brain, behaviour and experience and the complex interactions between these.
- A2. present multiple perspectives and consider the inter-relationship of psychological knowledge in a way that fosters critical evaluation.
- A3. evaluate of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory as well as how theory guides the collection and interpretation of data.
- A4. apply ethical principles and a range of research skills and methods to the investigation of experience and behaviour, culminating in the ability to conduct research independently.
- A5. critically evaluate theory, research findings and recognise the transformative nature of psychology as well as its real-life applications.
- A6. apply employability-related and personal transferable knowledge and skills to be able to progress to further advanced study in psychology, psychology-related employment or to move into employment or further study that do not require psychology subject specific skills.
- A7. apply the principles of psychological literacy by demonstrating an awareness of self and others and developing the potential to become ethical, socially and environmentally responsible participants in their communities/society, beyond university and employment.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 award of Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies, students will be able to:

1. Present a systematic and critical understanding of the scientific underpinnings of certain areas of psychology, showing an understanding that there are multiple perspectives, and that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories and evidence.
2. Draw on knowledge at the forefront of contemporary psychology, synthesise and apply knowledge originally when commenting on a range of influences on psychological behaviour, functioning and experience.
3. Critically evaluate the conceptual contribution of certain core domains of psychology including application, perspectives and theories, and integrate into new contexts.
4. Critically interpret and systematically evaluate quantitative and/or qualitative data.
5. Critically consider ethical issues in psychology in specific contexts.
6. Communicate effectively using a range of written, oral and visual means in order to present structured, coherent and evidence-based arguments.
7. Be computer literate for the purposes of furthering their own learning including an understanding and application of specialist psychological software.
8. Work individually and autonomously, showing a critical awareness of contextual and interpersonal factors.
9. Reflect critically and act autonomously in relation to academic and professional self-development.
10. Present critical and conceptual understanding of multiple perspectives when problem solving within appropriate psychological domains.
11. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the reciprocal relationship between environment and behaviour.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 award of Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies, students will be able to:

12. Present a systematic and critical understanding of the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline, showing a comprehensive understanding that there are multiple perspectives, and that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories and evidence.
13. Critically evaluate the conceptual contribution of the core domains of psychology including application, perspectives and theories, and integrate into new contexts.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Degree award of Master of Science in Psychology, students will be able to:

14. Present a systematic and critically evaluative review of contemporary psychological literature within at least one of the core domains of psychology.
15. Initiate, design, conduct and report an original empirically based research project under appropriate supervision including the generation of research hypotheses/research questions in relation to theories and concepts, and to demonstrate the ability to make decisions in complex situations.

Assessment Strategy

Modules are assessed by a variety of means including essays, practical assessments, laboratory reports, case studies and presentations. Formative assessment in every module will give students the opportunity to reflect upon and develop academic skills. For example, in PSY7011-B Social Psychology, they will have a number of structured sets of questions in the laboratory classes to enable feedback to be provided. In PSY7004-B Research Methods in Psychology, feedback will be provided to students as they complete their work over the first semester. In conjunction with their personal tutor, the module tutor and the programme leader students will be encouraged to reflect on assignment feedback and improve their techniques.

The Psychology Masters Dissertation offer students the opportunity to carry out an empirical piece of research investigating one area in depth, using the skills developed during the programme. Students will be able to choose an area of psychology they wish to research. This will reflect the diversity of the core psychology curriculum and staff expertise. This study will help to further develop their skills to work independently and rigorously, whilst benefiting from the support of a member of staff with experience in a similar area.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The teaching, learning and assessment strategies are based on the programme and module learning outcomes and the need for appropriate independent study at this level. Teaching on the programme will comprise of online lectures, seminars, and supporting activities and a combination of online and face-to-face workshops and practical laboratories.

Students will explore theories in current debates and develop experience and confidence to make a considered contribution to an argument. Students will develop discipline skills that can be applied to either their personal or professional expertise. Throughout the programme, students will acquire skills in knowledge acquisition, presentation, discussion and debate that will be useful in their career progression. Assessment will usually be a written expression of their skills, through essays or journal writing. Students will also develop skills in presenting research findings and in the production of laboratory reports. Assessment criteria are transparent and published.

