

Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme Leading to: MSc Psychology, Culture and Evolution

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting in 2021/22

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

Postgraduate Taught Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home College/Department/Division	College of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences/Dept of Life Sciences/Psychology
4. Contributing College/Department/Division/ Associated Institution	N/A
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	MSc Psychology, Culture and Evolution FHEQ Level 7
7. Programme title	MSc Psychology, Culture and Evolution
8. Programme type (single honours/joint)	N/A
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	12 months (FT)/24 months (PT)
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	Normal or standard duration plus 2 years
11. Variation(s) to September start	N/A
12. Modes of study	(FT)/(PT)
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award	Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology, Culture and Evolution (FHEQ Level 7) Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology, Culture and Evolution (FHEQ Level 7)
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. HECoS Code	100497 (Psychology)
17. Route Code	C800PCULTEVO
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 Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's degree characteristics Brunel University London 2030

19. Admission Requirements	Details of PGT entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.
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 the College website.	http://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/Culture-and-Evolution-MSc

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The MSc in Culture and Evolution provides an opportunity for advanced study at the intersection of the two most fundamental and powerful influences on human behavior: Culture and evolution. The MSc in Culture and Evolution programme will provide students with the knowledge and expertise for pursuing a Ph.D. and other terminal degree in fields such as cross-cultural psychology, evolutionary psychology, anthropology, behavioural ecology, human ethology, sociology, and multicultural and cross-cultural counselling. The MSc in Culture and Evolution aims to provide students with transferable cognitive, analytic, and research skills—including cross-cultural translation and assessment skills, international database management, and advanced multi-group and multi-level statistical analyses—that will enhance employability in careers related to global and public health, international agencies including governmental and non-governmental research institutes, creative industries such as advertising and marketing, international business and intercultural communication, and general private sector employment (e.g. management training programmes). The MSc in Culture and Evolution may be suitable for meeting continuing professional development needs for those working in related applied contexts.

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 Award Only	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
7						
7	K	Develop an understanding of the broad research process, methodologies and presentation practices.				PY5611 PY5610 PY5630
7	K	Comprehensive knowledge and systematic understanding of the principles of evolutionary theory and biology and how evolutionary		PY5803	PY5704	PY5613 PY5614

		theory can explain biological and cultural diversity.				
7	K	Systematic understanding of, and the ability to critically evaluate, complex theoretical issues, key findings and recent methodological advances in cross-cultural psychology.		PY5803	PY5705	PY5613 PY5614
7	K	Comprehensive knowledge and systematic understanding of a specific research area in fields related to culture and evolution.				PY5614 PY5615 PY5610
7	C	Demonstrate an ability to evaluate research and the quality of evidence.		PY5803	PY5704 PY5705	PY5611 PY5613 PY5614 PY5615 PY5610 PY5630
7	C	Reflect critically on their own learning and intellectual development, in the process making use of constructive feedback.		PY5803	PY5704 PY5705	PY5612 PY5611 PY5613 PY5614 PY5615 PY5610 PY5630
7	C	Create reasoned and innovative arguments or hypotheses backed up by appropriate evidence.		PY5803	PY5704 PY5705	PY5611 PY5613 PY5614 PY5615 PY5610 PY5630
7	C	Plan original empirical research using appropriate research methods and analytical techniques.				PY5611 PY5613 PY5610
7	S	Develop advanced skills in writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgment, using them to communicate effectively to appropriate audiences.				All modules
7	S	Work independently, demonstrate initiative and organise time and work effectively to complete a large complex project.				All modules
7	S	Use advanced research, computer, statistical skills relevant to data collection and analysis in the behavioural sciences.				PY5613 PY5610 PY5630
7	K, C, S	Plan, develop and deliver a dissertation relevant to the aims of the programme.	MSc only			PY5610

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

Knowledge and understanding is acquired by means of lectures and other tutor-led activities including seminars, group discussions, student presentations, as well as guided independent study.

Acquisition of in-depth knowledge and systematic understanding is provided by a dissertation based upon students carrying out an original empirical research project in a field of culture and evolution science (i.e., evolutionary psychology, cross-cultural psychology, behavioural ecology, cultural anthropology, demography and population sciences, etc.).

Critical reflection and intellectual development is facilitated through feedback on formative assessments, coursework, seminar contributions, presentations and web-based materials. Formal teaching sessions, seminars and group discussions, in addition to guided independent study, encourage critical analysis of evidence and sources. The ability to formulate reasoned and innovative arguments and plan original empirical research to test them using appropriate research methods are developed through one-to-one supervised work on a dissertation project.

Effective communication skills, independent time-management and appropriate IT skills are developed through seminars, group presentations and discussions, web-based tests/exercises, and essay writing. Use of advanced research, computing and statistical skills relevant to data collection and analysis in culture and evolution science is developed through a) formal research methods training during the teaching programme, b) review and analysis of published research findings examined during multiple taught modules, and c) completion of the dissertation research project.

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 knowledge and understanding, critical analysis and written communication skills
- Quantitative reports – ability to analyse and interpret empirical evidence
- Synoptic seen examinations – ability to carefully formulate critical arguments, and demonstrate knowledge and understanding
- Seminar presentations – demonstration of knowledge and understanding and oral communication skills, including poster and oral presentations
- 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.

Formative Assessments

In addition to the summative assessments, students are urged to engage fully with formative assessment tasks. These tasks will be distributed between modules and will provide students with diagnostic feedback that aims to improve attainment. Formative feedback might focus on academic writing structure and style or might correct understanding or application of a complex theory or concept. Formative feedback will generally be qualitative and should help to clarify or extend a student's understanding – no formal marks will be assigned, and formative work will not count towards the degree outcome.

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
<p>PY5803 Evolutionary and Cross-Cultural Foundations (30 credits)</p> <p>Part Time: Year 2: PY5803</p>	
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume
<p>PY5704 Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>PY5705 Foundations of Cross-Cultural Psychology (15 credits)</p> <p>Part Time: Year 1: PY5705, Part Time: Year 2: PY5704</p>	
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
<p>PY5612 Historical and Contemporary Issues in Psychology (10 credits)</p> <p>PY5611 Preparation for Research (10 credits)</p> <p>PY5613 Cross-Cultural and Evolutionary Research Methods (20 credits)</p> <p>PY5614 Evolutionary Perspectives on Culture (10 credits)</p> <p>PY5615 Special Topics in Culture and Evolution (10 credits)</p> <p>PY5610 Dissertation in Culture and Evolution (60 credits)</p> <p>Core: Block</p> <p>PY5630 Research Methods and Academic Skills – Psychology (30 credits)</p> <p>Part Time: Year 1: PY5613, PY5630 Part Time: Year 2: PY5612, PY5611, PY5614, PY5615, PY5610</p>	
FHEQ Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements	
<p>As per Senate Regulation 3</p> <p>PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (PY5610) 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.