

MA Psychology Modules

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document provides general guidance only. While every care has been taken to provide correct information at the date of authoring (September 2017), information may be subject to revision from time to time.

Compulsory Modules

Module title:	Current Research 1
Module code:	03 25444
Module leader	Dr Natalie Kelly
Semester:	1
Credit value:	10
Delivery method:	Lectures and Seminars
Assessment method:	Two diary entries of seminars attended, each contribute 50% of grade
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	Lectures will provide an overview of current research in psychology, as well as theoretical debates and methodologies.
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module the student should be able to: demonstrate a broad knowledge of current research in psychology; understand the current theoretical debates; understand the methodologies employed in current research.
Recommended reading list:	For this module, there is no set reading list. Instead, students are advised to engage in general study of the key scientific thinking, writing, and presentation skills (see above), and to engage in critical reading of academic sources for the subject-specific content. Some academic sources will be recommended by the module leaders.

Module title:	Current Research 2
Module code:	03 25728
Module leader	Dr Natalie Kelly
Semester:	2
Credit value:	10
Delivery method:	Lectures and Seminars
Assessment method:	Two diary entries of seminars attended, each contribute 50% of grade
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	Lectures will provide an overview of current research in psychology, as well as theoretical debates and methodologies.
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module the student should be able to: demonstrate a broad knowledge of current research in psychology; understand the current theoretical debates; understand the methodologies employed in current research.
Recommended reading list:	For this module, there is no set reading list. Instead, students are advised to engage in general study of the key scientific thinking, writing, and presentation skills (see above), and to engage in critical reading of academic sources for the subject-specific content. Some academic sources will be recommended by the module leaders.

Module title:	Foundations in Critical Thinking
Module code:	03 14418
Module leader	Dr Natalie Kelly
Semester:	1 and 2
Credit value:	10
Delivery method:	Tutor/student-led discussion seminars
Assessment method:	Critical analysis of selected journal articles (60%), group oral presentation of a critique of a published research report (30%), attendance at each group presentation session (10%).
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	Lectures discuss current research techniques and develop critical approaches to reading and evaluating research articles. The module includes small group discussions where students target critique of specific research approaches.
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module students should be able to: discuss and identify different research approaches; identify current and emerging research topics and techniques, and critically assess and review journal articles.
Recommended reading list:	Bell, P., Staines, P. & Mitchell, J. (2001). <i>Evaluating, doing and writing research in Psychology</i> . London: Sage.

Module title:	Research Review
Module code:	03 27296
Module leader	Dr Fay Julal
Semester:	1
Credit value:	20
Delivery method:	Seminars, paired activities and tutorials
Assessment method:	A 750 word annotated bibliography on a selected topic (10%), and a 3,000 word narrative literature review (90%)
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	In a series of seminars, paired activities and one-to-one tutorials, students will be introduced to the skills required to conduct a literature review (e.g. academic writing; APA style; critical analysis), will discuss existing literature reviews and complete formative assessments. Students will select a specific research topic (e.g. one linked to their MA Psychology Project topic), engage in wide reading around the topic, and discuss different viewpoints and methods. Students will then develop an annotated bibliography and a narrative review article, employing the skills developed.
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module students should be able to: systematically and critically review research on a selected topic in Psychology and related disciplines; communicate effectively in writing, using professionally accepted protocols; understand different viewpoints and methods within a selected topic in Psychology, and understand the methodologies and background knowledge relevant to a selected topic in Psychology.
Recommended reading list:	<p>Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1997). Writing narrative literature reviews. <i>Review of General Psychology</i>, 1, 311–320.</p> <p>Bem, D. J. (1995). Writing a review article for Psychological Bulletin. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i>, 118, 172–177.</p> <p>Cooper, H., & Shoolbred, M. (2016). Where's your argument? Pocket study skills. Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Fink, A. (2014). Conducting research literature reviews: From the internet to paper (4th ed.). London: Sage.</p> <p>Hartley, J. (2008). Academic writing and publishing: A practical handbook. Abingdon: Routledge.</p>
<p>*For this module, you will also be expected to engage in extensive, critical reading of the academic sources underpinning your research. The module leader / research supervisor will often provide you with some seed references to get you started.</p>	

Module title:	Transferable Skills
Module code:	03 14424
Module leader	Dr Robin Thompson
Semester:	2
Credit value:	10
Delivery method:	Lectures and seminars (including student-led discussion)
Assessment method:	Debate in discussion sessions (not formally assessed); 300 word (limit) press release style writing on a paper provided by module leads (30%); 500 word (limit) scientific abstract on your own project, or the literature review for Research Review for MA Psychology students (30%); oral presentation (15 minutes plus questions) to a specialised lab group/seminar (40%)
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	Topics will typically include ethical and legal issues, health and safety, exploitation of research and existing resources, writing skills (including writing for the broader public and grants), oral and poster, and time management skills.
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module, students should be able to: demonstrate a working knowledge of the issues relevant to communicating research, including abstract writing; visually present research (poster presentation) in a concise and clear manner (<i>NOTE: marking of posters is not included in this module</i>); orally present research in a concise and clear manner; write a succinct summary (abstract) of a research project , or the literature review for Research Review for MA Psychology students, and write a succinct summary of a journal article in a “press release” style for public understanding.
Recommended reading list:	For this module, there is no set reading list. Instead, students are advised to engage in general study of the key scientific thinking, writing, and presentation skills (see above), and to engage in critical reading of academic sources for the subject-specific content. Some academic sources will be recommended by the module leaders.