Transferable skills and employability skills are assessed, some examples being (but not limited to): handling data in research methods and other modules; presenting and communicating in many modules; using case studies to explore issues; reflection and independence.

Curriculum

All students study 5 core modules in different areas of psychology along with research skills to prepare for the final project. Students will start work on the 60-credit Psychology Masters Dissertation module (PSY7008-E) in Semester 2, which is sometimes referred to as the empirical research project. In Semester 2, students also select 1 module option from the following list while beginning preparations for the empirical project.

Table 1: PGC/PGD Psychological Studies, MSc Psychology modules (FHEQ Level 7)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Selection
PSY7010-B	Cognitive Psychology	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY7011-B	Social Psychology	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY7004-B	Research Methods in psychology	20	Semester 1	Core
PSY7012-B	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	20	Semester 2	Core
PSY7026-B	Lifespan psychology & Individual Differences	20	Semester 2	Core
PSY7008-E	Dissertation - Psychology	60	NSYR	Core
PSY6005-B	The Psychology of Health and Eating	20	Semester 2	Option 1
PSY6001-B	Forensic Psychology	20	Semester 2	Option 2
PSY7017-B	Putting Health in Context	20	Semester 2	Option 3
PSY7014-B	Topics and Theoretical Issues in Clinical Psychology	20	Semester 2	Option 4

Please note that the curriculum may change at relatively short notice subject to the stringent ongoing requirements of BPS accreditation. Such changes will be made in accordance with the University's programme approval, modification and review procedures.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for postgraduate taught courses published on the University's Website ([Regulation 9](#)).

Students study towards a 180-credit Master's degree. Students who successfully complete 180 credits and achieve the award learning outcomes 1-15 will be eligible for the target FHEQ Level 7 Degree of Master of Science award in Psychology. The MSc Psychology confers eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society provided the Dissertation is passed and a minimum overall mark of 50% is achieved.

Exiting the programme before completing the project could lead to a Psychological Studies diploma or certificate. If students accumulate 60 credits and achieve award learning outcomes 1-11 they will be eligible for the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies. Additionally, if students accumulate 120 credits and further achieve award learning outcomes 1-13, they will be eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies. The Psychological Studies awards do not confer eligibility for BPS membership.

Admissions

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

English and Maths

The programme is taught in English and uses numeracy, so all applicants are required to have proficiency at GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language and Mathematics. Alternative, equivalent RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable.

For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#). Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements. International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-sessional English course](#).

Typical Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants will typically have either a first degree passed at 2:2 or above which has not been accredited by BPS (for example, in another subject than Psychology) or an unaccredited Psychology first degree. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or returners to study (those over 26 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience, but evidence of Level 6 study will be required as per BPS requirements:

All applicants to conversion programmes must hold a degree-level qualification (Level 6, or Level 10 in Scotland, or higher). This may include a degree in a subject other than psychology, or a degree in psychology that has not been accredited by the British Psychological Society. The latter may also include applicants who have undertaken an accredited degree, but who have failed to either pass the empirical psychology project, or achieve at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree.

This qualification is specifically designed for students if they have not gained a British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited Psychology undergraduate degree. This conversion award enables students to demonstrate the core competencies required by the BPS and allows

students upon graduation to access a career path in further professional psychology. BPS accreditation is not required for international psychological study/qualification but is widely recognised as a mark of excellence around the world.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

We regret that applicants already holding a BPS accredited psychology degree are ineligible to apply to MSc Psychology at Bradford. We offer an alternative [MSc in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing course](#) for such interested students and this course has excellent links to the University's Applied Health Research unit.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/psychology/>

Information about entry to UBI provision for this programme including available pathways is published online by Oxford International Education Group:

<https://www.oxfordinternational.com/courses/detail/degree-university-of-bradford-msc-hons-psychology/>