

Psychology BSc (Hons)

Psychology plays a significant part in modern day life, from the school classroom to the courtroom, in industry, business organisations and in universities. Our BPS-accredited degree covers all aspects of the broad subject area that is psychology. At Birmingham you can look forward to being taught by world-leading academics in one of the UK's top Schools of Psychology.

Our course will provide you with excellent career opportunities - 93% of our graduates are in employment or further study 6 months after completing their studies with us. You are able to tailor the course to your own interests, and there is the opportunity to complete an independent research project in the final year alongside academics, enhancing your own knowledge and making a significant contribution to university life.



[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

UCAS code: C800

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 240 (all undergraduate Psychology courses)

Applications in 2012: 1108

Typical Offer: AAA–AAB (**[More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details \(? OpenSection=EntryRequirements\)](#)**)

Start date: September

Related courses

[Psychology and Psychological Practice MSci \(Hons\)](/undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology-practice.aspx) (</undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology-practice.aspx>)

[Psychology and Psychological Research MSci \(Hons\)](/undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology-research.aspx) (</undergraduate/courses/psychology/psychology-research.aspx>)

Contact

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) (</schools/psychology/index.aspx>)

Details



Psychology is often defined as the study of behaviour, brain and mind, but this simple explanation doesn't truly capture the tremendous variety of things that you will actually do as a psychologist.

The behaviour that you will study ranges from apparently simple acts like feeding, to much more complex skills like language and social interaction. In studying the brain, you may be concerned with identifying which areas deal with particular functions or with how individual nerve cells work and communicate with each other. If you are investigating the mind, you may deal with specific topics like seeing and remembering or how these processes combine to make us conscious, intelligent beings.



...this degree gave me an excellent grounding in research skills and critical thinking, which will be essential for my career.



Abbye Andrews
BSc Psychology



(</schools/psychology/our-students/undergraduate/andrews-abbye.aspx>)

Because of the wide-ranging nature of psychology as a subject, we believe that you should examine all of its various approaches and interests before choosing an area in which to specialise.

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 a BSc with Year Abroad. During your year abroad, fees will be 15% of the regular annual fee. You will not pay

any additional fees to your host university overseas.

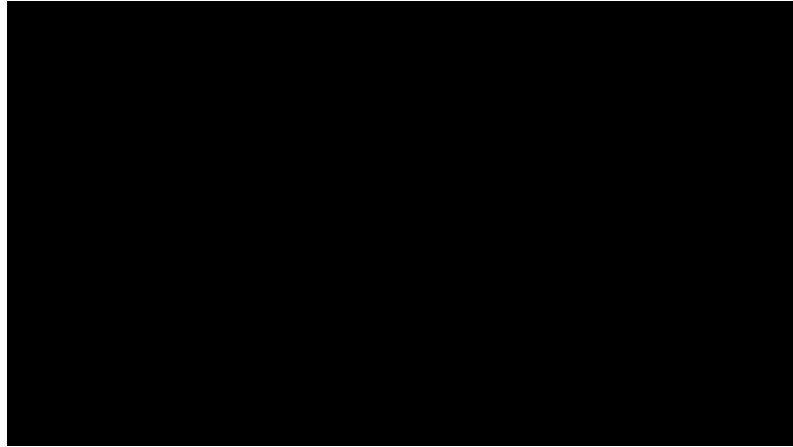
Third year

In the final 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.

[Download our latest Undergraduate brochure \(PDF 900KB\) \(/Documents/college-les/psych/UGPsychologybrochure.pdf\)](#).

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 45 academic teaching staff and around 490 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.



[Read the transcript \(/schools/psychology/our-students/undergraduate/chanchal-badlani.aspx\)](#)

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 \(http://www.bps.org.uk\)](http://www.bps.org.uk).

In designing our degree programmes, we have aimed to provide our undergraduates both with a broad knowledge of contemporary psychology and with the opportunity to specialise in the topics that interest them most. Rather than emphasising a particular approach, the first two years give equal weight to all the major areas of contemporary psychology and to the various techniques they encompass. Our students are then well-equipped to develop their knowledge in greater depth through the project work and optional courses provided in the third year.

There will also be an opportunity for some BSc students to transfer to the four year masters programmes (MSci) at the beginning of Year 3 (subject to availability of places in the MSci programmes). High academic achievements in the first two years will be one of the important selection criteria for the transfer.

