

Programme Specification

MSc Theory and Practice in Clinical Psychology (with clinical placement) (full-time) PFTZTPCPCPHM

MSc Theory and Practice in Clinical Psychology (with clinical placement) (part-time) PPTZTPCPCPHM

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 Theory and Practice in Clinical Psychology (with clinical placement) (full-time) - 12 months MSc Theory and Practice in Clinical Psychology (with clinical placement) (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme provides students with a sound scientific understanding of the nature of modern clinical psychology, preparing them for clinical, educational, health, and research careers. Students will be equipped with clinical skills through an extended placement either in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, or one of our clinical partners. Supervision and training will be given to support this placement. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of clinical topics, including evidence-based treatments and common mental health problems across the lifespan. Students will learn research skills and conduct their own clinically-relevant research. It is intended that graduates of this course will greatly enhance their employability in clinical settings, either in the UK or internationally.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Theory and Practice in Clinical Psychology (with clinical placement) (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	To demonstrate a systematic knowledge and critical application of concepts, theories and evidence associated with the sub-discipline of Clinical Psychology, exploring in greater depth areas that they will likely have encountered during the course of previous study or experience

2	To be able to describe and critically appraise the core tenets of evidence-based psychological treatment and the application of cognitive behaviour therapy
3	Design and conduct an MSc-Level empirical research project in clinical and/or applied Psychology, taking into account ethical considerations.
4	Communicate clearly and effectively with a range of audiences, in both oral and written formats, including communicating findings from a substantive empirical research project in a specific area of relevance to Clinical Psychology
5	Have a greater understanding of careers allied to Clinical Psychology
6	To demonstrate self-awareness and an understanding of reflective practice in the context of Applied Psychology

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 and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYM0EP	Empirical Project	60	M
PYMFCP	Clinical Placement	40	M
PYMFEB	Evidence-Based Treatments Across the Lifespan	20	M
PYMFIT	Introduction to CBT	20	M

Additionally, students must choose one of:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYMAMP	Advanced Methodologies in Psychology	20	M
OR			
PYMADR	Analysing data using R	20	M

(They may also choose the other one as one of their Optional modules.)

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of Optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Languages Sciences or from an approved list of modules.

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, on average. To do this we split the course requirements into two roughly equal parts. Usually, taught

(i.e., 20-credit) modules will be undertaken in the first year. The balance of credits, usually the placement and research project modules, will be undertaken in the second year. Precise details will be agreed with individuals by the Programme Director.

Placement opportunities

Opportunity for first-hand research and/or clinical involvement is integral to this course. Students will be offered a placement in one of our clinics, local NHS Trusts, or another clinic / external placement provider. Due to logistical constraints, it is not possible to give students a choice in their placement, but the programme team will endeavour to match students to clinics in line with their preferences wherever possible.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

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 will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme, 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 can take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, tutorials, and workshops. Assessment is typically in the form of written work, and includes essays, reports, research proposals, and examinations. You may also be assessed carrying out oral presentations. 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 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.

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 written assignments and other coursework, for example essay, examinations, open-book tests, submission of practical reports, poster and oral presentations, and submission of a project dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression
Part-time and modular progression requirements
For progression to their second year, students must pass modules undertaken 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 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

There may be travel costs relating to placements away from campus that students could be expected to meet from their own pocket, given that placement providers may not reimburse travel costs.

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.

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30 July 2026

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