POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
Welcome to the School

How the mind functions and how it affects our behaviour are age-old questions, and at the same time, these are two of the biggest scientific questions of our time. Both traditional scientific methods and modern neuroscience techniques provide us with exciting new answers, facilitating advances in psychology, medicine, and engineering. Our programmes are designed to not only provide you with essential knowledge and skills in scientific research, but also to let you take part in the exciting world of cutting-edge psychological research.

We are one of the largest and most active Psychology departments in the UK with an excellent reputation for teaching and research. Over half of our research was recently recognised as being ‘world leading’, ranked fifth in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. Our wide-ranging research makes an impact by giving a greater understanding of the relationship between brain, mind and behaviour.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Our extensive facilities include laboratories specially equipped for work in cognition, memory, psychophysics, visual perception, auditory perception, language production, reading, human motor performance, cognitive neuropsychology, cognitive neuroscience, food, drink and nutritional psychology, physiological psychology, psychopharmacology, social psychology, and developmental psychology. We have research dedicated brain imaging facilities (eg, MRI, TMS, EEG). There are dedicated brain imaging workstations for work in perception and cognitive science, including a computational modelling and brain analysis suite.

EXTENSIVE LINKS

There are excellent research opportunities provided by our links with local hospitals, prisons and clinics, local schools and nurseries, other University departments, industrial companies, and departments of local and national government – both in the UK and overseas. Psychology is a major partner in the West Midlands Stroke Research Network and provides access to a large pool of screened neuropsychological patients.

RESEARCH

The School currently has a live research grant portfolio of £14.1m generating an annual income of around £3.8m. It currently hosts four specialised research and teaching centres:
- Centre for Human Brain Health
- Centre for Applied Psychology
- Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics

Research in each of the Centres contributes to the School’s research themes. Our research is grouped thematically, covering topics including human brain science, cognitive psychology, and applied psychology. There are also a number of other well-established research groups, with strong links to clinical groups, notably in psychosis, neurodevelopmental disorders and addictions. Research may be carried out in areas where members of staff are willing to offer supervision.
TEACHING

Teaching activity is aligned to the School’s centres and research themes. Key examples include:

- The Centre for Applied Psychology specialises in the delivery of teaching and research courses that lead directly or indirectly to careers in applied psychology such as clinical psychology, forensic psychology, cognitive behavioural therapy and compassion focused therapy
- The Centre for Human Brain Health, and Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics provide training in cutting edge imaging and computational methods
- The Cerebra Centre focuses on the problems experienced by children and adults with intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders and genetic syndromes

For more information please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/psychology
Brain Imaging and Cognitive Neuroscience
MSc

Course content
This programme offers an excellent opportunity for advanced learning in brain imaging and cognitive neuroscience. It contains specialised modules on the theory and methods of brain imaging and current advances in cognitive neuroscience linked to these methods.

On this programme, you will develop practical research skills in brain imaging and undertake specialised computer programming training.

You will also take a series of taught modules to develop your skills in experimental design and analysis, critical thinking and reading, oral presentation, and scientific writing. You will also undertake a research placement and a substantial research project, usually linked to current research in the School of Psychology.

This course is aimed at students who have a special interest in brain imaging and cognitive neuroscience. It offers an excellent opportunity for training in the latest imaging research methods and practical applications, with one-to-one contact with research-active staff from the School of Psychology. The course also offers opportunities to be part of front-line psychological science using the latest neuroscience technologies and methods.

Modules
The course is comprised of taught modules, a research placement in a research laboratory, and a research project to produce a dissertation. It contains specialised taught modules on the theory and methods of brain imaging and current advances in cognitive neuroscience linked to these methods.

There is a focus on practical research skills in brain imaging and specialised computer programming training. Other taught modules promote skills in experimental design and analysis, critical thinking and reading, oral presentation and scientific writing. The research placement and the large research project are usually linked to current research in the School.