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](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/the-development-of-attachment-behaviour.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/the-development-of-attachment-behaviour.aspx>)

• [Visual Perception and Illusions](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/visual-perception-and-illusions.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/visual-perception-and-illusions.aspx>)

Year 3

• [Adult Neuropsychology](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/adult-neuropsychology.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/adult-neuropsychology.aspx>)

• [Brain Damage and Aging in the Attentional System](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/brain-damage-and-aging-in-the-attentional-system.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/brain-damage-and-aging-in-the-attentional-system.aspx>)

• [Clinical Psychology of Severe Intellectual Disability](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/clinical-psychology-of-severe-intellectual-disability.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/clinical-psychology-of-severe-intellectual-disability.aspx>)

• [Communities and Social Action](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/communities-and-social-action.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/communities-and-social-action.aspx>)

• [Development and Disorders of Language in Children](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/development-and-disorders-of-language-in-children.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/development-and-disorders-of-language-in-children.aspx>)

• [Forensic Psychology](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/forensic-psychology.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/forensic-psychology.aspx>)

• [Higher Cognitive Functions in Children, Adults and Non-human Animals](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/higher-cognitive-functions-in-children-adults-and-non-human-animals.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/higher-cognitive-functions-in-children-adults-and-non-human-animals.aspx>)

• [Parental Cognition, Psychopathology and Behaviour](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/parental-cognition-psychopathology-and-behaviour.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/parental-cognition-psychopathology-and-behaviour.aspx>)

• [Project](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/project.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/project.aspx>)

• [Sleep](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/sleep.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/sleep.aspx>)

• [Speaking and Reading](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/speaking-and-reading.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/speaking-and-reading.aspx>)

• [The Lying Brain](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/the-lying-brain.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/the-lying-brain.aspx>)

• [Understanding Emotions: A Neuro-Cognitive Perspective](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/understanding-emotions.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/understanding-emotions.aspx>)

• [Visual Cognitive Neuroscience and Art](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/visual-cognitive-neuroscience-and-art.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/visual-cognitive-neuroscience-and-art.aspx>)

• [What Makes a Mental Illness?](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/what-makes-a-mental-illness.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/what-makes-a-mental-illness.aspx>)

• [Why We Eat What We Eat: A Psychological Perspective on Appetite](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/why-we-eat-what-we-eat.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/why-we-eat-what-we-eat.aspx>)

• [Why We Remember and Why We Forget](http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/why-we-remember-and-why-we-forget.aspx) (<http://schools/psychology/study-here/undergraduate/modules/why-we-remember-and-why-we-forget.aspx>)

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: AAA–AAB

Required subjects and grades: Our typical A level offer is AAB for applicants taking at least one of the following subjects: Biology/Human Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics/Statistics, Physics or Psychology. The typical offer for students who are not taking any of these subjects is AAA. Grade C in each of GCSE English and Maths

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: BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Science with Distinctions in all units plus a relevant A Level at grade A.

Access to HE courses: Access to Science (not Social Science) with two core science subjects at Level 3. Distinctions are required in all 45 Level 3 credits. 12 credits must be taken in each of Level 2 English and Maths if these are not offered at GCSE grade C. Access students should contact us prior to making an application.

Additional information:

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

Deferring admission and gap years - Deferring admission is usually not a problem but please inform the School or central Admissions. The university has a neutral attitude to gap years. You can still apply in advance for deferred entry and would be advised to do so.

Entry year - We will only consider first year entry onto the BSc in Psychology, and not second or third year entry.

International students:

We require qualifications equivalent to AAA-AAB at A-Level. We receive applications from all over the world from students with a very wide range of qualifications. We use standardised conversion tables to work out an appropriate offer / requirement in each case.

International Baccalaureate Diploma: Our typical offer is 35 points with 6,6,5 at Higher Level for applicants taking at least one Science subject at Higher Level (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Psychology). The typical offer for students who are not taking a Science subject at Higher Level is 36 points with 6,6,6 at Higher Level. Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay points are not considered. 5 points in each of SL English and Maths if not offered at GCSE or equivalent.

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) (<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) (<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

[UG Psychology Brochure \(PDF 463KB\) \(/Documents/college-les/psych/UGPsychologybrochure.pdf\)](#)

[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.



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.

