University of Birmingham

Psychology and Psychological Practice MSci (Hons)

Register for one of our Undergraduate Open Days (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/opendays/index.aspx) - Sep 12 & Oct 17

Psychology plays a fundamental part across the spectrum of modern day life. This MSci programme is specifically designed for those considering a career in clinical, forensic, educational psychology, and related fields. You will take the same modules as **BSc Psychology (/undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology.aspx)** students in the first three years, followed by an additional specialist fourth year. One of the key components of the fourth year is a work placement in one of these three areas of applied psychology. Throughout the course you can look forward to being taught by world-leading experts in the field, in one of the UK's top Schools of Psychology.

accredited by The British Psychological Society

Course fact file

UCAS code: C801

Duration: 4 years

Places Available: 290 (all undergraduate Psychology courses)

Applications in 2014: 1862

Typical Offer: A*AA. Grade C in each of GCSE English and Maths. An interview may be required (**More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details (?OpenSection=EntryRequirements)**)

Start date: September - Please note that due to a very limited number of places on the MSci programme, we are not able to consider applications for deferred entry. If you are made an offer and subsequently wish to defer, you can retain your offer for the BSc Psychology programme.

Related courses

Psychology and Psychological Research MSci (Hons) (/undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology-research.aspx)

Psychology BSc (Hons) (/undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology.aspx)

Contact

MSci Programme Director: Dr Gary Urquhart Law
Email: **g.u.law@bham.ac.uk (mailto:g.u.law@bham.ac.uk)**

Student Recruitment Team
Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)121 414 4691
Email: **psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk (mailto:psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

School of Psychology (/schools/psychology/index.aspx)

Details

Psychologists work in basic and applied research in fields that include education and child development, clinical work, the courtroom (acting as expert witnesses), industry (helping to design efficient machines or optimising business organisations), and in universities researching every branch of human behaviour from visual perception to sexuality.

If you are not admitted to this degree you will automatically be considered for admission into BSc Psychology. We plan to allow up to five students to transfer from BSc Psychology into MSci Psychology and Psychological Practice after their second year. High academic performance in the first two years will be an important criterion for the transfer. Combining students directly entering the course via UCAS and those who transfer from BSc, we expect a cohort of ten students in MSci Psychology and Psychological Practice in the third and fourth years.

Please note that you may be required to come to the School of Psychology for an interview as a part of the application process for this course.

First and second years

In your first two years you will study the core theories and methods of psychology, covering child development, learning, abnormal behaviour, cognitive psychology,

perception, personality, social psychology, and brain and behaviour. You will also learn how to design experiments and collect and analyse data.

Year abroad option
As a current student you will have the opportunity to take a year abroad in between your second and third years, in a location such as the USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong or Singapore. If you take this option you will receive an MSci with Year Abroad.

Third year

In the third year, under the guidance of your supervisor, you will undertake a substantial piece of independent research work. You also choose options from a list of advanced modules on contemporary psychology including topics such as forensic and clinical psychology, social cognition, psychology and culture, and cognitive neuroscience.

Fourth year

In the fourth year, you will gain hands-on experience in applied psychology through work placement with practising clinical, forensic or educational psychologists (the type of placement is subject to availability). Taught components are Masters' level modules. You will gain knowledge of theoretical and methodological underpinnings of applied psychology through advanced seminar and lecture modules.

See **Psychology and Psychological Practice MSci frequently asked questions (PDF 105KB) (/Documents/college-les/psych/psychology-practice-msci-faqs.pdf)** .

Why study this course

Situated at the heart of the Edgbaston campus, we are one of the strongest Psychology departments in the country, with over 120 research and teaching staff and around 800 undergraduates. We are a broad school with expertise in clinical, forensic, social, developmental, and cognitive psychology, and behavioural and social neuroscience. We have recently opened a new £2 million brain imaging centre. We are ranked among the top three Psychology departments in the country for research and have been rated as ‘excellent’ in government reviews of our teaching.

Our programmes are all accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for Graduate Membership of the Society with the Graduate Basis for Registration, provided the minimum standard of second class honours is achieved. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. For more information please contact the British Psychological Society.

For many careers in psychology, relevant experience and a good undergraduate degree are important, even for entry-level jobs. Our MSci programmes are designed to provide relevant, specialist experience through placements and projects and, because they are Undergraduate Masters degrees, your Local Education Authority should be willing to support your study for the full four years.

Here at the University of Birmingham we were the first to offer MSci programmes dedicated to psychology. We are uniquely placed to offer these opportunities because of our experience (we are the only UK university with postgraduate courses training chartered clinical, forensic and educational psychologists) and because we offer top quality research experience.

