

Programme Specification for Undergraduate Programme
Leading to:
BSc Psychology
BSc Psychology with Professional Development



Applicable for all undergraduate students **starting at FHEQ Level 4 in 2020/21**

level	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	July-20	Programme Specification for 2020-21 approved with PY1600 replaced by PY1608; PY1800 now Core: 2 & Block; PY3604 withdrawn; and PY3621 Forensic Psychology added	RJC

Undergraduate Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Health and Life Sciences, Department of Life Sciences, Division of Psychology
4. Contributing college/department/division/ associated institution	N/A
5. Programme accredited by	British Psychological Society
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	BSc (Hons) Psychology (FHEQ Level 6) BSc (Hons) Psychology with Professional Development (FHEQ Level 6)
7. Programme title	BSc Psychology BSc Psychology with Professional Development
8. Programme type (Single/Joint Honours)	Single honours
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	36 months (FT), 48 months (thin sandwich), 48 months (thick sandwich)
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	Normal or standard duration plus 3 years
11. Variation(s) to September start	None for standard levels For LBIC entry see: “LBIC Life Sciences Foundation”
12. Modes of study	Full-time, Thin Sandwich, Thick Sandwich
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles with FHEQ Level of Award	Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology (FHEQ Level 4) Diploma in Higher Education in Psychology (FHEQ Level 5) Diploma in Higher Education in Psychology with Professional Development (FHEQ Level 5) BSc (Ord) Psychology FHEQ Level 6 BSc (Ord) Psychology with Professional Development (FHEQ Level 6)
15. UCAS code	C801, C800

16. HECoS Code	100497 (Psychology)
17. Route Code	C800UPSYCHOL
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design.	<p>UK Quality Code for Higher Education</p> <p>QAA Benchmark Statement (Psychology)</p> <p>Brunel 2030.</p> <p>Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the 'Managing Higher Education Provision with Others' page.</p> <p>British Psychological Society: Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters Programmes in psychology.</p> <p>British Psychological Society: Accreditation Through Partnership Handbook: Guidance for undergraduate and conversion psychology programmes.</p>
19. Admission Requirements	<p>Details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website.</p> <p>Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.</p>
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	<p>Placements</p> <p>The BSc Psychology with Professional Development offers a 4-year thin- and thick-sandwich mode of study, designed to link academic learning with practical experience and knowledge gained in two separate periods (thin-sandwich placement) or one single period (thick-sandwich placement) of work placement. This experience contributes to the superior employability of our students on graduation.</p> <p><i>For the Thin sandwich Placement:</i> The first work placement takes place during the Year 1 (FHEQ Level 4) Summer Term (Terms 3 and 4) and Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) Autumn Term (Term 1). The second work placement takes place during Year 3 (FHEQ Level 5) Spring (Term 2) and Summer (Terms 3 and 4) Terms. Students enrolled in the Thin-sandwich Placement are required to attend PY1554 in their Year 1 (FHEQ Level 4) (Term 2), followed by PY2556 in their Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 1) and PY2557 in their Year 3 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 2).</p> <p><i>For the Thick sandwich Placement:</i> The work placement takes place during Year 3 (FHEQ Level 5). Students enrolled in the Thick-sandwich Placement are required to attend PY1554 in their Year 1 (FHEQ Level 4) (Term 2), followed by PY2555 in their Year 3 (FHEQ Level 5) (Terms 1 and 2).</p> <p>The University has a specialist Professional Development Centre (PDC), staffed on a full-time basis year-round, in order to help students find suitable placements. Within the PDC is a team of Placement Officers and Placement Assistants who work with organisations to obtain work placement opportunities and provide a service to students to help them secure a work placement that is relevant to their course of study. Those who wish to organise their own placement are also encouraged to do so, subject to approval by the PDC. While on work placement, each student is assigned an Academic Work Placement Tutor, a member of the Division of Psychology academic staff who ensures that the placement is proceeding well, and offers advice and guidance on placement learning and assessment.</p> <p>Study Abroad</p>

