

Programme Specification

MSci Psychological Theory and Practice

For students entering Part 1 in September 2016

UFPSYCHTPM

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	British Psychological Society (BPS)

Programme information and content

This programme provides students with the sound scientific understanding of modern Psychology in addition to practical and clinical skills required to work as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP). The programme has double accreditations from the British Psychological Society, with Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership and to practice as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP). Students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to chosen areas of interest, increasing their degree of choice and independence as they move through the programme. They are made aware of current research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues - and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out themselves, with staff research expertise providing stimulation, guidance and high-quality laboratory facilities. Students graduate with an integrated Masters award.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the British Psychological Society core areas, including Research Methods, as well as a choice of additional psychology modules, or modules from across the University.
Part 2:	Provides you with an in-depth knowledge of the BPS core areas, and focussed training in conducting experiments. Skills to enhance employability are also covered in Part 2.
Placement/Study abroad year:	All students complete a compulsory placement in Part 2, and an optional placement in Part 1. Students can Study Abroad during Spring term in Part 2, or can visit our campus in Malaysia in Spring term.
Part 3:	Students become specialised in clinical work, completing clinical placements and taught modules supporting clinical practice. At the end of Part 3, students who meet the necessary requirements are accredited as BPS PWP.
Part 4:	Gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to more specialist areas, offering you a wide choice of MSc modules led by experts in those fields. You also have the opportunity to design and implement your own research project.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY1CG	Cognition and Learning	10	4
PY1DV	Developmental Psychology	10	4
PY1IN	Introduction to Neuroscience	10	4
PY1PC	Perception	10	4
PY1PR	Psychological Research	20	4

One of the following two modules must be selected at Part 1:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY1SK	Skills in Psychology	20	4
Or			
PY1SKE	Skills in Psychology with Academic Language	20	4

Students must select a further 40 credits from a list of optional modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

The above compulsory modules, with the exception of PY1PC, PY1SK/PY1SKE, are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

Students wishing to transfer to MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical) can substitute PY1SK or PY1SKE with PL1C1L, or an equivalent module covering the same learning outcomes. Students who have not met this requirement will normally be required to take PY1SK or PY1SKE during Part 2.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
PY2ITC	Introduction to CBT	20
PY2RM	Research Methods and Data Analysis	20

BPS Accreditation as PWP: PY2ITC must be passed with at least 40%.

Students must take a further 80 credits from a list of modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. A minimum of 100 credits out of the required 120 credits at Part 2 must be taken from single subject or combined subject Psychology modules as outlined by the Department, in order to meet BPS GBC accreditation requirements (see below).

Students must take at least 100 credits from Psychology in Part 2. Students who have transferred and are required to take PY1SK or PY1SKE at Part 2 must take 120 credits from Psychology.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY30PL	Placement (P3)	60	6
PY3EAA1	Engagement and Assessment of Common Mental Health Problems	20	6
PY3TRT1	Evidence-based low-intensity treatment of common mental health problems	20	6
PY3VEC1	Values, Employment and Context	20	6

All modules at Part 3 of the programme are compulsory.

BPS accreditation as PWP

Students must pass all compulsory modules with a minimum of 40%. Within modules PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1, every skills-based assessment must be passed with a mark of 50 or more (marked as a Pass/Fail), all portfolio assignments passed (marked as a Pass/Fail) and every written academic assessment must be passed with a mark of 40 or more. In addition, in order to pass, students must have attended 100% of the teaching days in each module of the programme.

Students who do not meet the requirements for accreditation as BPS PWP will be transferred to the MSci Psychology.

Part 4 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY4CHI	Contemporary and Historical Issues in Psychology	20	7
PY4PR	Empirical Project	40	7

Students must select a further 40 credits from a list of optional modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC)

To qualify for BPS GBC, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Pass PY2RM with minimum 40% plus either: PY2CN+PY2NS+PY2PS+PY2TA or PY2CN+PY2NS+PY2DSP or PY2PS+PY2TA+PY2CNS all with a minimum of 40% (see progression rules for further details)
2. Pass PY4P with a minimum of 40%
3. Gain a Lower Second Class Honours degree

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £100 to £200 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Students need to travel to external clinical placements that are offered across a large geographical area. While some placements will be local to the University others will require travel by public transport or car which will involve additional cost depending on the distance and mode of travel.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2016.

Placement opportunities

All students have the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of PY30PL.

In order to undertake clinical placements, you will be required to have an enhanced criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service, which is organised by the University. You are also required to disclose any relevant criminal convictions accrued after you start the programme.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will experience a range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the different subjects you will study and the overall objective of the

programme. Part 1 and Part 2 modules are principally taught by lectures with supporting online discussion boards. Some Part 1 modules, all Part 2 modules and Part 4 options are supported by seminars. Research Methods teaching is supported by interactive workshops and specialist drop-in sessions.

Over an academic year, you will spend approximately 250 hours in lectures, seminars, online discussions or practical classes. The remaining time is for your independent study, completing coursework and preparing for assessments. Most direct teaching occurs in the Autumn and Spring terms and so you will find that you spend more time than average in class in these terms. Contact hours vary in each year of the degree. In Part 1 and 2 contact hours are between 300-350 hours per year; in Part 3 the majority of time is spent on placement, plus contact hours between 150-200 hours per year. In Part 4 contact hours are between 200-250 hours per year. Hours depend upon your module combination; information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

British Psychological Society (BPS)

Assessment

Throughout the programme you will complete practical work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 4 project). During Part 3 you will work towards BPS PWP accreditation through on-placement learning and interactive taught sessions. Modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Coursework includes essays, project reports, oral and poster presentations, portfolios and weekly continuous assessment questions

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows:

Part 1

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory modules.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student should normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2 and

- (iv) obtain marks of at least 40% in PY2RM.
- (v) achieve an overall average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at level 5 or above); and

Plus all modules stipulated as contributing to BPS GBC passed with a minimum of 40% (see BPS GBC section for details). Students must also achieve an average of 40% or above across 120 credits.

Students who do not meet this requirement will be transferred to BSc Psychology.

Part 3

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4,

- (i) a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in part 3; and
- (ii) achieve a minimum of 40% in all compulsory modules and must pass all skills-based in-module assessments, as specified for BPS PWP accreditation.
- (iii) Students must gain an average mark of 40 or more for the Part 3 as a whole, and a mark of at least 40 in every module (PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1).
- (iv) Within modules PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1, every skills-based assessment must be passed with a mark of 50 or more (marked as a Pass / Fail), all portfolio assignments passed (marked as a Pass / Fail) and every written academic assessment must be passed with a mark of 40 or more.
- (v) In addition, in order to pass, students must have attended 100% of the teaching days in each module of the programme.

Students not meeting this requirement will be transferred to Part 4 of MSci Psychology.

To be eligible for Honours students must pass PY4PR Project module.

Classification

Integrated Master's degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
0% - 39%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Integrated Master's programmes (MSci, MEng, MMath, MChem, MEnvSci, etc.)

Part 2 20%

Part 3 40%

Part 4 40%

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSci Psychological Theory and Practice for students entering Part 1 in session 2016/17
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