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. At Birmingham we advocate an enquiry based learning approach, from the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, qualities that are highly sought after by employers. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Our Academic Skills Centre also offers you support with your learning. The centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions with support with mathematics and statistics based problems provided by experienced mathematicians, to workshops on a range of topics including note taking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

Personal Tutor

From the outset, you will be assigned your own Personal Tutor who will get to know you as you progress through your studies, providing academic and welfare advice, encouraging you and offering assistance in any areas you may feel you need extra support to make the most of your potential and your time here at Birmingham.

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.

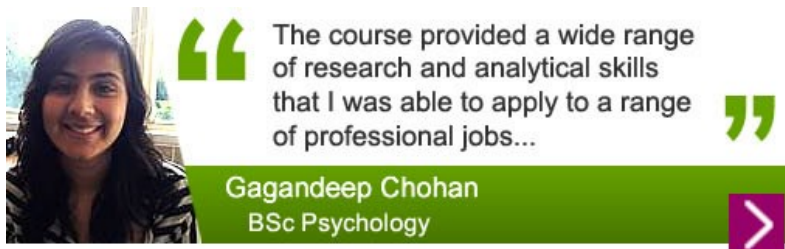
Assessment varies dependent on the modules you study but you can expect to complete essays, lab reports, abstracts, grant proposals, oral presentations, short answer questions and multiple choice examinations, in addition to your third year research project (dissertation).

During your first year you will undergo a formal 'transition' review to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in your school or department and can help with any academic issues you encounter.

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

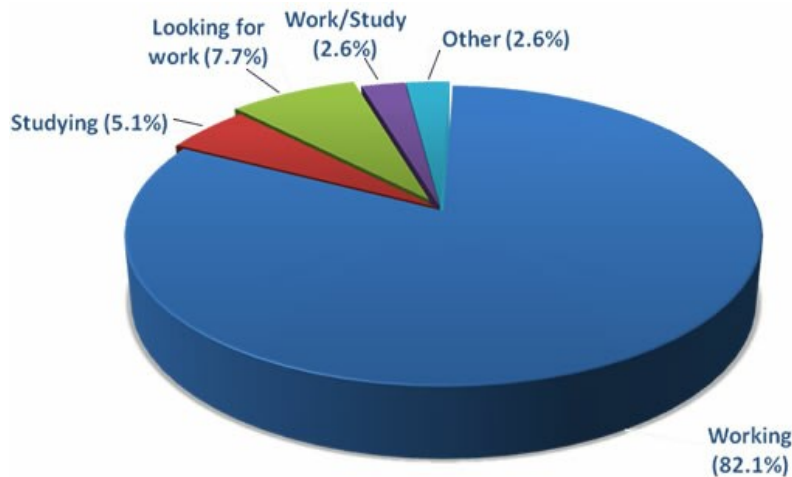
Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our [Careers Network \(/undergraduate/careers/careers-network.aspx\)](#) can help you achieve your goal.



[\(/schools/psychology/our-students/undergraduate/gagandeep-chohan.aspx\)](http://schools/psychology/our-students/undergraduate/gagandeep-chohan.aspx)

Our graduates are well respected and are successful in finding careers both in professional or academic psychology and, more generally, in the professional, commercial and industrial world.

Psychology graduates are qualified to take up a wide range of careers, and many continue in psychology. Our Single Honours graduates are eligible for graduate membership of the British Psychological Society and Graduate Basis for Registration of the BPS, which is the first step towards postgraduate training and careers in clinical, forensic, educational or occupational psychology. Others work for higher degrees or join a team as research assistants. Yet others may become teachers of psychology in schools, sixth form colleges or colleges of further education.



School of Psychology - undergraduate destinations 2012/2013

Psychology is a broad discipline and our programme offers a range of transferable analytical, communication, and interpersonal skills. As a Psychology graduate you may enter a career in which your knowledge of psychology is a useful foundation, including but not limited to: broadcasting, journalism, human resource management, marketing, social work, the Probation Service and the Civil Service. Other past graduates have also gone on to jobs in industry and commerce, computing, the police and local government

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area. Our team source exclusive **work experience opportunities** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/work-experience.aspx>) to help you stand out amongst the competition, with **mentoring** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/index.aspx>), **global internships** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/index.aspx>) 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)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/psa.aspx>) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

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

Professional accreditation

This programme is accredited by the British Psychology Society as conferring eligibility for graduate membership of the Society with the Graduate Basis for Registration, provided that the minimum standard of qualification of second-class Honours is achieved



96%

Students agreed staff are good at explaining things

||

To see more details and compare with other courses

BSc (Hons) Psychology
Full time

Visit UNISTATS ▶

Official data collected by HEFCE