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University of California Exchange Programme: Students have the opportunity to study at one of the University of California's campuses. This takes place in Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 2). Students will take 60 credits worth of Year 3 (FHEQ Level 6) modules at the host institution. In order to satisfy the requirements of a British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited programme, students will take the corresponding Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 2) modules (60 credits) in Year 3 (FHEQ Level 6) (Term 2):

<i>Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 2) Study Block</i>	<i>Year 3 (FHEQ Level 6) (Term 2) corresponding Study Block</i>
PY2704 Biological Psychology	PY3704 Advanced Biological Psychology
PY2701 Cognitive Psychology	PY3701 Advanced Cognitive Psychology
PY2702 Social Psychology	PY3702 Advanced Issues in Social Psychology
PY2703 Individual Differences	PY3703 Advanced Issues in Individual Differences
<i>Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 2) Assessment Block</i>	<i>Year 3 (FHEQ Level 6) (Term 2) corresponding Assessment Block</i>
PY2801 Portfolio for Cognitive Neuroscience (30 credits)	PY3801 Portfolio for Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience (30 credits)
PY2802 Portfolio for Social Psychology and Individual Differences (20 credits)	PY3802 Portfolio for Advanced Issues in Social Psychology and Advanced Issues in Individual Differences (20 credits)
<i>Year 2 (FHEQ Level 5) (Term 2) Modular Block</i>	<i>Year 3 (FHEQ Level 6) (Term 2) corresponding Modular Block</i>
PY2602 Developmental Psychology (10 credits)	PY3620 Advanced Developmental Psychology (10 credits)

Normally, students choose 80 credits worth of modules at FHEQ Level 6 (Year 3). Since these students will have already taken 60 credits of FHEQ Level 6 (Year 3) modules while at the University of California, they are required to only choose 20 credits worth of modules at FHEQ Level 6 (Year 3).

Graduate Careers

An honours degree (at 2:2 level or higher including a pass in the Dissertation) in an accredited programme confers the Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC) from the British Psychological Society (BPS). GBC is a pre-requisite for entry into postgraduate training for the psychology professions such as Clinical, Educational, Occupational, Forensic and Health Psychology. Academic research (PhD), Counselling Psychology, Education, Social Work, and Speech and Language Therapy also feature amongst postgraduate training destinations for psychology graduates.

21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 2. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 2 must be stated here and approved by Senate.

N/A

22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/psychology-bsc>

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The BSc Psychology programme aims to:

- Provide high-quality training in the core content of psychology, allowing accreditation by the British Psychological Society for the Graduate Basis of Chartered membership. Topics covered include biological psychology, cognitive psychology, clinical psychology, developmental psychology, social psychology, individual differences, historical and conceptual issues, research methods, and statistics.
- Equip students with the skills to apply theoretical and methodological knowledge to practical problems.
- Foster independence, self-reliance and critical thinking skills.
- Produce graduates with the necessary transferable, intellectual, vocational and interpersonal skills appropriate to the contemporary employment market and MSc and PhD study.

FHEQ Level 4

We aim to provide students with a foundation in psychological content across areas such as social psychology, biological psychology, clinical psychology and learning, and to develop students' understanding of how psychology can be applied to contemporary issues affecting society. In addition, we aim to equip students with an understanding of the scientific method and of common research methods and basic statistics used in psychology.

FHEQ Level 5

We aim to develop students' knowledge and critical understanding across the breadth of the discipline by building on topics studied at FHEQ Level 4 and including topics of cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, historical and conceptual issues, and individual differences. We also aim to develop students' knowledge and skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods and statistical analysis, as well as provide opportunities for the collection, analysis and reporting of original data. For students on the 4-year, thin-/thick sandwich-placement programme, Psychology with Professional Development, we aim to develop skills, understanding and experience relevant to work and professional practice.

FHEQ Level 6

We aim to develop students' in-depth and critical understanding of advanced topics in psychology by drawing on the leading-edge research of staff. We aim to provide a range of option modules allowing students to tailor their studies to their interests. Finally, through a major empirical project, we aim to equip students with the ability to apply theoretical and methodological knowledge to practical problems so as to enhance disciplinary understanding.