Module title:	Public Engagement with Psychological Research
Module code:	03 27295
Module leader	Dr Fay Julal
Semester:	2
Credit value:	30
Delivery method:	Lectures (3), small group or individual supervision
Assessment method:	3,000 word article or report (100%)
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	<p>At the beginning of the project, each student will work closely with his or her Second Supervisor to set out a contract for a public engagement project to promote the research of the supervisor. Working in small groups or individually, students will plan and develop a public engagement activity. Students will acquire knowledge and skills related to the specific nature of their public engagement project (e.g. planning public events; developing a website). Lectures will provide an overview of approaches to engaging with the public (e.g. contacting groups; planning events).</p> <p>Assessment will be a report of the public engagement event and the research on which it is based or a journalism-style article. Students will agree with their supervisor, which form (report or article) their assessment will take.</p>
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module students should be able to: plan a public engagement event to promote scientific research; write a detailed account of the public engagement project, including summary of the research on which it is based; write a public-friendly literature review, and understand the pathways used to develop public engagement.
Recommended reading list:	For this module, there is no set reading list. Instead, you are advised to engage in general study of the key scientific thinking, writing, and presentation skills (see above), and to engage in critical reading of academic sources for the subject-specific content. Some academic sources will be recommended by the module leaders.

Module title:	MA Research Project
Module code:	03 17923
Module leader	Dr Fay Julal
Semester:	2
Credit value:	60
Pre-requisite module:	03 27296 Research Review
Delivery method:	Student-centred research dissertation
Assessment method:	Written dissertation (5,000 – 6,000 words max) (100%)
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	Students will write a substantial critical inquiry (literature review) into an approved research topic under supervision. Students will be assigned to a research supervisor at the outset of the module, with whom the student will negotiate a contract setting out the project's aims, the relevant knowledge and skills and milestones for completing the literature review.
Learning outcomes:	By the end of the module students should be able to: systematically conduct a substantial critical review of existing literature on a selected research topic; communicate effectively in writing, using professionally accepted protocols; develop a research project that entails some aspect of originality, and show independence in managing the research project.
Recommended reading list:	<p>Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1997). Writing narrative literature reviews. <i>Review of General Psychology</i>, 1, 311–320.</p> <p>Bem, D. J. (1995). Writing a review article for Psychological Bulletin. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i>, 118, 172–177.</p> <p>Cooper, H., & Shoolbred, M. (2016). Where's your argument? Pocket study skills. Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Fink, A. (2014). Conducting research literature reviews: From the internet to paper (4th ed.). London: Sage.</p> <p>Hartley, J. (2008). Academic writing and publishing: A practical handbook. Abingdon: Routledge.</p>
<p>*For this module, you will also be expected to engage in extensive, critical reading of the academic sources underpinning your research. The module leader / research supervisor will often provide you with some seed references to get you started.</p>	

Optional Modules

Note: For the Psychology option, please refer to the Level 3 Module Prospectus

Module title:	Design & Analysis 1
Module code:	03 14416
Module leader	Dr Dietmar Heinke
Semester:	1
Credit value:	10
Delivery method:	Lectures
Assessment method:	Workshop-based exam (100%)
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	Topics typically include: questionnaire design and analysis; discriminant function analysis; descriptive statistics; hypothesis testing: z-scores; t-tests and ANOVAs with factorial, repeated measures and mixed designs; planned and post-hoc comparisons; correlation, linear and non-linear regression; multiple regression; tuition in SPSS.
Learning outcomes:	Students should be able to: choose an appropriate statistical test for a given type of data and research question; to enter data into SPSS in an appropriate format; to carry out the statistical tests covered in the course using calculators and statistical, or SPSS as appropriate, and to interpret the results of the statistical tests covered in the course.
Recommended reading list:	Dancey, C. & Reidy, J. (2014). Statistics without Maths for Psychology. Pearson.

Note: Choose Design & Analysis 1 or Computer Use

Module title:	Computer Use
Module code:	03 14415
Module leader	Dr Dimitris Bampasakis
Semester:	1
Credit value:	10
Delivery method:	Lectures plus computer-based workshops
Assessment method:	Take-home exam (100%)
Marks required to pass module:	50%
Aims and learning objectives of this module:	The computer packages provide students with advanced knowledge and skills on the following topics: file management, the identification of library resources and how to use them, training in bibliographic sources and methods, the maintenance of a personal research bibliography, basic and advanced word-processing, production of presentation materials, other use of spreadsheet and database management, disseminating information using the web.
Learning outcomes:	Students should be able to have working knowledge of the computer packages covered, and to carry out procedures useful for research type activities.
Recommended reading list:	For this module, there is no set reading list. Instead, students are advised to engage in general study of the key scientific thinking, writing, and presentation skills (see above), and to engage in critical reading of academic sources for the subject-specific content. Some academic sources will be recommended by the module leaders.

Note: Choose Design & Analysis 1 or Computer Use