Modules include:
- Design and Analysis 1 and 2
- Matlab Programming
- Transferable Skills
- Fundamentals in Brain Imaging and Cognitive Neuroscience
- Advanced Brain Imaging
- Applications of Brain Imaging Techniques and Cognitive Neuroscience
- Current Research in Psychology
- Proposing Research
- Research Project

www.birmingham.ac.uk/bicn-mods

Assessment
Students are assessed by a variety of methods including essays and reports, oral and poster presentations and peer assessments.

Fees and funding
A variety of scholarships are available. Please consult the University’s postgraduate funding database www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfunding

FACT FILE
- Start date: September
- Duration: One year full-time, two years part-time
- Entry requirements: 2:1 Honours degree in Psychology or related discipline, plus 2:1 research dissertation

The course prepares you for professional training and further academic study. At the end of the programme you will be equipped either for further research study (for example, a PhD) or for a career in the development and evaluation of cognitive, computational and/or neuroscientific models. This includes neuromarketing, medical imaging processing, or research assistance in medical science.

School of Psychology
Postgraduate Admissions
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 4906/2864
Email: pg-psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.birmingham.ac.uk/bicn-msc
Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics
MSc

FACT FILE

Start date: September
Duration: One year full-time, two years part-time
Entry requirements: 2:1 Honours degree in a relevant subject (e.g., Psychology, Neuroscience, Computer Science, Physics, Engineering or Mathematics)

Course content
This programme is designed for those who are interested in applying knowledge of neural systems and brain function to research into human cognition, the sensory and motor systems, as well as the design of bio-inspired and biologically plausible robotic systems. It aims to mesh two active and rapidly developing fields, computational neuroscience and cognitive robotics, to generate novel 21st century strategies and solutions.

From modelling human cognition to programming robots to be able to act in their environment, the course crosses the boundaries of several disciplines, including biology, neuroscience, psychology, engineering and computer science.

You will have access to state-of-the-art equipment for brain imaging, brain electrophysiology and stimulation, eye movement recording, psychophysics, and human-computer interaction as well as systems for advanced data analysis, autonomous agents, humanoid robots, and artificial vision systems.

Modules
This course has a strong research accent with hands-on modules, research training and practical applications.

Modules include:
- Foundation/Cognitive Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics issues
- Intelligent Robotics
- Brain Imaging
- Introduction to Computational Methods
- Matlab Programming
- Neural Computation
- Robot Vision
- Mind, Brain and Models
- Transferrable Skills
- Proposing Research
- Research Project

Assessment
Material is delivered through lectures, workshops, seminars and hands-on training in state-of-the-art laboratories. A significant part of the course involves being part of a research group and conducting an independent research project. You will spend approximately half of the academic year in research-related activities: project planning and preparation in Semester One, a short placement in Semester Two, and a longer piece of individual research during the summer leading to a research dissertation.

You will be assigned a primary supervisor who will help you to develop a research proposal in Semester One and supervise your research project over the rest of the year. You will also be assigned a secondary supervisor with whom you will conduct your research placement. With the help and advice of your supervisors, you will design your personal development plan and course structure. This individualised training scheme will be optimised to your career aims, research interests, knowledge, and skills.

Fees and funding
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You will be trained in several professional skills that are essential for research and academic careers including research planning, oral presentations of project outcomes, conference poster preparation and delivery, and grant writing. Students typically go on to high quality PhD programmes, leading to work in a range of fields from advanced robotics to cognitive neuroscience.

LEARN MORE
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FACT FILE

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Course description
As Psychology reaches out to tackle the big questions facing society today, skills and experience in psychological research are becoming more and more in demand. Our MSc in Psychology offers students an exciting path, giving them the opportunity to deepen their specific interests whilst at the same time developing the technical and transferable skills they need to succeed in a wide range of research-related positions. It is aimed at students who wish to engage with research and want to further their practical research skills.