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (**K**) cognitive (thinking) skills (**C**), and other skills and attributes (**S**) in the following areas:

Year and FHEQ Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
Year 1 and FHEQ Level 4					
	K	Basic knowledge of key concepts, findings and theoretical approaches within psychology.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701	PY1607 PY1606 PY1604 PY1608
	K	Basic understanding of the scientific method, common research methods and basic to intermediate level statistical tests used within psychology.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701	

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	C	Searching, citing and summarising psychological literature.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701 PY1702	PY1607 PY1606 PY1604 PY1608
	C	Assessing the merits and weaknesses of psychological theories, methods and evidence.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701 PY1702	PY1607 PY1606 PY1604 PY1608
	C	Organising and presenting reasoned arguments backed up by evidence.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701 PY1702	PY1607 PY1606 PY1604 PY1608
	S	Reporting research and analysing statistical data.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701	
	S	Practising effective working skills such as time-management, self-reliance, self-discipline, goal-setting, essay/report writing, etc.	PY1800	PY1700 PY1701 PY1702 PY1554	PY1607 PY1606 PY1604 PY1608
Year 2 and FHEQ Level 5					
	K	Critical and broad knowledge of concepts, findings and theoretical approaches in core psychological topics.	PY2800 PY2801 PY2802	PY2704 PY2702 PY2703 PY2701 PY2700	PY2606 PY2602 PY2601
	K	Understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods, and understanding of statistical analyses of in simple and complex experimental designs.	PY2800	PY2705 PY2700	PY2606
	K	Understanding the importance of ethical considerations in designing and conducting research.	PY2800	PY2700 PY2706	PY2606
	K	Understanding of how research in psychology can inform practice in an employment context (Psychology with Professional Development).			PY2555 PY2556 PY2557
	C	Searching, citing and summarising psychological literature.	PY2800 PY2801 PY2802	PY2704 PY2702 PY2703 PY2701 PY2700 PY2706	PY2606 PY2602 PY2601
	C	Critically assessing the merits and weaknesses of psychological theories, methods and evidence.	PY2800 PY2801 PY2802	PY2704 PY2702 PY2703 PY2701 PY2700 PY2706	PY2606 PY2602 PY2601
	C	Organising and presenting reasoned, critical arguments backed up by evidence.	PY2800 PY2801 PY2802	PY2704 PY2702 PY2703 PY2701 PY2700	PY2606 PY2602 PY2601

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				PY2706	
	C	Critically analysing issues encountered in an employment context from an academic perspective (Psychology with Professional Development).		PY2706	PY2555 PY2556 PY2557
	S	Conducting empirical research, analysing quantitative and qualitative data and writing up empirical reports	PY2800	PY2705 PY2700 PY2706	PY2606
	S	Working as part of a team and practising effective oral presentation skills	PY2800 PY2801 PY2802	PY2704 PY2702 PY2703 PY2701 PY2700 PY2706	PY2606
	S	Adapting to different employment environments and organisational expectations (Psychology with Professional Development).		PY2706	PY2555 PY2556 PY2557
Year 3 and FHEQ Level 6					
	K	In-depth and critical understanding of concepts, findings and theories in advanced topics in psychology.	PY3802 PY3801	PY3702 PY3703 PY3704 PY3701	PY3617 PY3600 PY3618 PY3601 PY3607 PY3610 PY3612 PY3613 PY3614 PY3615 PY3616 PY3619 PY3620 PY3621
	K	Understanding, choosing and using a research method appropriate to a research topic.			PY3600
	K	Understanding the importance of ethical considerations in designing and conducting research.			PY3600
	C	Independently searching, gathering, citing and summarising psychological literature.	PY3802 PY3801	PY3702 PY3703 PY3704 PY3701	PY3617 PY3600 PY3618 PY3601 PY3607 PY3610 PY3612 PY3613 PY3614 PY3615 PY3616 PY3619 PY3620 PY3621

