

**BSc Psychology Mental and Physical Health  
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0**

**UCAS code: C806**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Awarding Institution:                       | University of Reading  |
| Teaching Institution:                       | University of Reading  |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Psychology   |
| Faculty:                                    | Life Sciences Faculty  |
| Programme length:                           | 3 years  |
| Date of specification:                      | 06/Apr/2011  |
| Programme Director:                         | Dr Carmel Houston-Price  |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr Lesley Tranter<br>Dr Patricia Riddell                               |
| Board of Studies:                           | Psychology   |
| Accreditation:                              | British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. |

**Summary of programme aims**

Students are introduced to the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology as a social and biological science, and to concepts and evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation, which are covered in the Part 2 core modules. They are made aware of current research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues - and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out themselves. A substantial proportion of study at Part 3 will be devoted to areas of Psychology relevant to health, clinical psychology or brain dysfunction. The programme will be particularly useful to those who aim eventually to work in clinical or health psychology, or neuropsychology.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT, problem-solving, project management and reporting and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

**Programme content**

The specification which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the 'selected' modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with the programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>                 | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PY1PR1          | Psychological Research 1            | 10             | 4            |
| PY1PL           | Perception and Learning             | 10             | 4            |
| PY1IN           | Introduction to Neuroscience        | 10             | 4            |
| PY1PR2          | Psychological Research 2            | 10             | 4            |
| PY1CA           | Cognition and Applied Psychology    | 10             | 4            |
| PY1DS           | Developmental and Social Psychology | 10             | 4            |

*Optional modules totalling 60 credits*

It is strongly recommended that the following be included:

|       |                       |    |   |
|-------|-----------------------|----|---|
| PY1SK | Skills for Psychology | 20 | 4 |
|-------|-----------------------|----|---|

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>                | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PY2RM1          | Research Methods & Data Analysis 1 | 10             | 5            |

|        |                                    |    |   |
|--------|------------------------------------|----|---|
| PY2N1  | Neuroscience 1                     | 10 | 5 |
| PY2C1  | Cognition 1                        | 10 | 5 |
| PY2AP  | Applied Psychology                 | 10 | 5 |
| PY2RM2 | Research Methods & Data Analysis 2 | 10 | 5 |
| PY2N2  | Neuroscience 2                     | 10 | 5 |
| PY2C3  | Cognition 3                        | 10 | 5 |
| PY2PCS | Project and Careers Skills         | 10 | 5 |
| PY2CL  | Clinical Psychology                | 10 | 5 |
| PY2PN  | Perception                         | 10 | 5 |
| PY2DP  | Developmental Psychology           | 10 | 5 |
| PY2SP  | Social Psychology                  | 10 | 5 |

### **British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC)**

Students must gain Lower Second Class Honours or higher to qualify for BPS GBC

Part 2 modules PY2RM1 + PY2RM2 + PY2DP + PY2SP *either* PY2N1 *or* PY2N2 + *either* PY2C1 *or* PY2C3 are the minimum required for BPS accreditation. Subject to those constraints students may substitute up to 20 credits worth of Part 2 modules outside Psychology e.g. a foreign language. *See also Part 3 project*

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PY3P            | Project             | 40             | 6            |
| PY3C            | Contemporary Issues | 10             | 6            |
| PY3E            | Extended Essays     | 10             | 6            |

**\*British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC).** To qualify for BPS accreditation, the Project must be passed with at least 40%.

PY3C and PY3E are normally compulsory but are not required for GBC. By agreement of the Programme Director, students may substitute up to 20 credits worth of Level 6 or 5 modules outside Psychology for any optional or compulsory modules except PY3P.

*Optional Modules:*

Modules totalling 60 credits chosen from a list of Psychology options such as the following. Note: Students on this programme will have priority of access to optional modules in their specialist area (such as those marked \* in the following list). They are advised to take up to 40 credits worth of options in their specialist area.

|         |   |    |   |
|---------|---|----|---|
| PY3ACP* | Cognitive Perspectives of Adult Clinical Psychology | 10 | 6 |
| PY3AP   | Auditory Perception                                 | 10 | 6 |
| PY3ASC* | Autism Spectrum Conditions                          | 10 | 6 |
| PY3AV   | Active Vision                                       | 10 | 6 |
| PY3CA*  | Cognitive Neuropsychology of Ageing                 | 10 | 6 |
| PY3VPM  | Visual Perception - more than meets the eye?        | 10 | 6 |
| PY3BE   | Behavioural Economics                               | 10 | 6 |
| PY3CTT* | Cognitive and Behavioural Theory to Therapy         | 10 | 6 |
| PY3DN   | Developmental Neuroscience                          | 10 | 6 |
| PY3ELD  | Early Lexical Development                           | 10 | 6 |

### **Progression requirements**

#### **Part 1:**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

**In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 in BSc Psychology, Mental and Physical Health,** a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and to have obtained at least 40% in the

Psychology modules PY1PR1, PY1PL, PY1IN, PY1PR2, PY1CA and PY1DS averaged together, with at least 30% in 5 or more of those 6 modules.

