

Programme Specification

MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time)
MSc Psychology Conversion (part-time)

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For students entering in 2021/22

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	MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time) - 12 months MSc Psychology Conversion (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership
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 a, 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 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 options are listed below.(Please note that module codes are subject to change, but the topics of the modules are as given.)

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYMCCBP	Cognitive and Biological Psychology (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCDAL	Development Across the Lifespan (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCEP	Empirical Project (Conversion)	60	M
PYMCISP	Influential Studies in Psychology	10	M
PYMCRMP	Research Methods and Data Analysis (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCSID	Social Psychology and Individual Differences (Conversion)	20	M

Students take a further 30 credits from a list of modules provided by 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 part-time for this MSc over two year. Arrangements concerning the modules that are taken 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

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. 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.

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 2020.

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.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught in a variety of ways, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, and workshops. There are also a range of resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including online discussion boards. Assessment is typically in the form of written work, and includes essays, project reports, research proposals, and end of year examinations. You may also be assessed carrying out oral and poster presentations, and weekly continuous assessment questions.

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 your 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

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

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

1. Pass the MSc with 50% or higher overall
2. Achieve at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules

Assessment

Modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Coursework includes essays, project reports, oral and poster presentations, and weekly continuous assessment questions.

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 **Pass**, 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.

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.**

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2 November 2020

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