

Programme Specification

MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2024

UCAS Code: C801

UFAPPYCLIN

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	4 years
Accreditation	British Psychological Society: Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS)
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA Quality Code for Higher Education 2018 and FHEQ level 7

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a solid grounding in the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology as a social, cognitive, and biological science to help us explain human behaviour.

In the first two years, you will develop knowledge of psychological concepts and their supporting evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation (BPS). In addition, you will be provided with the practical and clinical skills required to work as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP). The programme has double accreditations from the British Psychological Society, with Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership and to practise as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP). In the fourth year, you will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge to chosen areas of interest, increasing your degree of choice and independence as you move through the programme. You will learn about historical and cutting-edge research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues, and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out yourself, with staff research expertise providing stimulation, guidance and high-quality laboratory facilities.

Throughout the programme, you will build your knowledge of current and historical issues and approaches in psychology and develop a critical understanding of ethical issues in research and in professional practice. During the course of your studies, you will be expected to enhance your academic, personal and professional skills.

In following this programme, you will have the opportunity to develop various skills, in particular relating to research methods, written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, self-awareness, personal effectiveness, use of IT, critical thinking and problem-solving, project management and reporting, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside the curriculum.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the British Psychological Society core areas, including Psychological Research Methods, and aims to build your understanding of the ways in which the various core topics in psychology interrelate. In addition to compulsory modules, you will choose one optional module.
Part 2:	Provides you with an in-depth level of knowledge and understanding of the BPS core areas, and focused training in developing practical skills such as conducting experiments, collecting and analysing data, observation techniques, interview skills and psychometric testing.
Part 3:	In Part 3, students become specialised in clinical work, completing clinical placements and taught modules supporting clinical practice. At the end of Part 3, students who meet the necessary requirements are accredited as BPS PWP.
Part 4:	Part 4 gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to more specialist areas, offering you a wide choice of MSc modules led by experts in those fields. You also have the opportunity to design and implement your own research project.

Programme Learning Outcomes - MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical)

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	To demonstrate knowledge and critical application of concepts, theories, and evidence in six core domains of psychology: individual differences, biological, cognitive, developmental, and social psychology, and conceptual and historical issues in psychology.
2	To integrate knowledge from different fields of psychology and cognate areas.
3	To explain the practical applications of psychological theory and research.
4	To use evidence-based reasoning to argue and critically evaluate a claim.
5	To demonstrate and apply practical research skills in relation to data collection, data management and analysis using a broad variety of quantitative and qualitative methods.
6	To critically evaluate the design and conduct of psychological research.
7	To identify, discuss and address issues concerning ethics in research and professional practice.
8	To plan, implement, analyse, and independently write up a substantial research project.
9	To demonstrate a range of skills relevant to professional psychology, such as interview skills, listening skills, psychometric testing, conducting focus groups etc, and to plan for personal and professional development.

10	To demonstrate transferable skills including, teamwork, independent work, concise written and oral communication, organisational skills, the use of IT skills to write, present and visualise information.
11	To demonstrate reflectiveness and self-awareness, drawing on both psychological literature and personal learning experience.
12	To demonstrate the practical and clinical skills required to work as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner

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

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY1APP	Applied and Professional Psychology	20	4
PY1DMH	Debates in Mental Health	20	4
PY1IPR	Introduction to Psychological Research	20	4
PY1LAL	Learning about Learning	20	4
PY1PAB	The Person and the Brain	20	4

PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1PAB & PY1LAL are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC). Students must select a further 20 credits from a list of optional modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY2CBP	Cognitive and Biological Psychology	20	5
PY2DAL	Development across the lifespan	20	5
PY2FIT	Introduction to CBT	20	5
PY2RMP	Research methods in Psychology	20	5
PY2SID	Social Psychology and Individual Differences	20	5

PY2RMP, PY2CBP, PY2DAL, PY2SID are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC). Students take a further 20 credits from a list of modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY30PL	Placement (P3)	60	6
PY3EAA1	Engagement and Assessment of Common Mental Health Problems	20	6
PY3TRT1	Evidence-based low-intensity treatment of common mental health problems	20	6
PY3VEC1	Values, Employment and Context	20	6

All modules at Part 3 of the programme are compulsory.

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY4CCP	Communicating Current Psychology	20	7
PY4PR	Empirical Project	40	7

Students must select a further 60 credits of modules at level 7 from the list available from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science.

Optional Modules:

In semester 1, students select one 20 credit optional module and in semester 2, students select the remaining two 20 credit optional modules from a selection of optional modules offered.

Placement opportunities

All students are required to undertake a credit-bearing placement in PY30PL.

In order to undertake clinical placements, you will be required to have an enhanced criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service, which is organised by the University. You are also required to disclose any relevant criminal convictions accrued after you start the programme. You may also be required to complete a health and vaccination status check.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional

modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Students will have the opportunity to learn from academic staff that are passionate about teaching and experts in their field. Our strategy to teaching and learning is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, support and opportunities to apply their learning in order to thrive in a global workplace.

