

MSc Psychology

PSY030-F-UOB-MX-02 Full-time

Awarding Institution	University of Bolton
Teaching Institution	University of Bolton
Ucas Code	
JACS Code	C800
Language Of Study	English
Notes:	This Programme adheres to the University's Fitness to Practice Declaration

Professional Accreditation

None Associated with this programme

Programme Awards

Title	Type	Level	Description
Master's Degree (MSc)	Final Award	Level 7	Psychology
Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)	Exit or Fallback Award	Level 7	Psychology
Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)	Exit or Fallback Award	Level 7	Psychology

Benchmark Statements

There are currently no benchmarks associated with this programme.

Internal and External Reference Points

1. UK Quality Code for Higher Education
2. The University of Bolton awards framework

Other Points of Reference

- QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010)

General Entry Requirements

You are normally expected to have successfully completed an honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject and have appropriate work experience. You may be required to attend an interview and/or provide a portfolio of work.

Additional Criteria

- If English is not your first language you will need to complete a Secure English Language Test at IELTS 6.0 or equivalent with no band less than 5.5
- Students are normally expected to have a 2.1 or above Honours degree in Psychology which is accredited by the British Psychology Society for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) of BPS.
- Students may be accepted onto the programme with an award of 2.2 for a degree in Psychology following an interview with the Programme Leader
- Students may be accepted on to the MSc Psychology following an interview with the Programme Leader if they hold an alternative but related degree (e.g. nursing or health and social care).
- This course does not confer Graduate Basis for Registration with the BPS - students wishing to achieve this should apply for the Diploma in Psychological Studies

Additional Admission Matters

There are no additional Admission Matters associated with this Programme.

Aims of the Programme

The principal aims of the programme are to:

- Provide learning opportunities underpinned by staff research, for students to develop an in-depth and advanced knowledge of psychology

- Develop students' critical and reflection skills to an advanced level
- Provide research training to enable students to conceptualise, design and implement a substantial piece of independent research which will contribute to the development of new ideas and approaches at the forefront of psychology
- Provide opportunities, support and encouragement for students to develop their independence and autonomy
- Enhance students' employability in the sector and/or help them to secure a place on a specialist psychology related higher degree/doctorate

Distinctive Features of the Programme

- The programme is delivered by an enthusiastic, dedicated and supportive teaching team
- The curriculum provides the opportunity to explore issues from a variety of perspectives underpinned by a research informed knowledge base
- Learning and teaching is student-centred and involves small group sessions and one to one tutorials, supported by the University's virtual learning environment
- A diverse range of topic areas reflect up-to-date research in psychology
- The programme promotes student research and critical enquiry

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge & Understanding

On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate systematic knowledge and understanding of:

- Current problems, issues and debates at the forefront of topic areas relevant to psychology
- A diverse range of contemporary theories, models and perspectives in psychology
- Appropriate practices to evaluate and critique theories and methodologies used in psychology
- Advanced research design and approaches to research in psychology
- A wide range of advanced data analysis techniques relevant to psychological research
- Ethical principles, values and concepts inherent in psychological research

Cognitive, Intellectual or Thinking Skills

On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Critically analyse, synthesise and evaluate current research and scholarship in psychology
- Analyse complex issues and research questions in psychology systematically and creatively
- Critically appreciate how established approaches, methodologies and techniques are used in psychology to build on existing research knowledge
- Generate new research hypotheses within psychology
- Appreciate the limits of knowledge in selected areas of psychology
- Synthesise complex data/information and research findings effectively and communicate findings clearly

Practical, Professional or Subject-specific Skills

On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Systematically and correctly conduct an electronic literature search and complete a critical literature review comprehensively
- Critically review and evaluate current practice, research and perspectives in psychology using appropriate methods competently
- Conduct and communicate a substantial piece of research demonstrating independence and originality
- Use advanced critical writing skills to concisely and clearly communicate research findings in an appropriate format
- Use high levels of proficiency in using advanced statistical analysis

Transferable, Key or Personal Skills

On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Act autonomously and creatively plan tasks at a professional level
- Display a high level of written and communication skills, including a high level of competence in ICT skills
- Make competent decisions in complex and unpredictable situations
- Make informed judgements in the absence of complete or ambiguous evidence
- Work independently and have a willingness to take responsibility and be accountable for own ideas and judgements
- Be confident in responding to the views and ideas of others and be able to constructively criticise the ideas of others
- Clearly communicate complex ideas verbally and in writing, and to construct coherent arguments using language appropriate to their programme of study

Programme Structure

The course is structured with completion of 6 x 20 credit modules (120 credits) followed by a 60 credit dissertation module. Students complete two core research modules and then have a choice of 4 other optional modules (but must take at least one more research methods module: either PSA7014 or PSA7013). Students completing all the modules are awarded a MSc in Psychology (180 credits). Students who do not choose to complete the full award can be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology (60 credits) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (120 credits).

