

Teaching and learning

We offer a mix of lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and research projects, and use a variety of assessment methods including essays, practical reports, oral and poster presentations, dissertations and written examinations. Our undergraduate programme is carefully structured to provide training in the skills that students need as they develop into independent learners.

Timetabled tuition

Lectures

For each core module there is normally a one-hour weekly lecture and related workshops or seminars.

Research methods

In addition to the modules covering specific topics in psychology, we provide four courses covering research methods, statistics, data analysis and practical work. Each such course comprises two components, statistics/computing and practical work. The practical components each comprise two hands-on practicals supported by special lectures and weekly small-group sessions with some self-study. Instruction is given in all types of practical psychology including formal controlled experiments, observational methods, semi-structured interviews, and questionnaire studies. Practical are assessed by a variety of methods including written reports and oral presentation.



Statistics / computing

The statistics/computing components consist of weekly lectures supported by hands-on computer workshops in which students work through example problems. Students are taught how to use the software in the School's computer laboratories, including email, the Internet, word processing and statistics programmes. Three of the four courses deal with the many statistical methods that psychologists use to analyse their research findings. Ethical issues are also discussed.

Research modules

The research modules are designed to complement other modules offered by the School, and provide the necessary skills to conduct scientific psychological research.

Tutorials

Students are assigned a Personal Tutor in the first year, and where possible will stay with this tutor until the end of the programme. The tutor serves a pastoral and an academic role, in which students follow a programme of instruction, linked to the research methods courses.

Modules outside the main discipline (MOMD)

All students take two MOMD modules during the first year. These modules may be chosen from a wide range offered by other Schools either in Science, Humanities or Social Sciences. The intention is to allow students to continue to develop their interests in subjects they have met before or to take up a subject they have not previously studied. We also offer MOMD's in Applied Psychology, targeted at practical and professional topics, that Psychology students can take. Performance in these modules contributes to the student's year mark.

Continuous assessment

Students' progress is assessed on a mixture of written examinations and coursework. Students hand in essays and practical work associated with the core modules according to a schedule of deadlines – roughly one piece of work every two or three weeks. Successful completion of first year work is a prerequisite for entry into the second year. The marks gained in the second year make up one-quarter of the final degree classification.