Students are required to attend programme sessions and engage in independent learning activities, such as engaging in readings, preparing for sessions, using available staff drop-in hours, and maintaining contact with their academic tutor.

Students will experience a diverse range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the subjects they will study and the overall aims of the programme. In Part 1 and Part 2 modules are taught in a variety of ways, including interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and lab classes. All of the core teaching materials will also be available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, in which everything such as lecture and seminar slides, screencasts, to external supporting materials are stored. Blackboard also features forums and online discussion boards where students can ask questions and discuss ideas.

At Part 4 there continue to be lectures, but the majority of Part 4 options are taught via seminars.

The Research Methods teaching is supported by a mixture of interactive workshops, practicals and specialist drop-in sessions. Throughout the programme students will complete practical research work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 4 project).

Each module's assessable learning outcomes are typically assessed by a mixture of authentic assessments and formal examination. Authentic assessments include, essays, project reports, reflective writing, oral and poster presentations, portfolios and continuous assessment questions. Contact hours vary in each year of the degree.

Hours depend upon each student's module combination; information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Most modules are delivered and assessed within one semester (either semester 1 or 2). Only a small number of modules that include the delivery of research methods and professional skills are delivered throughout both semesters.

Throughout all years of taught content, we scaffold our students' practical, transferable and intellectual skills development enabling students to grow and further develop. Students will

also learn about different careers in Psychology throughout their modules and will be encouraged to reflect on how they are developing transferrable skills across the programme.

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

British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC). To qualify for BPS GBC, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1PAB & PY1LAL
2. Achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY2RMP + PY2CBP + PY2SID + PY2DAL (see progression rules for further details)
2. Pass PY4PR with a minimum of 50%
3. Gain a Lower Second Class Honours degree

To be eligible to undertake the Part 3 PWP element of the programme, students must pass PY2FIT with a minimum of 40%.

In order to qualify to practise as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP), students must meet the Part 3 requirements of accreditation as a PWP as outlined below.

(i) students must achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY30PL, PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1

(ii) Within modules PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1, every skills-based assessment must be passed with a mark of 50 or more (marked as a Pass/Fail), all portfolio assignments passed (marked as a Pass/Fail) and every written academic assessment must be passed with a mark of 40 or more.

(iii) students must have attended 100% of the teaching days in each module of Part 3 of the programme.

Fitness to Practise and Disclosure & Barring Service Checks

In order to undertake clinical placements as part of the PWP accreditation, students will be required to have an enhanced criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service as part of the admissions process. Students are also required to disclose any relevant criminal convictions accrued after students start the programme. Students may also be asked

to complete a health check to demonstrate appropriate health and vaccination status to complete clinical placements. Students are required to inform the School of Psychology any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability to continue their studies. Students are also expected to maintain behaviours associated with a healthcare professional and must abide by University regulations, the University Fitness to Practice Policy, the Health Care Professions Council Standards for Conduct, Ethics and Performance, and Student Code of Conduct. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practice processes.

Assessment

Throughout the programme you will complete practical work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 4 project). During Part 3 you will work towards BPS PWP accreditation through on-placement learning and interactive taught sessions. Modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Coursework includes essays, project reports, oral and poster presentations, portfolios and weekly continuous assessment questions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1LAL, PY1PAB).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) obtain a module mark of at least 40% in all modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY2RMP, PY2CBP, PY2DAL, PY2SID); and

(v) obtain a module mark of at least 40% in PY2FIT; and

(vi) achieve an overall average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at level 5 or above);

Students who meet threshold and (iv) above, but who do not meet (v) and/or (vi) may transfer to BSc Psychology.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 3

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

(i) an average of 40% over 120 credits taken in part 3; and

(ii) achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY30PL, PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1

(iii) Within modules PY3EAA1, PY3TRT1 and PY3VEC1, every skills-based assessment must be passed with a mark of 50 or more (marked as a Pass / Fail), all portfolio assignments passed (marked as a Pass / Fail) and every written academic assessment must be passed with a mark of 40 or more.

(iv) In addition, in order to pass, students must have attended 100% of the teaching days in each module of the programme at Part 3.

Students not meeting BPS accreditation requirements for PWP (iii) and, (iv), but meeting (i) and (ii), will be eligible for transfer to Part 4 of MSci Applied Psychology (Non-Clinical).

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

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The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Integrated Masters Programmes (MEng, MMath, MChem etc.)

Part 2: 20%

Part 3: 40%

Part 4: 40%

The classification method is given in detail in: Integrated Master's (see, in particular, section 18.5)

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 £125 to £225 a year. 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. 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.

MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical) for students entering Part 1 in session 2024/25
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