Modules

Year 1

Semester 1

- **Research Methods A (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/research-methods-a.aspx)**
- **Perception and Attention (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/perception-and-attention.aspx)**
- **Introduction to Psychobiology: from Ion Channels to Abnormal Behaviour (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/introduction-to-psychobiology.aspx)**
- **Introduction to Learning (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/introduction-to-learning.aspx)**
- Module Outside the Main Discipline

Semester 2

- **Research Methods B (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/research-methods-b.aspx)**
- **Memory and Language (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/memory-and-language.aspx)**
- **Psychobiology of Memory, Emotion and Motivation (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/psychobiology-of-memory-emotion-and-motivation.aspx)**
- **Introduction to Developmental Psychology (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/introduction-to-developmental-psychology.aspx)**
- Module Outside the Main Discipline

Year 2

- **Cognition in Infants and Children (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/cognition-in-infants-and-children.aspx)**
- **Introduction to Forensic Psychology (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/introduction-to-forensic-psychology.aspx)**
- **Introduction to Psycholinguistics (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/introduction-to-psycholinguistics.aspx)**
- **Introduction to Social Psychology (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/introduction-to-social-psychology.aspx)**
- **Neural Basis of Movement (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/neural-basis-of-movement.aspx)**
- **Personality and Intelligence at Work (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/personality-and-intelligence-at-work.aspx)**
- **Research Methods C (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/research-methods-c.aspx)**
- **Research Methods D (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/research-methods-d.aspx)**
- **The Development of Attachment Behaviour (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/the-development-of-attachment-behaviour.aspx)**
- **Visual Perception and Illusions (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/visual-perception-and-illusions.aspx)**

Year 3

- **Adolescence: Mind and Brain (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/adolescence-mind-brain.aspx)**
- **Adult Neuropsychology (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/adult-neuropsychology.aspx)**
- **Brain Damage and Aging in the Attentional System (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/brain-damage-and-aging-in-the-attentional-system.aspx)**

- **Brain Imaging: a Toolbox for Understanding the Human Mind** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/brain-imaging-toolbox.aspx)
- **Clinical Psychology of Severe Intellectual Disability** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/clinical-psychology-of-severe-intellectual-disability.aspx)
- **Communities and Social Action** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/communities-and-social-action.aspx)
- **Development and Disorders of Language in Children** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/development-and-disorders-of-language-in-children.aspx)
- **Higher Cognitive Functions in Children, Adults and Non-human Animals** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/higher-cognitive-functions-in-children-adults-and-non-human-animals.aspx)
- **Parental Cognition, Psychopathology and Behaviour** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/parental-cognition-psychopathology-and-behaviour.aspx)
- **Project** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/project.aspx)
- **Rehabilitating the Brain** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/rehabilitating-the-brain.aspx)
- **Sleep** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/sleep.aspx)
- **Speaking and Reading** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/speaking-and-reading.aspx)
- **The Lying Brain** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/the-lying-brain.aspx)
- **The Mind Detective: Understanding How the Mind Works by Looking at what Happens when it is Damaged** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/mind-detective.aspx)
- **The Neurobiology of Mental Illness** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/neurobiology-mental-illness.aspx)
- **Understanding Emotions: A Neuro-Cognitive Perspective** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/understanding-emotions.aspx)
- **Visual Cognitive Neuroscience and Art** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/visual-cognitive-neuroscience-and-art.aspx)
- **What Makes a Mental Illness?** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/what-makes-a-mental-illness.aspx)
- **Why We Eat What We Eat: A Psychological Perspective on Appetite** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/why-we-eat-what-we-eat.aspx)
- **Why We Remember and Why We Forget** (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/why-we-remember-and-why-we-forget.aspx)

Year 4

You will gain hands-on experience in applied psychology through a **work placement** with practising clinical, forensic or educational psychologists (the type of placement is subject to availability).

Taught components are Masters' level modules. You will gain knowledge of theoretical and methodological underpinnings of applied psychology through advanced seminar and lecture modules.

The modules described here are the ones that we currently offer and will give you a good idea of the range of subjects that we teach. However as our undergraduate teaching is research-led and we constantly review our teaching to ensure that the modules that we offer are up to date, there may be changes to module titles and content.

Fees and funding

Standard fees (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard) apply
Learn more about **fees and funding** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/feesandfinance/loans.aspx)

Scholarships
Learn more about our **scholarships and awards** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/feesandfinance/funding/index.aspx)

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3

Typical offer: A*AA. Grade C in each of GCSE English and Maths. An interview may be required

General Studies: We do not accept General Studies, Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, Applied Science, Communication and Culture, Critical Studies, Global Perspectives, Science in Society and World Development.