Validated Modules

Title	Module Code	COE ¹
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Psychological and Social Research: Review, Evaluation and Design	PSA7011	C
Quantitative Inquiry 1	PSA7012	C
Qualitative Inquiry	PSA7013	O
Quantitative Inquiry 2	PSA7014	O
Advanced Social and Cognitive Neuroscience	PSA7015	O
Social Neuroscience Techniques	PSA7016	O
Social Neuroscience Laboratory Practical	PSA7017	O
Foundations of Positive Psychology	PSA7018	O
Positive Psychology in Practice	PSA7019	O
Critical Positive Psychology	PSA7020	O
Psychology Dissertation	PSA7021	C
Current Debates in Psychology	PSA7030	O

¹Core, Optional, Elective

Learning & Teaching Strategies

The course has a wide variety of teaching methods to enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the course. Teaching is delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops and lab sessions. In addition to the taught sessions students will be expected to conduct considerable independent learning, i.e. independent literature searching, reading, completing work for seminars, preparing for workshops, presentations or group discussions. In addition to the taught components, some modules will have on-line resources and activities to complete. This programme adopts a blended style of learning and teaching including online delivery and engagement where appropriate.

Learning Activities (KIS entry)

Course Year	Level 3	HE4	HE5	HE6	HE7
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15%
Guided independent study	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85%
Placement/study abroad	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Assessment Strategy

The course involves a wide range of assessment to enable students to demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes. Students may be asked to complete reports, essays, presentations, literature reviews, reviews of journal articles, write up of laboratory tasks, completion of short question and answers (related to statistical analysis), reflective journals and case studies.

Assessment Methods (KIS entry)

Course Year	Level 3	HE4	HE5	HE6	HE7
Written exams	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coursework	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%
Practical Exams	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Assessment regulations

Assessment Regulations for Postgraduate Programmes apply to this programme.

Grade Bands & Classifications

Master's Degree

Regulations can be found at: <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/studentinformation-policyzone/Home.aspx>

Role of External Examiners

External examiners are appointed for all programmes of study. They oversee the assessment process and their duties include: approving assessment tasks, reviewing assessment marks, attending assessment boards and reporting to the University on the assessment process.

Support for Student Learning

- The programme is managed by a Programme Leader
- Welcome Week introduces the student to the University and their programme
- Each student has a Personal Tutor who is responsible for support and guidance
- Personal Development Planning integrated into all programmes
- Feedback is available on formative and summative assessments
- The Student Centre provides a one-stop shop for information and advice

- Comprehensive guidance is available from the University Student Support Services including housing and accommodation advice, counselling, financial and careers advice, and support via the University disability team
- The Chaplaincy where Chaplains and Pastoral Assistants are available from different traditions, faiths and world-views
- Library and IT services are a very good source of advice and support with excellent study skills sessions and materials
- There are Student Liaison Officers attached to each School
- The Students' Union advice services
- Programme Handbooks and Module Guides which provide information about the programme and University regulations
- The opportunity to develop skills for employment
- English language support for international students
- The online Student Information – Policy Zone provides all regulatory and policy information in one place
- Students are encouraged to attend research seminars and research groups within the School of Psychology

Methods of Evaluating & Enhancing the Quality of Learning Opportunities

- Student Staff Liaison Committees
- Module evaluations by students
- Programme and University Student Surveys
- Annual quality monitoring and action planning through Programme Plans including data analysis, Subject Quality Enhancement Plans, School Quality Enhancement Plans, University Quality Enhancement Plan
- Peer review/observation of teaching
- Professional development programme for staff
- External Examiner reports

Sources of Information

- Student Portal <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Students/Home.aspx>
- Students Union <https://www.boltonsu.com/>
- External Examiner Report <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/Quality/EEE/ExternalExaminersReports/>
- Careers <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/careers>
- Student Information - Policy Zone <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/studentinformation-policyzone/Home.aspx>

Audit Notes

The following changes were made from the previous version of this Programme:

The programme structure is the only aspect that has changed. PSA7023 is not included and in its place students have the option to do PSA7030. The general description of the aims, objectives, contents, assessment strategy, etc., means that the different contents of PSA7030 as well as its different assessment format are included in the previous version's descriptions.
