

Psychology and Psychological Research MSci

Frequently asked questions

How is an MSci different from an MSc?

Structurally and academically: An MSc is a one-year (October to September with graduation in December) postgraduate Masters degree based on studying 180 credits' worth of Master's level modules. You first complete your BSc and then apply separately for an MSc, so that you end up with both a BSc and an MSc.

An MSci is a four-year integrated undergraduate/postgraduate Masters degree. Years 1, 2, 3 and Year 4 follow the conventional undergraduate academic year (October to June with graduation in July). Each year is based on studying 120 credits' worth of modules. In Year 4, specifically, the 120-credits are from Master's level modules. At the end of the four years, you end up with a single MSci degree.

Financially: For the MSci, you should automatically receive the same level of support from your Local Education Authority throughout all four years. If you are applying through UCAS admissions, you simply tell your Local Education Authority that you will be attending a four-year course. If you are transferring from the BSc to the MSci, you should be able to extend your current financial arrangement for the BSc for another year without a problem.

For the MSc, your LEA will not provide support and you need to seek help elsewhere - for example from a Research Council such as the ESRC or a Postgraduate Loan via Student Finance England.

Although an MSci, or integrated undergraduate/postgraduate Masters, differs from a MSc, both types of course are classified by the [QAA](#) as FHEQ Level 7, postgraduate qualifications.

How are MSci degrees classified?

The degree classification is the same as for a BSc (1st, 2:1, 2:2, 3rd). For the MSci, the second year counts 20%, the third year 40% and the fourth year 40% towards the overall mark used for degree classification.

Can I apply to transfer from the Combined Honours BSc to an MSci?

No. Only Single Honours BSc Psychology students are eligible to transfer.

Is it better to apply to an MSci through a UCAS application rather than through a transfer from the BSc Psychology?

There are two advantages to entering MSci through UCAS. First, you will have a guaranteed MSci place from the outset, whereas the number of places available for transfer from BSc depends on how many places have already been filled by UCAS admissions. Second, you will be allocated to a tutor group with other MSci students, so your tutor can help you guide your career development in the first three years.

What should I do if I am interested in both the MSci and BSc?

Just apply to the MSci. If your application is not accepted for the MSci but meets the criteria for the BSc, we will automatically make you a BSc offer.

Is the application procedure different for the MSci?

Yes, slightly. In the MSci Psychological Research, you may be required to come to the University for an interview.

Is it possible to study part-time in year 4 of the MSci?

No, a part-time option is not currently offered.

How does the MSci Project differ from third year undergraduate projects?

In contrast to third year undergraduate projects, you will be expected to have a greater input into your MSci Research Project (e.g., in design, selection of study materials) and to show greater independence in managing your project. You will actively contribute to existing projects in order to learn new research skills (e.g. eye tracking, brain imaging, neuropsychological testing) and gain experience of how cutting-edge science is carried out. As an MSci student you will be expected to take more responsibility for your learning and progress. Another difference is that on the MSci the goal is to carry out research potentially publishable in a peer-reviewed international journal.

Are there any other MSci programmes for psychology in the UK?

The University of Birmingham was the first to offer MSci programmes dedicated to psychology, but there are now other MSci degrees in Psychology available.

We are uniquely placed to offer these opportunities because of our experience and because we can offer a top quality experience. 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