

Programme Specification

MSc in Research Methods in Psychology (full-time)

PFTRMPSYM

For students entering in 2023/24

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 in Research Methods in Psychology (full-time) - 1 years
Accreditation	N/A
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
PYM0EP	Empirical Project	60	M
PYM0PP	Project Preparation	10	M
PYM0QQ	Applying Qualitative Methods in Psychological Research	10	M
PYM0S1	Data Collection and Analysis 1	10	M
PYM0S2	Data Collection and Analysis 2	10	M
PYMMCN	Methods in Cognition and Neuroscience	10	M
PYMOPL2	Placement	40	M
PYMPBC1	Programming for Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	20	M

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 can be studied part-time, over a course of 24 months, by students able to devote at least one full day plus two half-days per week to the demands of the course. To do this we split the course requirements into two roughly equal parts. Usually, the majority of taught (i.e. 10 or 20 credit) modules will be done in the first year. The balance of credits, usually the placement and research project modules, will be done in the second year. Precise details will be agreed with individuals by the Programme Director.

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 2022.

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

Opportunity for first-hand research involvement is integral to this course. Students will be offered a placement in either the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science or one of our partners e.g. the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN) offering training and experience in state-of-the-art neuroimaging, psychophysiological and related techniques. Due to logistical constraints it is not possible to give students a choice in their placement but the course management will endeavour to match students to placements as fitting.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

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

N/A

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.

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.

MSc in Research Methods in Psychology (full-time) for students entering in session 2023/24
21 June 2022

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