

BSc (Hons) in Psychology

Aims and Rationale of the Programme

This programme has been developed to provide a broad scientific education in Psychology, a study which seeks to understand mind and behaviour through experimentation, observation and measurement. This includes: the study of perception, memory and emotion in adults and children; the socio-psychological processes that shape our relationships with each other and society; the development of language, behaviour, personality and thought in children; the biological processes that underpin behaviour; and the causes and treatment of abnormal behaviour.

Within the programme, students are introduced to the core areas of psychology as well as receiving a strong grounding in psychological research methods.

This component focuses on learning about how psychological science is conducted, analysed and reported through a series of guided learning exercises, culminating in an independent research project in the final year.

Structure of the Programme

The BSc in Psychology is a 3-year full-time programme, taught exclusively in the English language. Courses are offered within a two-term period, with two exam periods in May and August.

Courses

Year 1

- Academic Skills
- Introduction to Psychology
- Research Methods in Psychology 1
- Introduction to Counselling

Year 2

- Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience
- Research Methods in Psychology 2
- Developmental and Social Psychology
- Individual Differences and Abnormal Psychology

Year 3

- Psychology Project
- Options from a range including:
 - Applied Cognitive Psychology
 - Social Psychology: Applied Social Issues
 - Developmental
 - Psychopharmacology
 - Introduction to Educational Psychology
 - Psychometrics
 - Counselling Theory or Skills
 - Psychology of Sport
 - Human Performance in Organisations

Entry Requirements

- High School Certificate
- A minimum of TOEFL score of 213 (computer based test), IELTS 6.0, or a recognized equivalent (for example, successful completion of a programme of studies at HE of FE taught in English).

Careers

Work opportunities in business, commerce, counselling (with additional training), education (with additional training), research, human resource management and the social sciences.

Assessment

Examinations, coursework, oral presentations and project work. Practical teaching is assessed through classroom observation and a portfolio of lesson plans and reports

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Core Course Descriptions

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY (30 credits)

Cognitive and behavioural psychology, Neuroscience, Individual differences, Abnormal psychology, Developmental psychology, Social psychology.

ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (30 credits)

Academic Skills, Development of learning skills, Exploration of career paths, Setting Goals.

RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY (30 credits)

Distinctions between quantitative and qualitative approaches to research. Design strategies, problem definition and hypothesis formation. Independent and dependent variables. Extraneous, random and confounding variables. Theories of sampling, notions of validity and reliability. Experimental, Quasi-experimental and Naturalistic designs - their merits and limitations. Random, matched and within-subjects designs. The place of ethics in psychological research, including regulations surrounding vulnerable groups, deception, and working with children. BPS guidelines. Descriptive statistics, Inferential statistics.

INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING (30 credits)

Psychodynamic Models of Counselling. Humanistic Models of Counselling. Existential Models of Counselling. Cognitive / Behavioural Models of Counselling. Values & Ethics in Counselling. Methodologies used in Counselling Research.

BEHAVIOURAL & COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE (30 credits)

Neural mechanisms. Neurotransmission. Behaviourism. Behavioural Genetics. Principles of psychopharmacology. Current theories of thinking. Models of language. Models of memory & visual perception.

DEVELOPMENTAL & SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (30 credits)

Language Development. Cognitive Development. Development of Perception. Social Cognitive Development.

Influences on Social Development. Genetic and Environmental Influences on Development. Attitude Change. Leadership. Cognitive Dissonance. Group Formation. Group Performance. Self-categorization Theory. Terror Management Theory.

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES & ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY II (30 credits)

Psychological Testing. Concepts of Validity & Reliability. Assessment of Mental Abilities. The Nature of Intelligence. Genetic and Environmental influences on intelligence and personality. Introduction to epidemiology. Aetiology of Schizophrenia. Eating disorders and Depression. Prevention. The Role of the Family. Race and Ethnicity. Psychiatric Services. Consciousness.

RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY II (30 credits)

Philosophical and historical influences in psychological research. Critical and traditional approaches in psychological research. Qualitative methods including discourse analysis, ethnography and reflexive research practices. Critical evaluations of quasi-experimental designs and applied research; test theory; advantages and disadvantages of repeated measures versus independent measures. Survey methodology; use and design of questionnaires and interviews- issues of reliability and validity. Critical exploration of sampling, sample-sizes, implicit notions of statistical power. Case studies. Introduction to multivariate data and its location in design. Advanced statistics. Designing a research study- applying theories in research. Design and analysis of experiments including: randomisation; factorial designs; repeated measures; split plot. Evaluating and selecting research instruments- issues in using psychometric tests. Use and principles of a-priori and post-hoc tests in research design. Ethical procedures in student research studies. Conventions in writing up psychological research.

PSYCHOLOGY PROJECT (30 credits)

This is an independent study. Each student is supervised individually by a member of staff. Content will reflect the topic of study. Activities will include literature searches, research question formulation and research design, data collection and analysis and report writing.