BTEC: Not accepted

Access to HE courses: Not accepted

Additional information:

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about **entry requirements** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements)

Deferred Entry:

Please note that due to a very limited number of places on the MSci programme, we are not able to consider applications for deferred entry. If you are made an offer and subsequently wish to defer, you can retain your offer for the BSc Psychology programme.

International students:

International Baccalaureate Diploma: minimum of 32 points with 7,6,6 at Higher Level. 5 points in each of SL English and Maths if not offered at GCSE or equivalent.

Please note that we have reviewed our policy on the IB Diploma for 2016 entry and our offers will now focus on performance in Higher Level subjects. For more information and details please read our **2016 IB Diploma requirements** (/undergraduate/requirements/index.aspx) .

Standard English language requirements apply
Learn more about **international entry requirements** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements/international)

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx)** .

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at **www.ucas.com (http://www.ucas.com/)**
Learn more about **applying (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply)**

Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website (http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)** you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

Related links

Undergraduate programmes - School of Psychology (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/index.aspx)

Study in Psychology - Mandarin brochure for Chinese students (PDF 493KB) (/Documents/college-les/psych/psychology-chinese-leaflet.pdf)

Learning and teaching

Our Psychology degree is structured so that you follow a common programme in all of the areas that make up the core of contemporary psychology. In addition, in the third year you are offered a scheme of options, which allows you to concentrate on the themes which interest you most. The programme is structured on a modular basis, and two modules outside of the main discipline, in a subject other than psychology, may be taken in the first year. We also offer modules in 'Applied Psychology'.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, and this course is taught through a timetable of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical classes. This only accounts for a portion of the week so you will have the opportunity to structure your own work outside of these formal attendance requirements.

In the fourth year of the MSci Psychology and Psychological Practice, you study a range of modules all of which are at Masters level. This includes a research placement module where you will gain hands-on experience of psychology in the real world. Work experience will consist of six months working for three days in an external organisation, organised by the School.

To begin with you may find university level education challenging, but we will support you to enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system in the School, including personal tutors and welfare tutors, who can help with both academic and welfare issues throughout your course. You will have a formal transition review during your first year to check on your progress and identify areas where you may need some additional support, and the School's academic small group tutorial system will provide you with skills based support throughout the course.

Assessment methods

Studying at degree level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of education at school or college. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this transition to a new style of learning, and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.

Assessment varies dependent on the modules you study but you can expect to complete essays, lab reports, abstracts, grant proposals, oral presentations, short answer questions and multiple choice examinations, in addition to your third year research project (dissertation). In the fourth year of this MSci you will be assessed similarly, with the work placement and associated written report also assessed.

At the beginning of each module, you'll be given information on how and when you'll be assessed for that particular programme of study. You will receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done.

Employability

2nd for employability 2016 Guardian University league table

Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our Careers Network can help you achieve your goal.

Through teaching and choice of placement, the course provides you with practical experience of working in organisations such as the Probation Service, educational services or the NHS. However, if you are considering a career in clinical, educational or forensic psychology, relevant postgraduate work experience and further training are needed.

It is important to note that the MSci programme does not give you direct access to postgraduate professional training in clinical, forensic, or educational psychology. Courses are highly competitive and applicants are likely to have two or more years of full-time work experience.

94.5% of our graduates are in employment or further study within six months of graduating 2013/14 Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey

In the case of clinical psychology, this postgraduate work experience will often be derived from working in Assistant Psychologist posts and, as with entry to the ClinPsyD postgraduate training programme, access to Assistant Psychologist posts is also extremely competitive. The MSci programme is likely to give you an advantage if you apply for Assistant Psychologist posts or for Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners (PWP) training in a very competitive market, especially straight from university.

In educational and forensic psychology, the range of permissible postgraduate work experience is more varied. Assistant Psychologist posts are also available, although these are relatively few. Again, the MSci programme is likely to give you an advantage if you apply for one of these posts following graduation. Moreover, the year's experience on the MSci will also be weighed positively when you apply for your postgraduate training. It will provide clear testimony to your knowledge and understanding of the contexts within which educational and forensic psychologists work, and of your own capacity to apply your psychologically-based knowledge and skills, with supervision, to contribute to service delivery.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to Psychology, offering a specialised team in the School who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive work experience opportunities to help you stand out amongst the competition, with mentoring, global internships and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CV's and job applications will help give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed award-winning Personal Skills Award (PSA) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects. We also hold psychology careers seminars and a psychology careers fair in the final year to help students find employment.

Find out more about career opportunities in Psychology (/schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/careers.aspx)

Professional accreditation

This programme is accredited as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society, provided the minimum standard of a lower second-class Honours degree is achieved. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

96% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things

MSci (Hons) Psychology and Psychological Practice
Full time

To see more details and compare with other courses

Visit UNISTATS

Official data collected by HEFCE

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