### **Part 2:**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve: an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

**In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in BSc Psychology, Mental and Physical Health**, a student should normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

**To be eligible for Honours** students must pass the Project module. Part 2 contributes one third of the overall assessment and Part 3 the remaining two thirds. The assessment is carried out within the University's degree classification scheme, details of which are in the programme handbooks. The pass mark in each module is 40%.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

Part 1 and Part 2 modules are principally taught by lectures. Others include practical work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 projects). Part 2 lectures and Part 3 options are supported by seminars. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; only PY2PCS and the Project are assessed 100% by coursework. At Part 1 the coursework principally constitutes essays and practical reports; at Part 2, essays and short project reports; at Part 3, essays, some presentations (e.g. oral presentations, poster) and the Project report. The proportion of credit for coursework relative to examinations increases from Part 1 to Part 3 as students become more independent.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade B in Mathematics, Science and English in GCSE; and to have achieved:

A Levels: AAA / AAB; or

International Baccalaureat Diploma: 6,6,6 / 7,6,6 plus at least 5 in Ordinary Mathematics; or

Irish Leaving Certificate: AAAAB; or

Access Course: Level 3 Distinctions and Merits

**Admissions Tutor:** Admissions Officer: Mrs Teresa Young

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SECC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

In Psychology, each Part of the programme has a Year Tutor, whose role is to provide information to students in that year. The Senior Tutor monitors the progress of all students (liaising with the School Administrator) and advises those who fall behind in academic work. Staff with relevant expertise, e.g. in dyslexia, support the School Disability Advisor, and we work closely with the University Study Advisors who are psychologists. Our staff's specialised laboratories are available for use in student research projects.

### **Career prospects**

Because the degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society, graduates are qualified to enter professional training as, for example, clinical or educational psychologists. Graduates of this programme will have studied clinical applications of psychology both broadly and in depth, and will be particularly well prepared for further training and eventual employment in fields such as clinical psychology, health psychology, neuropsychology and rehabilitation. Psychology graduates generally move into an extremely wide range of

careers with some bias towards health and education, but extending to many other professional roles. As numerate scientists they also enter a wide variety of other commercial and business occupations. Many go on to postgraduate training.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The School of Psychology currently has exchange schemes under Erasmus with the following EU universities: Liege, Padova, Granada, Barcelona Central, Barcelona Autonoma, Thessaloniki.

### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. Concepts, theories and evidence in six core domains: research methods, individual differences, biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology
2. A broad variety of methods and approaches used in psychological research
3. Practical applications of psychological theory and research
4. A selection of optional specialist topics, studied in depth using up-to-date research evidence
5. Ethical issues in research and appropriate conduct by researchers.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1-3 are covered in lectures and seminars. 2 is further supported by practical classes and exercises, miniprojects and Part 3 projects. Part 3 options cover 4 and extend 1-3 to a more advanced level. Students learn about 5 from participating in research studies in which the principles are made explicit, from lectures, and while planning the Part 3 project.

##### *Assessment*

1-4 are assessed by unseen or open-book examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, and reports on empirical work. The Part 3 project assesses both 5 in the plan and final report, and 2 through the rationale for the choice of methods.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills - able to:**

1. Use evidence-based reasoning to argue or evaluate a claim
2. Apply multiple perspectives and levels of explanation to understand behaviour
3. Critically evaluate the design and conduct of psychological research
4. Write well-structured and well-argued essays
5. Integrate material from different fields of psychology and cognate areas.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1-3 are explicated in lectures and option seminars. Part 3 option seminars focus strongly on 1 and 3. The Contemporary Issues module is not formally taught but gives scope for all of 1-5, especially 4. Essays, increasing in length through the programme, provide practice in 1-5 with formative feedback.

##### *Assessment*

1-4 are assessed in examinations and coursework. 5 is a marker of high-quality work throughout, and is emphasised in the Contemporary Issues module (assessed by a pre-seen and planned examination paper).

##### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

1. Search for information, using suitable sources, about a specific topic
2. Choose and apply appropriate data-analytic techniques
3. Plan and carry out empirical studies with guidance or supervision
4. Write reports on empirical studies

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Dedicated modules using lectures, practical classes and exercises cover 1, 2 and the principles underlying 3. Further learning of 3 and 4 takes place through practical classes, Part 2 miniprojects and the Part 3 project.

##### *Assessment*

2-4 are assessed in reports on practical classes.

Miniproject reports, the Part 3 project plan and report assess all 4 skills. 1 is also assessed in extended essays and in the Contemporary Issues module.

**D. Transferable skills - *able to*:**

1. Communicate information concisely or at length in writing
2. Give oral presentations
3. Work with a group
4. Plan and implement a project
5. Solve practical problems
6. Use IT to write, to present information visually, to manage and analyse numeric data, to communicate and to find information
7. Manage time
8. Start planning a career

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Transferable skills are integrated in subject-based teaching. 1 is learned, with formative feedback, through essays and other exercises while 2 is included in seminars especially at Part 3. 3 is required in small-group miniprojects; these, and the Part 3 project, entail 4 and 5. Special classes cover 6, and IT resources are applied throughout the programme. Staged deadlines for coursework encourage 7. 8 forms part of a Part 2 module.

*Assessment*

1 is assessed in coursework and examinations, 2 within Part 3 seminars. 3 (team participation) forms part of miniproject assessment while 4 and 5 are necessary for miniprojects and the Part 3 project. 6 and 7 are required for most coursework. 8 is the subject of assignments in the relevant module.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical 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 of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**