

Programme Specification

MSci Psychology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UFPYMSCI

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
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	British Psychological Society: Graduate Basis for Chartership
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Psychology

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 the third and fourth years, 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. In year 4, you will develop advanced methodological skills and theoretical and empirical knowledge independently and supported by experts in their fields.

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
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	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:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to more specialist areas, offering you a wide choice of Part 3 optional modules led by experts in those fields. You will also design and implement your own research project.
Part 4:	In Part 4, you will deepen your knowledge and understanding of cutting-edge theory and research, developing advanced methodological skills and working independently

Programme Learning Outcomes - MSci Psychology

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, and 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 a critical understanding of the range of approaches and choices made in designing and conducting research and an ability to critically consider those choices and the potential consequences for interpreting research findings.
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.	

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
N/A

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
PY3CCP	Communicating Current Psychology	20	6
PY3P	Project	40	6

PY3P is required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

Students will normally take 60 credits of optional modules from a list provided by the School.

Optional Modules:

In semester 1, students select one 20 credit optional module from a selection offered within one basket (basket A).

In semester 2, students select 2 x 20 credit optional modules. Students must select one option from each of the two baskets (baskets B and C).

Students are permitted to select one 20-credit option from approved university-wide modules in exchange for basket A, B or C.

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYMAMP	Advanced Methodologies in Psychology	20	M

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

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.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

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 Parts 3 and 4 there continue to be interactive lectures and seminars, with an emphasis on independent learning.

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 3 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 PY3P with a minimum of 40%
3. Gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree

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 3 project). 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 weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and

- (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. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

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 (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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) 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) 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.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Part 3

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

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in part 3, with 80 credits with a mark of at least 40%, and with no marks below 30%; and
- (ii) achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY3P

Students who do not meet the requirements to progress to Part 4 of the MSci Psychology but who meet the requirements specified in section the Assessment Handbook: Bachelor's (for cohorts entering in 2022/23 and onwards) may be eligible for the award of BSc Psychology. The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification for the BSc Psychology is:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two thirds.

Please note that the award of BSc Psychology confers eligibility for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

Part 4

To obtain the MSci Psychology a student shall normally be required to have satisfied all of the above progression requirements and to achieve the following in Part 4:

- (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%

Students who do not meet the requirements for obtaining the MSci Psychology may be eligible for the award of BSc Psychology. The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification for the BSc Psychology is:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two thirds.

Please note that the award of BSc Psychology confers eligibility for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

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

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%

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

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

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

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 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.

MSci Psychology for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

1 July 2026

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