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	C	Systematically assessing the merits and weaknesses of psychological theories, methods and evidence.	PY3802 PY3801	PY3702 PY3703 PY3704 PY3701	PY3617 PY3600 PY3618 PY3601 PY3607 PY3610 PY3612 PY3613 PY3614 PY3615 PY3616 PY3619 PY3620 PY3621
	C	Organising and presenting reasoned, critical and comprehensive arguments backed up by evidence.	PY3802 PY3801	PY3702 PY3703 PY3704 PY3701	PY3617 PY3600 PY3618 PY3601 PY3607 PY3610 PY3612 PY3613 PY3614 PY3615 PY3616 PY3619 PY3620 PY3621
	S	Designing, executing and writing an extensive piece of original research.			PY3600
	S	Practising effective working skills such as time-management, self-reliance, self-discipline, goal-setting, essay / report writing etc.	PY3802 PY3801	PY3702 PY3703 PY3704 PY3701	PY3617 PY3600 PY3618 PY3601 PY3607 PY3610 PY3612 PY3613 PY3614 PY3615 PY3616 PY3619 PY3620 PY3621

Learning/Teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments:

Students are taught through a combination of lectures, laboratory sessions, workshops, guided reading, independent research, group tutorials and individual supervision.

Knowledge and theoretical understanding is taught through lectures/interactive lectures together with online support material. These provide a platform for students further to develop their understanding through guided reading and independent research.

Skills in research methods (including ethical considerations) are taught through a combination of lectures (PY1700, PY2700, PY2606, PY3600), guided group work (PY2700, PY2606), instruction in qualitative analysis (PY2606), and individual supervision of the dissertation module (PY3600) where students design and execute their final year project.

Statistics knowledge and skills (PY1701, PY2705, PY3600) are taught through a combination of lectures, workshops and guided practice analysing data.

Effective writing skills and other academic skills essential in psychology are supported at FHEQ Level 4 via lectures, seminars and workshops (PY1608, PY1702), lectures and a formative assessment (PY1606), at FHEQ Level 5 via lectures, seminars and workshops (PY2706), at FHEQ Level 6 via lectures, seminars and workshops (PY3600), through group or individual tutorial support, and more generally through feedback throughout the programme.

For students on the Psychology with Professional Development course, learning is facilitated by preparatory and review sessions and is achieved through placement experience.

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated:

Most learning outcomes are assessed via a combination of in-year coursework, in-year exams, end-of-year exams and the final year dissertation.

Knowledge, understanding and critical thinking skills are assessed primarily through traditional essay type questions (coursework and exams) but also via the final year dissertation. Knowledge and understanding are also assessed via multiple-choice questions and short-answer-format questions in exams. A mix of examination and coursework is used across the programme to assess both breadth and depth of learning.

Research methods learning outcomes are assessed through synoptic laboratory reports in PY1800 and PY2800, a written reflection on participation in the Participant Pool in PY1800, a qualitative research report based on an interview study in PY2606, and via the final-year dissertation.

Statistical knowledge and skills are assessed via application of the skills in laboratory reports, synoptic take-home assignments, synoptic multiple-choice questions exams, and via the final year dissertation.

The final year dissertation is an extended piece of coursework which assesses dissertation specific learning outcomes as well as most of the programme’s learning outcomes such as knowledge, understanding, critical thinking, effective writing, understanding of research methods and methods of collecting and analysing data.

For students on the Psychology with Professional Development course, learning is assessed via coursework including both traditional essays, oral presentations and reflective accounts of learning experiences on placement.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements:

- **Compulsory Block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional Block:** one which students choose from an ‘option range’. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **Core Assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade D- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at D- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB3000 Project (40)
Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at D- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)
Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)
Core: All, Block

- A **Non-Core Assessment** does not have to be passed at grade D- or better, but must be better than a grade F, in order to progress and to be eligible for the final award.

Foundation Level

A Foundation Level structure is specified in document "Validated Programme Element Specification for LBIC Life Sciences Foundation. This document also specifies the admission and progression requirements.

