

Programme Specification

MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (full-time)

PFTZCOGNEUHM

MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (part-time)

PPTZCOGNEUHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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 Cognitive Neuroscience (full-time) - 1 years MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (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, neuroscience and adjacent disciplines (e.g., computer and data science, medicine, neurobiology) for research-intensive careers, where knowledge of cognitive neuroscience and/or practical experience of advanced analysis of complex data is required. The programme provides you with opportunities to acquire the skills for research, going beyond the focus on theory that is typical of undergraduate degrees.

You will be exposed to a variety of teaching methods, maximising direct exposure to research and research skills, such as acquiring neuroimaging data, and placements in research active laboratories in the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience & Neurodynamics and industrial partners when possible. The programme is intended for graduates who want a career in a data-intensive sector, as they acquire skills that are easily transferable to other domains that rely on complex data.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (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	Select, explain and apply appropriate inferential data analysis to research questions
2	Describe and employ recording procedures and interpret neuroimaging data
3	Conceive, plan and pursue a complete research project
4	Demonstrate knowledge of, and contrast and situate your own research in competing theoretical landscapes

5	Select and evaluate results from the literature, and develop your own research voice
6	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 are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYM0EP	Empirical Project	60	M
PYM0RP	Research Placement	40	M
PYMADR	Analysing Data Using R	20	M
PYMDCN	Gathering Data in Cognition and Neuroscience	20	M
PYMPBC1	Programming for Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	20	M
PYMTMB	Theories and Models About the Brain	20	M

All modules are compulsory, and there are no Optional modules.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. Part-time students are required to take their Empirical Project (60 credits) in Year 2, and can organise other modules as needed, provided the number of credits done each year is balanced across the two years and timetabled appropriately.

Placement opportunities

PYM0RP covers 40 credits (roughly 400h, including assessment). For Students on the MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience, placements are managed by the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience & Neurodynamics (CINN), in collaboration with research laboratories within the School and industrial partners when possible. Placements are unpaid, and rotations are organised in research laboratories to maximise opportunities for students to acquire working experience in areas they favour. Placements might involve research opportunities in clinical domains, with or without patients, but do not typically confer accreditation for a clinical career. Placements might involve work with partnering companies, when available, but there is no guarantee that students will undertake a placement in industry.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules
There are no Optional modules.

Teaching and learning delivery
Timetabled teaching and learning activities are delivered in person, as well as remotely, and include a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars. Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology, comprising online multimedia platforms for recordings and documents made available in modules, and shared online computing facilities for data analysis. 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 assessment types, which may include written examinations, coursework (including class tests), and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

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 Master's 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) no 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

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, 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) no 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

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

None.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 Cognitive Neuroscience (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

30 July 2026

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