The course is comprised of taught modules, a research placement in a research laboratory and a research project to produce a dissertation. The taught part covers, among other areas, experimental design and analysis, critical thinking and reading, computer use, oral presentation, and scientific writing.

Students undertake a research placement and a substantial research project, usually linked to current University research, with the opportunity for one-to-one contact with research-active staff in the School of Psychology. During the research placement and project, students gain hands-on experience and knowledge in specific topics such as child development, memory, language, learning, motor control, motivation, visual perception or social psychology, appetite, abnormal development, mental health resilience and neuropsychology. The course also offers opportunities to be part of front-line psychological science using the latest technologies and methods.

Modules
Through a series of taught modules, the course promotes the development of skills in experimental design and analysis, critical thinking and reading, computer use, oral presentation, and scientific writing.

Core modules include:
- Design and Analysis 1 and 2
- Current Research in Psychology 1 and 2
- Computer Use
- Transferable Skills
- Foundations in Critical Thinking
- Research Placement
- Proposing Research
- Research Project

Assessment
Students are assessed by a variety of methods including essays and reports, oral and poster presentations, and peer assessments.

Fees and funding
A variety of scholarships are available. Please consult the University’s postgraduate funding database www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfunding

A surprisingly wide range of careers are open to students graduating with an MSc in Psychology. Potential positions may involve health or education programme development, evaluation positions, or consumer product (or services) research and testing. Our students are excellent candidates for research-related employment in both private and public sector organisations as the MSc develops key skills that are highly attractive to employers, namely analytical and statistical skills, as well as presentation and report writing skills. This MSc is also excellent preparation for PhD or other advanced degree positions.
Course description
This programme offers comprehensive insight and in-depth knowledge of contemporary topics in psychology. It is aimed at students who have a passion for the subject but do not wish to conduct lab-based research. The MA emphasises advanced synthesis and understanding of existing psychological literature and communication of psychological findings to the public.

Students have the opportunity to build their knowledge in at least one area of contemporary psychology, usually linked to current research within the School of Psychology, such as child development, memory, language, learning, motor control, motivation, visual perception, social psychology, appetite, abnormal development, mental health, resilience and neuropsychology.

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop their specific interests in the subject whilst developing the writing and communication, and transferable skills they need to succeed in a wide range of research-knowledge positions. The course provides excellent preparation for non-experimental PhD study and employment in a range of positions in the public and private sectors.

The course is comprised of compulsory and optional taught modules, which cover, among other areas, experimental design and analysis, critical thinking and reading, computer use and scientific writing.

Students also undertake a public engagement project, in which they design an activity to share psychological research with the public, and a research dissertation in the form of a substantial critical review of psychological literature. These research-based modules give students the opportunity to have one-to-one contact with research active staff.

Modules
The MA Psychology, with its unique mix of topic-based, applied and impact-based modules, promotes skills development in critical analysis, oral presentation, and scientific writing.

Compulsory taught modules include:
- Current Research in Psychology 1 and 2
- Transferable Skills
- Foundations in Critical Thinking
- Research Review
- Public Engagement with Psychological Research
- Research Project

Students also take one psychology topic-based and one skills-based optional module to support their learning.

Assessment
Students are assessed by a variety of methods including essays and reports, critical literature reviews, oral presentations, and peer assessments.

Fees and funding
A variety of scholarships are available. Please consult the University’s postgraduate funding database www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfunding
‘After meeting my co-supervisors, it was obvious that (they) would make fantastic supervisors with their ideas and experience in their related fields. I was also very impressed with the University itself; the most aesthetically pleasing university I have ever been to and a fantastic atmosphere on campus all year round.

It is fantastic to have such a good relationship with the people I work with and to know that if I have any problems I can sort them out and received honest and great advice on how to move forward.’

CHARLES PHILLIPS
Doctoral Researcher in Psychology
This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.