

Programme Specification

MSc in Research Methods in Psychology (full-time)
MSc in Research Methods in Psychology (part-time)

PFTRMPSYM
PPTRMPSYM

For students entering in September 2019

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	Not Accredited
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The purpose of the programme is to prepare graduates in Psychology and allied disciplines for research-related careers in academic, clinical, educational or health psychology, or for careers in which familiarity with data analytic principles and techniques are of relevance. 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. The course provides both the theoretical background, and the practical experience, for students to realise their potential as independent researchers in various fields of psychological enquiry.

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
PYM0S1	Data Collection and Analysis 1	10	7
PYM0S2	Data Collection and Analysis 2	10	7
PYMMCN	Methods in Cognition and Neuroscience	10	7
PYM0QQ	Applying Qualitative Methods in Psychological Research	10	7

PYMPBC1	Programming for Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences	20	7
PYMOPL2	Placement	40	7
PYMOPP	Project Preparation	10	7
PYM0EP	Empirical Project (MSc only)	60	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science 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 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 2017.

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 via the placement module and through volunteer placements with researchers in 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:

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

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination written assignments and other coursework, portfolio, seen examinations, open-book test, submission of practical reports, oral and poster presentations, and submission of project dissertation.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Students must pass PYM01 and PYM0S2 in their first year.

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 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.