Programme Specification

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

For students entering in 2024/25

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 MSc in Research Methods in Psychology (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

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 the principles and techniques of data analysis 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. You will be 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 you to realise your potential as an independent researcher in various fields of psychological enquiry.

You will be 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc in Research Methods in Psychology (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	A deep and critical understanding of a range of research methods used in Psychology and the ability to identify which are appropriate for addressing different kinds of research question
2	An ability to apply the research methods studied
3	Practical understanding of using established methods of research and enquiry

4	The ability to apply their knowledge and understanding of research methods in the discipline
5	Transferrable skills that are relevant to a range of research, data-science, and evidence-based practice careers
6	An appreciation of the choices made in designing research and an ability to critically consider those choices and their potential consequences for interpreting research findings.
7	Communicate clearly and confidently to a wide range of audiences, in both oral and written formats

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory modules as shown below.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYM0EP	Empirical Project	60	M
PYM0RP	Research Placement	40	M
PYMADR	Analysing Data Using R	20	M
PYMAMP	Advanced Methodologies in Psychology	20	M
PYMDCN	Gathering Data in Cognition and Neuroscience	20	M
PYMPBC1	Programming for Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	20	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

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

Optional modules
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. Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology. The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 assessments, such as written assignments and other coursework, portfolios, submission of practical reports, oral and poster presentations, and submission of project dissertation.

Progression
N/A

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

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits
AND
A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

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 2023.

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 2024/25
26 April 2024