

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Psychology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	British Psychological Society
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time or part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MSc Psychology
Named Exit Awards	PgC Psychology (60 credits) PgD Psychology (120 credits)
Entry Requirements ⁴	Applicants must hold a degree-level qualification (at least RQF Level 6 or equivalent). This may include a degree in any subject, or a degree in Psychology that has not been accredited by the British Psychological Society. This may also include applicants who have undertaken an accredited degree, but who have failed to either pass the empirical Psychology Project or achieve at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	TBC

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Psychology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering in the 2022-27 academic year.⁵

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies 2nd Edition \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [QAA Higher education credit framework for England \(2021\)](#).

³ The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards \(2023\)](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy \(2023\)](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy \(2023\)](#).

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Course Summary

The MSc Psychology programme offers students a conversion route into psychology. The course covers a range of psychological perspectives including biological, cognitive, developmental, and social. The course is underpinned by a thorough review of a range of research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, and exploration of the scientific method. Delivery of teaching will include face-to-face lectures, online activities, discussion and seminar groups as well as practical workshop sessions in dedicated laboratories. Students will also undertake their own independent research project under supervision. Graduates from the programme who achieve a minimum of 50% overall will be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Course Aims

1. Advance scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and their dynamic interaction with individual, social, and environmental contexts.
2. Equip students with advanced research skills, encompassing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, ethical considerations, and analytical techniques, enabling them to design and conduct independent psychological research to a high standard.
3. Foster a critical appreciation of the relationship between theory and evidence, enabling students to evaluate how theoretical frameworks shape research design and how empirical findings inform and refine psychological theory.
4. Encourage critical engagement with diverse psychological perspectives, supporting students in synthesising and evaluating competing approaches to complex psychological questions.
5. Promote awareness of the ethical, cultural, and societal dimensions of psychological science, enhancing students' ability to apply psychological knowledge responsibly and reflectively.
6. Support the development of advanced transferable skills, including scientific communication, critical analysis, data interpretation, and problem-solving, to prepare students for professional or academic progression.
7. Apply psychological theory and research to real-world challenges, enabling students to translate academic knowledge into practical solutions across a range of settings.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Psychology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)^{6, 7}.

Learning outcome number	Learning outcome
Subject Knowledge and Understanding	

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies 2nd Edition \(2024\)](#)
⁷ and the [QAA Subject Benchmark for Psychology \(2023\)](#)

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1	Demonstrate a systematic and critical understanding of psychology as a scientific discipline, including its theoretical foundations, historical development, contemporary frameworks, and acknowledged limitations.
2	Recognise and critically reflect on the variability and diversity of psychological functioning, including socio-cultural, ethical, and inclusive dimensions.
3	Critically interpret the main domains of psychological science, biological, cognitive, developmental, social, and individual differences, and analyse their interaction and application.
4	Exhibit specialist knowledge in advanced or emerging areas of psychology (e.g. clinical, health, forensic, educational), with awareness of current research frontiers and practical implications.
5	Understand and critique a broad range of advanced research paradigms, measurement techniques, statistical methods, and ethical considerations, recognising their strengths, limitations, and appropriate applications.
Subject-Specific Skills	
6	Apply high-level scientific reasoning to evaluate theoretical models, empirical findings, and integrate evidence across perspectives.
7	Systematically critically engage with multiple theoretical frameworks, evaluate their explanatory power, and synthesise nuanced accounts of psychological phenomena.
8	Identify, interpret, and assess patterns in complex behavioural or experiential data using theoretical and empirical reasoning.
9	Reflect on the subjective and culturally mediated aspects of psychological experience, acknowledging ethical, identity, and socio-cultural influences.
10	Formulate, operationalise, and rigorously critique research questions, hypotheses, and study designs at an advanced level.
11	Employ advanced quantitative and qualitative methods, demonstrating competence in data analysis, interpretation, and rigorous reporting.
12	Independently design, conduct, analyse, and report a substantial empirical research project, with a critical understanding of its methodological, theoretical, and ethical dimensions.
13	Apply ethical frameworks rigorously, including approval processes, informed consent, data protection, and professional standards in all aspects of research and practice.
Generic Skills	
14	Communicate complex psychological concepts and research findings with clarity and adaptability across written (e.g. journal-style reports) and oral (e.g. academic presentations) formats.
15	Demonstrate advanced numerical reasoning, including interpretation of data outputs, statistical inference, and evidence-based argumentation.
16	Use digital tools effectively, including word processing, databases, bibliographic systems, data analysis software, and virtual platforms.

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17	Conduct critical information retrieval and synthesis, evaluating academic sources, empirical findings, and policy documents with discernment.
18	Collaborate effectively within teams, demonstrating interpersonal skills, leadership, and reflection on group dynamics and performance.
19	Exercise independent learning and professional development, through effective planning, self-reflection, time management, and preparation for further academic study, professional training, or psychological careers.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- QAA Subject Benchmark for Psychology (2023)
- British Psychological Society Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in Psychology (2019)

Course Structure

The MSc Psychology comprises of BPS accredited modules delivered at undergraduate level with advanced seminars and assessments at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Module Type ⁸
IPLPSY???	Psychological Research and Skills	0	M
IPLPSY???	Applied Biological and Cognitive Psychology	30	M
IPLPSY???	Psychological Approaches	30	M
IPLPSY???	Applied Social and Developmental Psychology	30	M
IPLPSY???	Pathways to Psychopathology	30	M
IPLPSY???	Advanced Psychology Project	60	M
IPLPSY???	Research Participation	0	M

⁸ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards \(2023\)](#)

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MSc Psychology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Psychology on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC Psychology on successful completion of 60 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at our Ipswich campus. Students on the MSc Psychology course are likely to have between 7-13 contact hours per week, dependent on the block and module(s). There is also an additional 12 contact hours for supervision tutorials associated with the Advanced Psychology Project across an academic year. The contact hours will be a mix of face-to-face lectures, online activities, seminars and practical workshops. Students will normally be expected to undertake 1550 hours of independent study across the academic year but should be prepared for this to vary based on assessment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly from coursework, including evaluations, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects.

Special Features

Graduates who have passed all modules to a total of 180 credits, including the Advanced Psychology Project, and have gained a minimum of 50% overall are eligible to apply for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and most are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. BPS).

Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Psychology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,990 per annum
Part-time UK	£1,665 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£16,020 per annum
Part-time EU/International	£2,670 per 30 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

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Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).