

Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme Leading to: MSc Psychological Sciences (Conversion) Online



Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after Sept 2021

<u>Version No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes – QA USE ONLY</u>	<u>QA</u>
1	May-21	2021/22 version of programme specification created	RJC

Masters programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home College/Department	College of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences/Department of Life Sciences, Division of Psychology
4. Contributing Colleges	N/A
5. Programme accredited by	British Psychological Society (BPS)
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	MSc Psychological Sciences (Conversion) FHEQ Level 7
7. Programme title	MSc Psychological Sciences (Conversion) Online
8. Programme type (single honours/joint)	N/A
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	12 months full-time 24 months part-time
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	Normal or standard duration plus two years, up to a maximum of five years
11. Variation(s) to September start	Three intakes per year: January, May and September
12. Modes of study	Full-time/Part-time
13. Modes of delivery	Online
14. Intermediate awards and titles	Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies Note: Candidates awarded an intermediate award will not achieve BPS accredited status.
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. HECoS Code	100497 (Psychology)
17. Route Code	C800POPYS CON
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	UK Quality Code for Higher Education Most Recent QAA Psychology Subject Benchmark: Statement: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-psychology-16.pdf?sfvrsn=af95f781_8 Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in psychology January 2019: https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/bps.org.uk/files/Accreditation/Accreditation%20of%20New%20UK%20Programmes%20%282019%29.pdf

	<p>British Psychological Society Code of Human Research Ethics: https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-code-human-research-ethics-2nd-edition-2014</p> <p>British Psychological Society Supplementary guidelines for research and research methods on Society accredited undergraduate and conversion programmes: https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/bps.org.uk/files/Accreditation/Research%20Methods%20-%20Undergraduate%20Programmes%20WEB.pdf</p> <p>Vision for Brunel University London: Brunel 2030</p>
19. Admission Requirements	<p>Details of PGT 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> <p>In accordance with the British Psychological Society's requirements for conversion courses, applicants are required to hold a minimum of a lower second class (2:2) UK honours undergraduate degree in any subject.</p> <p>All candidates must also have minimum grade of C in GCSE-level Mathematics, or equivalent qualification.</p> <p>Students who are non-native speakers of English must also demonstrate that their English language ability is sufficient before starting the course.</p> <p>We require non-native speakers of English to have achieved at least 6.5 overall in the IELTS with no less than 6 in any one component, or an equivalent English Language qualification.</p>
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	N/A
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 3. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 3 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	N/A
22. Further information about the programme is available from:	Programme Lead (Dr Survjit Cheeta)

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To provide students with coverage of all of the requirements for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership in Psychology with the British Psychological Society (BPS).
- To provide students with a comprehensive understanding, and critical awareness, of how the theories, methods, and research findings of Psychology draw upon and contribute to the natural sciences and the social sciences alike.
- To provide students with a comprehensive and systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current issues relating to, important concepts, theoretical issues, research findings, historical issues, recent advances, and research methods in Psychology.
- To provide students with comprehensive knowledge and systematic understanding of relevant concepts, theoretical issues, research findings, recent advances, and research methods in Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Individual Differences, and Social Psychology that are critical for research in Psychology.
- To give students the opportunity to acquire comprehensive knowledge and systematic understanding of a particular topic in Psychology and to conduct an original empirical psychology project in that area.
- To provide students with the opportunity to acquire important transferable skills at an advanced level, including research (e.g. research design, data analysis, report preparation) and other skills associated with Quality assurance agencies subject Benchmarks for Psychology.

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:

FHEQ Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Masters Only	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
7	K	Introduction to the discipline of psychology and knowledge of historical and contemporary perspectives in the discipline.		1		All Modules
7	K	Achieve proficiency in analytical skills with regard to research design and interpret results in psychology.		2		PY5622 PY5625 PY5620
7	K	Demonstrate knowledge of major theories and results of empirical studies that are relevant to the empirical research project (including an understanding of the larger, real-world context within which the empirical project can be located).	*	3		PY5620
7	C	Demonstrate critical awareness of historical and contemporary perspectives in psychology.		4		PY5621 PY5622 PY5623 PY5624 PY5625 PY5626 PY5627 PY5628
7	C	Demonstrate critical evaluation of the results of empirical research in psychology.		5		PY5622 PY5624 PY5623 PY5625 PY5626 PY5627 PY5628
7	C	Demonstrate the ability to develop, analyse, and interpret theory-derived, testable hypotheses (and, perhaps, research questions) concerning links among the constructs to be studied in the empirical research project	*	6		PY5622 PY5624 PY5625 PY5626 PY5627 PY5628
7	S	Demonstrate effective and critical written communication.		7		PY5621 PY5622 PY5624 PY5623 PY5625 PY5626 PY5627

7	S	Demonstrate effective visual or oral presentation skills		8		PY5628 PY5620
7	K,S	Advance their knowledge and understanding and develop skills to a higher level		9		All Modules
7	K,C,S	Learn independently for the purposes of continuing professional development		10		All Modules

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments.

Online Learning Methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes on this programme. Formative assessments in the form of quizzes and discussion questions are provided on all modules.

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

A range of assessment types are employed. These include:

Coursework essays – demonstration of systematic understanding, critical analysis, and written communication skills.

- Data analysis assessment– demonstration of mathematical and statistical competency.
- Laboratory reports – ability to analyse and interpret empirical evidence.
 - Interviewing techniques

Ethics applications Empirical Psychology Project – ability to plan, critically review, execute and communicate an advanced piece of research.

- Visual and poster presentations.

Deadlines are distributed throughout the year, allowing time for constructive feedback.

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 C- 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 C- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB5500 Project (40)

Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at C- 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 C- or better, but must D- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.

FHEQ Level 7	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>PY5621 Historical and conceptual Issues in Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5622 Research methods and statistics in Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5623 Cognitive Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5624 Biological Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5625 Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5626 Developmental Psychology (15 Credits)</p> <p>PY5627 Social Psychology (15 Credits)</p> <p>PY5628 Individual Differences (15 Credits)</p> <p>PY5620 Empirical Psychology Project (60 credits)</p> <p>Core: Block</p> <p><u>Part Time</u></p> <p>Year 1: PY5621; PY5623; PY5625; PY5627</p> <p>Year 2: PY5622; PY5624; PY5626; PY5628; PY5620.</p>	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
<p>FHEQ Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 3</p> <p>PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (PY5620) for modular/assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.</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.