

Programme Specification

MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time)

MSc Psychology Conversion (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 months (part time)
Accreditation	BPS
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The two related aims of the programme are to (1) provide non-psychologists with a thorough, modern, and evidence-based introduction to psychology as a science and as a discipline, covering essential topics in a wide range of important fields in psychology; and (2) to confer Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society (BPS). The programme teaches core content in psychology, and develops core skills for psychologists. It is based upon our extremely long-running and successful undergraduate programme, with enhanced teaching and assessment approaches aimed specifically at graduates from other disciplines.

The programme aims to provide you with a broad introduction 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.

Students 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.

Skills and information to enhance employability are also covered.

You will design and conduct your own MSc-level research project.

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
PYMCRM	Research Methods and Data Analysis (Conversion)	20	5
PYMCTA	Typical and Atypical Development (Conversion)	20	7
PYMCPS	Personality and Social Psychology (Conversion)	20	7
PYMCCN	Cognition (Conversion)	20	7
PYMCNS	Neuroscience (Conversion)	20	7
PYMCEP	Empirical Project (Conversion)	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

Students may study for the MSc part-time over two years. Arrangements concerning the modules that are taken in each year are at the discretion of the Programme Director and will be developed in consultation with the student. The Empirical Project (PYMCEP) must be undertaken in Year 2. Modules must be begun and completed in the same 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

A placement is offered as an optional module.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops. Assessment is typically in the form of written work, and includes essays, reports, research proposals, and end of year examinations. You may also be assessed carrying out oral presentations

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 hours. 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

The programme has been accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring Graduate Basis for Registration.

Assessment

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

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

To proceed onto PYMCEP students must have obtained sufficient pass-level marks in the preceding 90 credits.

Classification

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

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 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 Project; 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 Project; 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 Project; 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.