Programme Specification

MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (full-time) MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (part-time) **For students entering in September** 2018

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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	12 months (full-time), 24 month's (part-time)
Accreditation	Not accredited
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The purpose of the course is to prepare graduates in Psychology and allied disciplines for academic, clinical, educational, health, and research careers where knowledge of cognitive neuroscience is required or desirable. The course introduces students to topics on the neural and psychological underpinnings of human cognition and behaviour. Topics are covered in more depth, and with greater emphasis on current research, than is typically possible in the course of an undergraduate degree in psychology. Students are exposed to a variety of teaching methods, culminating in the completion of a piece of original research. It is intended that graduates of the course will go on to work in fields which require an understanding of how brain and cognitive function can be investigated in human and non-humans.

Students are required to operate at a more advanced level than in an Honours degree, with emphasis on the psychological issues which arise with particular prominence in this field of enquiry.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory Modules:					
Module	Name	Credits	Level		
PYMORT	Research Methods and Transferable Skills for Psychology	20	7		
PYM0S1	Data Collection and Analysis 1	10	7		
PYM0S2	Data Collection & Analysis 2	10	7		
PYM0CG	Methods in Cognition	10	7		
PYMONS	Methods in Neuroscience	10	7		

PYMPRN	Principles of Neurobiology	10	7
PYMPBC1	Programming in Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences	20	7
PYM0PP	Project Preparation	10	7
PYM0EP	Empirical Project	60	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The course may be undertaken over two years on a part-time basis. Selection of modules between the two years will be agreed between the student and the Board of Studies, at the commencement of the course. It is anticipated that students will normally complete at least 80 credits' worth of modules in Year 1. Modules must be assessed in the year that they are studied. The Empirical Project (PYM0EP) must be undertaken in Year 2. Modules must be started and completed in a single academic year.

Additional costs of the programme

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 2018.

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 any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

Ample opportunity for first-hand research involvement is available to students on the placement module, through volunteer placements in laboratories at the Department of Psychology and the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN), offering training and experience in state-of-the-art neuroimaging, psychophysiological and related techniques.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Summary of Teaching and Assessment Teaching is by a variety of methods, including lectures, small group seminars, web-based work-throughs, self-paced workshops, individual feedback on written work, and one-on-one supervision

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is -180-200. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written assignments and other coursework, seen essay examinations, open-book test, submission of practical reports, oral and poster presentations, and submission of project dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Students must pass PYM0S1 and PYM0S2 in their first year

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction60 - 69% Merit50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard 0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

(iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv)students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.