Year 1 and FHEQ Level 4

<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit</p> <p>PY1800 Portfolio for Research Methods and Statistics (40) Core: Element 2 & Block</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>PY1554 First Work Placement Preparation (0) PY1700 Research Methods (20) PY1701 Statistics (20) PY1702 Academic Skills for Psychology (0)</p>	<p>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>PY1607 Foundations of Psychology III: Brain and Cognition (20) PY1606 Foundations of Psychology I: Learning and Social Psychology (20) PY1604 Foundations of Psychology II: Clinical Psychology (20) PY1608 Employability in Psychology (20)</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p>

Year 1 and FHEQ Level 4 Progression and Award Requirements:

As per [Senate Regulation 2](#).

Year 2 and FHEQ Level 5

<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>PY2800 Portfolio for Advanced Research Methods and Statistics (30) Core: All, Block PY2801 Portfolio for Cognitive Neuroscience (30) * PY2802 Portfolio for Social Psychology and Individual Differences (20) *</p> <p>* These assessment blocks are NOT taken by students on the University of California Exchange Programme</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>
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<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>PY2704 Biological Psychology (20)* PY2702 Social Psychology (10) * PY2700 Quantitative Research Methods (20) PY2705 Advanced Data Analysis (10) PY2703 Individual Differences (10) * PY2701 Cognitive Psychology (10) * PY2706 Advanced Academic Skills for Psychology (0)</p> <p>* These study blocks are NOT taken by students on the University of California Exchange Programme</p>	<p>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>PY2606 Qualitative Research Methods (10) Core: All, Block PY2602 Developmental Psychology (10) * PY2601 Conceptual and Historical Issues (20)</p> <p>* These modular blocks are NOT taken by students on the University of California Exchange Programme</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Year 2 and FHEQ Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements:</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2.</p>	

Year 2 and FHEQ Level 5 – Placement	
<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>	<p>Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>Thin Sandwich Placement only: PY2556 Work Placement (Psychology - thin 1) (60) Core: Block PY2557 Work Placement (Psychology - thin 2) (60) Core: Block</p> <p>Thick Sandwich Placement only: PY2555 Work Placement (Psychology – thick) (120) Core: Block</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Year 2 and FHEQ Level 5 Placement Progression and Award Requirements:</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2. For Psychology with Professional Development, PY2555, or PY2556 and PY2557 together, will contribute 25% of the Year 2 and FHEQ Level 5 profile and 8.3% of the overall degree calculation</p>	

Year 3 and FHEQ Level 6

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<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>The following assessment blocks are ONLY taken by students on the University of California Exchange Programme:</p> <p>PY3802 Portfolio for Advanced Issues in Social Psychology and Advanced Issues in Individual Differences (20) PY3801 Portfolio for Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience (30)</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>The following study blocks are ONLY taken by students on the University of California Exchange Programme:</p> <p>PY3702 Advanced Issues in Social Psychology (10) PY3703 Advanced Issues in Individual Differences (10) PY3704 Advanced Biological Psychology (20) PY3701 Advanced Cognitive Psychology (10)</p>	<p>Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>PY3600 Dissertation (40) Core: Block</p> <p>The following modular blocks are ONLY taken by students on the University of California Exchange Programme:</p> <p>PY3620 Advanced Developmental Psychology (10)</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>Students choose 80 credits from: (Students who did the University of California Exchange Programme ONLY choose 20 credits)</p> <p>PY3617 Evolutionary Psychology (20) PY3618 Drugs, Hormones and the Brain (20) PY3601 Practical Investigations of Mind and Brain (20) PY3607 Cross-Cultural Psychology (20) PY3610 Animal Behaviour (20) PY3612 Personality and Close Relationships (20) PY3613 Psychology of Reading and its Impairments (20) PY3614 Disorders of Perception and Movement Control (20) PY3615 Human Sexual Diversity (20) PY3616 Psychoanalytic Psychology (20) PY3619 Psychology of Religion (20) PY3621 Forensic Psychology (20)</p>
<p>Year 3 and FHEQ Level 6 Progression and Award Requirements:</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2</p>	

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.