

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Psychology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	British Psychological Society
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time or part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MSc Psychology
Named Exit Awards	PgC Psychology (60 credits) PgD Psychology (120 credits)
Entry Requirements ⁴	Applicants must hold a degree-level qualification (level 6, or level 10 in Scotland, or higher). This may include a degree in any subject, or a degree in psychology that has not been accredited by the British Psychological Society. This 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.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	TBC

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Psychology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering in the 2024-25 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

The MSc Psychology programme offers students a conversion route into psychology. The course covers a range of psychological perspectives including biological, cognitive, developmental, and social. The course is underpinned by a thorough review of a range of research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, and exploration of the scientific method. Delivery of teaching will include face-to-face lectures, online activities, discussion and seminar

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [QAA Higher education credit framework for England \(2021\)](#).

³ The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards \(2022\)](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy \(2022\)](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy \(2022\)](#).

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groups and practical workshop sessions in dedicated laboratories. Students will also undertake their own independent research project under supervision. Graduates from the programme who achieve a minimum of 50% overall will be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Course Aims

1. Promote an advanced scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, and how they interact with the complex environments in which they exist;
2. Provide knowledge enabling the acquisition of a range of research skills and methods for investigating experience and behaviour, culminating in an advanced ability to conduct research independently;
3. Develop an advanced understanding of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory, and also in how theory guides the collection and interpretation of empirical data;
4. Present multiple perspectives in a way that fosters advanced critical evaluation and reflection;
5. Develop knowledge, leading to an advanced appreciation of theory and research findings, including relevant ethical and sociocultural issues;
6. Contribute to an advanced understanding of real-life applications of theory to the full range of experience and behaviour and the advanced application of psychological understanding to real-world questions.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Psychology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)^{6, 7}.

Learning outcome number	Learning outcome
Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
i	To understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline, its historical origins, development and limitations
ii	To recognise the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning and its significance
iii	To demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of a range of influences on psychological functioning, how they are conceptualised and how they interrelate
iv	To demonstrate detailed knowledge of several specialised areas and/or applications, some of which are at the cutting edge of research in the discipline

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

⁷ and the [QAA Subject Benchmark for Psychology \(2019\)](#)

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v	To demonstrate a systematic knowledge of a range of research paradigms, research methods and measurement techniques, including statistics and probability, and be aware of their limitations.
Subject-Specific Skills	
i	To reason scientifically, understand the role of evidence and make critical judgements about arguments in psychology
ii	To adopt multiple perspectives and systematically analyse the relationships between them
iii	To detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and evaluate their significance
iv	To recognise the subjective and variable nature of individual experience
v	To pose, operationalise and critique research questions
vi	To demonstrate substantial competence in research skills through practical activities
vii	To reason analytically and demonstrate competence in a range of quantitative and qualitative methods
viii	To competently initiate, design, conduct and report on an empirically-based research project under appropriate supervision, and recognise its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations
ix	To be aware of ethical principles and approval procedures and demonstrate these in relation to personal study, particularly with regard to the research project, and be aware of the ethical context of psychology as a discipline
Generic Skills	
i	To communicate effectively. Effective communication involves developing a cogent argument supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience. This is accomplished through specific demands to write both essays and scientific reports, and through experience in making oral presentations to groups
ii	To demonstrate numerical reasoning skills
iii	To be computer literate, displaying at the very least skill in the use of word processing, databases and analytic software packages
iv	To retrieve and organise information effectively. Psychology graduates are familiar with collecting and organising stored information found in library books and journal collections, and online, critically evaluating primary and secondary sources
v	To recognise what is required for effective teamwork and articulate their own strengths and weaknesses in this regard. The complexity of the factors that shape behaviour and social interaction will be familiar to psychology graduates and will make them more aware of the basis of successful and problematic interpersonal relationships
vi	To take responsibility for their own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills, so they become more independent and pragmatic as learners

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- QAA Subject Benchmark for Psychology (2019)
- British Psychological Society Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in Psychology (2019)

Course Structure

The MSc Psychology comprises of BPS accredited modules delivered at undergraduate level with advanced seminars and assessment at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module	Credits	Module Type ⁸
Psychological Research Methods and Skills (Advanced)	0	M
Advanced Biological and Cognitive Psychology I	20	M
Advanced Social and Developmental Psychology I	20	M
Advanced Qualitative Research Methods	20	M
Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis	20	M
Advanced Biological and Cognitive Psychology II	20	M
Advanced Social and Development Psychology II	20	M
Advanced Individual Differences	20	M
Advanced Psychology Project	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MSc Psychology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Psychology on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC Psychology on successful completion of 60 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at our Ipswich campus. Students on the MSc Psychology programme are likely to have between 5-21 contact hours per week and block dependent on the module(s) plus an additional 12 contact hours for tutorials associated with the advanced psychology project across an academic year. The contact hours will be a mix of face-to-face lectures,

⁸ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards \(2022\)](#)

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online activities, seminars and practical workshops. Students will normally be expected to undertake 20 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assessment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly from coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) with an examination.

Special Features

Graduates who have passed all modules to a total of 180 credits, including the advanced psychology project, and have gained a minimum of 50% overall are eligible to apply for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and most are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. BPS).

Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Psychology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,090 per year
Full-time EU/International	£14,625 per year
Part-time UK	£1,010 per 20 credit module
Part-time EU/International	£1,625 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).