

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



Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

| Version No. | Date    | Notes – QA USE ONLY                                       | QA |
|-------------|---------|---|----|
| 1           | June 21 | 2021/22 version of programme spec created with no changes | BT |

| Masters programme  |  |
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| 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)<br>FHEQ Level 7  |
| 7. Programme title   | MSc Psychological Sciences (Conversion)  |
| 8. Programme type (single honours/joint)   | N/A  |
| 9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study   | 12 months full-time<br>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  |  |
| 12. Modes of study   | Full-time/Part-time  |
| 13. Modes of delivery  | Standard   |
| 14. Intermediate awards and titles   | Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies<br>Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies<br>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   | C800PPYSCCON   |
| 18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design | <p><a href="#">QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education</a></p> <p><a href="#">Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statement</a>: there are currently no relevant subject benchmark statements.</p> <p>Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in psychology (<a href="#">2016/17 edition</a>)</p> <p><a href="#">Brunel 2030</a></p> <p>Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the <a href="#">'Managing Higher Education Provision with Others'</a> page.</p> |
| 19. Admission Requirements   | <p>Details of <a href="#">PGT entry requirements</a> are provided on the University's and College website.</p> <p>Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's <a href="#">language requirements</a> 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>   |

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|   | <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. 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:  | Course Convenor (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 research 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.   | *            | PY5801                               | PY5700<br>PY5701                | PY5608<br>PY5603<br>PY5604<br>PY5605 |
| 7          | K  | Achieve proficiency in analytical skills regarded to design research and interpret results in psychology.   | *            |                                      |                                 | PY5609<br>PY5630                     |
| 7          | K  | Demonstrate knowledge of major theories and results of empirical studies that are relevant to the dissertation topic (including an understanding of the larger, real-world context within which the dissertation topic can be located). | *            |                                      |                                 | PY5609<br>PY5607<br>PY5630           |

|   |   |  |   |                  |                            |  |
|---|---|--|---|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 7 | C | Demonstrate critical awareness of historical and contemporary perspectives in psychology.  | * | PY5801           | PY5700<br>PY5701           | PY5603<br>PY5604<br>PY5605<br>PY5607           |
| 7 | C | Demonstrate critical evaluation of the results of empirical research in psychology.  | * | PY5801<br>PY5630 | PY5700<br>PY5701<br>PY5630 | PY5609<br>PY5603<br>PY5604<br>PY5605<br>PY5607 |
| 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 dissertation. | * |                  |                            | PY5609<br>PY5607<br>PY5630                     |
| 7 | S | Demonstrate effective and critical written and oral communication.   | * | PY5801           | PY5700<br>PY5701           | PY5603<br>PY5604<br>PY5605<br>PY5607           |

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

In-depth introduction to Psychology covering historical and contemporary perspectives and covering all core areas of psychology will be achieved via lectures and seminars. These will support the student in learning how to independently access and critically analyse research.

Proficiency in analytical skills required to design research and interpret results will be achieved via statistics assignments, written research methods tests and laboratory reports. These will also require the use of specialist statistical software and other IT skills. This will be supported by lectures, seminars, small group and individual work.

Critical evaluation of the results of empirical research in psychology will be achieved via statistics assignments in which each student analyses individually novel data sets and laboratory reports.

The development of knowledge and critical thinking for the dissertation will be achieved by seminars and individual meetings between students and dissertation supervisors. These will help the student develop an independent ability to research major theories and results of empirical studies relevant to the dissertation topic (including an understanding of the real-world context of the dissertation topic), develop testable hypotheses, analyse results and interpret findings in the context of previous research.

Effective and critical written communication will be achieved via formative & summative essays, and the dissertation.

**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.
- Examinations – demonstration of comprehensive understanding.
- Laboratory reports – ability to analyse and interpret empirical evidence.
- Oral presentations – demonstration of knowledge and understanding, critical analysis and oral communication skills.
- Dissertation – ability to plan, critically review, execute and communicate an advanced piece of research.

Deadlines are distributed through 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   |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit</b></p> <p>PY5801 Biological and Cognitive Psychology (30 credits)</p> <p><u>Part time</u></p> <p>Year 1: PY5801</p>  | <p><b>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</b></p> <p>PY5700 Biological Psychology Study Block (20 credits, overlapping with PY5801)</p> <p>PY5701 Cognitive Psychology Study Block (10 Credits, overlapping with PY5801)</p> <p><u>Part time</u></p> <p>Year 1: PY5700; PY5701</p>  | <p><b>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</b></p> |
| <p><b>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</b></p> <p>PY5608 Introduction to Psychological Science (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5609 Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5603 Developmental Psychology (10 Credits)</p> <p>PY5604 Individual Differences (10 Credits)</p> <p>PY5605 Social Psychology (10 Credits)</p> <p>PY5607 Dissertation (60 credits) <b>Core: Block</b></p> <p>PY5630 Research Methods and Academic Skills – Psychology (30 credits)</p> <p><u>Part Time</u></p> <p>Year 1: PY5608; PY5609, PY5630</p> <p>Year 2: PY5603; PY5604; PY5605; PY5607</p> | <p><b>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</b></p>     |

**FHEQ Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements**

As per [Senate Regulation 3](#)

**PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (PY5607) for modular/assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.**

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.