

MSc in Psychology

Why choose this course:

- We will give you a challenging academic environment that is focused on bringing out the best in you.
- Be assured by the reputation of the course, which has been established for over 20 years;
- Broaden your knowledge of psychology research methods and psychological theory;
- Take advantage of small-group study with subject experts;
- Benefit from close and friendly supervision as you produce either a quantitatively- or qualitatively-orientated dissertation in an area of your choice.

What you will learn:

Upon completion of the MSc Psychology students will have:

- developed an advanced critical appreciation of selected contemporary methods, theories and issues in psychology;
- developed research design and analysis skills and applied those skills to a specific substantial piece of independent research, in the context of an appropriate awareness of relevant ethical issues;
- developed intellectual and critical thinking skills together with transferable skills in key and contemporary areas of Psychology, commensurate with Masters level.

What you will study:

The modules listed below are a mixture of compulsory and optional:

- Psychological and Social Research: Review, Evaluation and Design
- Current Topics in Developmental Psychology
- Foundations of Positive Psychology
- Positive Psychology in Practice
- Critical Positive Psychology
- Qualitative Inquiry
- Quantitative Inquiry 1
- Quantitative Inquiry 2
- Psychology Dissertation (up to 15,000 words)

What career opportunities:

A postgraduate qualification in psychology will enhance your skills for a diverse range of careers, including mental health counselling, human resources, management, education and professions allied to medicine. Past students have found that having a higher degree has improved their chances of securing a place on a specialist psychology-related higher degree or doctorate. It has also improved their chances of gaining employment within the graduate market because they can evidence their capability in postgraduate education.

At a Glance:

Award: MSc

Duration: 12 months Full-Time
Start date(s): October

ECTS: 180

Entry requirements:

- An honours degree in psychology recognized by the BPS or equivalent, with classification at least 2:1
- candidates with a 2:2 or equivalent, or graduates from a field closely related to Psychology, may be accepted after successful interview with the Programme Leader.
- A good standard of English (IELTS 6.5 or a recognized equivalent).

Assessment: All modules are assessed through written assignments, portfolios or presentations.

Application Procedure: The Admissions Team is available to help with questions about application to the University of Bolton, fees, and financial assistance, as well as to arrange a meeting with the Academic Programme Leader.



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Module Indicative Content

Psychological and Social Research: Review, Evaluation and Design

This module aims to provide the opportunity to develop skills of review and evaluation of research in psychology and social science; to explore the philosophical basis of broad approaches to psychological and social science; and to explore the advantages and disadvantages of alternative approaches to psychological and social research.

Current Topics in Developmental Psychology

Through this module students will be introduced to the key perspectives and methods of Developmental Psychology at an advanced level, to and acquire the ability to critique key perspectives, methods, techniques and up-to-date research in Developmental Psychology. It also provides an opportunity for students to develop a critical appreciation of how research in Developmental Psychology is used to inform strategies and interventions throughout the lifespan (i.e. childhood, adolescence adulthood and with the elderly).

Foundations of Positive Psychology

This module provides an introduction to Positive Psychology, by looking at the history of the field and examining a number of key concepts in Positive Psychology, including: hope, resilience, optimism, the measurement and definition of happiness, joy, compassion, love and relationships, mindfulness, spirituality, wisdom, values, goals and motivation.

Critical Positive Psychology

The module will develop your understanding of key perspectives and approaches within positive psychology and provide opportunities to develop critical skills. Topics include: A history of happiness, humanism, exploration of growth and flourishing as capitalist virtues, economics and political power of positive psychology, the biology of positive psychology, examining paradigms within positive psychology and an exploration of the socio-cultural factors in well-being.

Positive Psychology in Practice

The module covers a range of problems, situations and contexts where positive psychology is applied, such as clinical, educational, organizational and health settings. Students examine selected topics within Positive Psychology and consider how Positive Psychology has been applied in each of these areas. Teaching is informed by the latest research and scholarly activity in this area. Topics include grit and achievement, turning trauma into growth, mental health difficulties and recovery, character strengths and positive family therapy interventions.

Qualitative Inquiry

This module will facilitate an advanced appreciation and understanding of qualitative research methodologies through considering the philosophical and ethical issues of a range of different qualitative research perspectives and methodologies. The module also considers the range of methodologies, theoretical and practical issues/aspects around qualitative data collection, handling, coding and analysis using both hand and computer-assisted techniques.

Quantitative Inquiry 1

This module aims to to review and expand upon specific issues covered at undergraduate level to provide a grounding for the study of masters level quantitative techniques. Students will be evaluate a range of quantitative methods for psychological and social research and develop professional level skills of planning and preparation for data collection. A range of advanced techniques of quantitative data analysis currently employed in psychological and social sciences will also be introduced. Students will develop professional-level skills of quantitative data analysis and presentation.

Quantitative Inquiry 2

This module builds on the statistical techniques and methods developed in Quantitative Inquiry 1 and introduces students to a range of the concept of casual modelling and statistical methods related to this technique. Students are introduced to more complex multivariate designs and statistics. The module aims to provide students with the confidence and skills to select, implement and report using a range of advanced data collection procedures and statistical techniques.

Psychology Dissertation

This dissertation module involves an independent research study in a clearly defined area of psychology, involving both a theoretical and an empirical component. The theoretical component can involve a critical review of relevant theory and data; the construction of a new theory or model and / or the analysis of an applied problem area. The balance between the theoretical or review component and the empirical component will depend on the nature of the project and is a matter for discussion between student and supervisor. The maximum length for the dissertation is 15,000 words in the main text (excluding references and appendices).