

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Applications of Psychology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MSc Applications of Psychology
Named Exit Awards	PgD Applications of Psychology
Entry Requirements ⁴	2:1 or equivalent undergraduate Bachelors honours degree In Psychology
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Applications of Psychology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2019-20 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The MSc Applications of Psychology programme is an innovative new postgraduate programme which employs traditional methods of teaching alongside technological, and practitioner enhanced learning to provide a dynamic and exciting master's Course. This course will provide you with an advanced understanding of psychological theory, evaluation, assessment and formulation which will enable you to drive an evidence-based approach to decision-making and interventions. You will learn about the theories, principles and practices which underpin an evidence-based approach and develop critical evaluative, analytical, problem solving and leadership skills with an understanding of current issues necessary to address what it is to be a psychological practitioner. The programme explores key themes and issues in clinical psychology, psychological assessment and research; this is then supplemented with the opportunity to gain experience through placement and specialist optional modules that will allow you to shape the course in to what you desire to prepare you for a future in psychology.

Course Aims

The aims of the MSc Applications of Psychology are to offer an innovative, dynamic and flexible programme:

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. 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](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

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

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- To enable students to develop and refine their in-depth knowledge of psychological theory, so as to be able to assess, evaluate and apply appropriately in the given context;
- To provide students with opportunities to foster and develop a core set of analytical problem solving skills that can be translated into effective professional practice within a range of different contexts;
- To enable students to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and make sound judgements;
- To provide students with a conceptual understanding of research and the skills necessary to interrogate, analyse and evaluate psychological studies and other primary resources, to be able to critically evaluate current research and have a practical understanding of how established research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge;
- To enhance the ability of students to effectively communicate to specialist and non-specialist audiences, plan strategically and manage and lead in transformational change;
- To provide students with the skills necessary to apply the lessons of 'what works' literature into confronting psychological practice and make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations;
- To enable students to develop an understanding of the significance of community engagement, national guidelines, the NHS structure and inter-professional practice and be able to apply this within an operational context;
- To develop in students a range of intellectual skills reflecting both the ethos of lifelong learning and the rigour required at Masters level, a high level of student autonomy and self-direction in order to facilitate the student to demonstrate initiative, originality alongside integrity and ethical judgement in their advanced scholarship and to become influential and effective specialists in their field of practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Applications of 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.

Successful completion of the MSc Applications of Psychology will see graduates having acquired the following skills:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Systematic understanding of complex psychological problems faced by people in a variety of contexts, ranging from biological aetiology through to those emanating from psychosocial factors;

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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- Comprehension of current issues of working with clients from a diverse range of backgrounds (reflecting the demographic characteristics of the population), as well as having individual differences (e.g. challenging behaviour, intellectual difficulties, disability);
- Understanding of Biopsychosocial foundations of health, illness, disease, as well as to how they may influence acute and long-term behaviour;
- Assessment and critical evaluation of psychological theories underpinning the genesis of human problems and appraisal of ways of dealing with the presenting issues;
- Capacity to design appropriate strategies and interventions with a client, evidencing advanced levels of psychological theory and research in the validation of the application, whether original or adapted from previous work;
- Understanding of how knowledge outcomes apply in work based situations, with ethical, policy and legal issues also having a bearing on your work with clients;
- Demonstration of detailed knowledge and understanding of the principles underlying quantitative and qualitative research strategies and analysis, critically evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of each for specific contexts and applications.

Intellectual/Cognitive Skills

- An ability to discuss the in-depth issues/challenges faced by psychology practitioners whilst working with a range of clients in diverse contexts by drawing on relevant evidence;
- Critical appraisal and evaluation of assessment techniques and methods used by psychology practitioners in their work with client groups;
- Demonstration of in-depth critical evaluation and consideration of the interventions psychology practitioners may use whilst implementing research and/or mediations in complex and uncertain environments;
- Exercising a capacity for independent judgement, thought and action demonstrating self-management;
- Reflection of in-depth learning and development as a psychology practitioner, evaluating the importance of supervision, and utilisation of supervision to further development as well as applying gained knowledge to client work as appropriate;
- Think creatively and analytically whilst designing (research questions, methodology, methods), carrying-out and evaluating (analysis, discussion and implementation) independent research.

Professional Practice/Subject Specific Skills

- Development and maintenance of effective working alliances with clients, including individuals, families, carers and services;

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- Effective and efficient application of principles of psychology in the selection of, use and interpretation of a broad range of psychological assessment methods appropriate for the client and type of intervention it is required for;
- Development of psychological formulations for presenting problems or situations, integrating information from assessments within coherent frameworks that draw upon psychological theory and evidence and which incorporate interpersonal, societal, cultural and biological factors;
- Decision making about clients' needs and welfare through evidence-based reasoning;
- Based on formulation, implementing psychological interventions appropriate to the presenting problem and to the psychological, cultural and social circumstances of the client(s);
- Development of original knowledge of the governance, ethical and organisational issues of working in psychological practice, and reflecting subsequently on own practice in a work based setting;
- Planning, conducting and writing-up of research that addresses important and relevant issues within the discipline of psychology.

Transferable/Key Skills

- Inter-personal and communication skills;
- Communication of relevant subject knowledge and evidence accurately and reliably with structured and coherent arguments;
- Clear communication of complex ideas and research findings by written, oral and visual means;
- Interpretation and use of numerical, statistical and other forms of data;
- Autonomous management of own learning process individually, within the group and in external organisations;
- Synthesis of complex original academic material and develop critical arguments;
- Critical interpretation and evaluation of theory and/or research practices in the applications of psychology;
- Dissemination of work showing critical evaluation of subject matter and/or research through reports, articles, posters and presentations to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Course Design

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

- QAA [undergraduate bachelors in psychology \(2016\)](#) used to inform and adapted to reflect an advanced level of scholarship appropriate for level 7 master's qualification
- QAA [doctorate clinical psychology \(2004\)](#)

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- [QAA Master's characteristics \(2015\)](#)

Course Structure

The MSc Applications of Psychology comprises modules at level 7.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Dissertation Project	60	M
	Research Design and Statistics	20	M
	Clinical Applications in Psychology	20	M
	Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment	20	M
	Psychology in Practice	20	O
	Clinical and Educational Psychology with Children and Adolescents	40	O
	Health Psychology in Practice	20	O
	Applied Sports Psychology	20	O
	Applications of Counselling Psychology	20	O

Please note that not all optional modules will run unless there is the required teaching expertise in place to do so.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded an MSc Applications of Psychology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Applications of Psychology on successful completion of 120 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on MSc Applications of Psychology are likely to have approximately 12-14 contact hours a week. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activity and students will also be required to participate in 160 hours of work placement. Students will be expected to find their own placement, although there may be some opportunity to attain placement through employer partners through the course. Students will normally be expected to undertake 20 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment 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. Dependent on modules taken assessment on the course overall will be approximately 70% coursework (including essays, reports,

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), 25% examinations and 5% practical assessments.

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.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Applications of Psychology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£7,830 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£870 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,310 per 20 credit module

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

Subject to Verification:

Students may have the opportunity to gain an additional BPS Test User Ability (Level A) Certificate in Occupational Testing and/or BPS Test User Personality (Level B) Certificate in Occupational Testing. Students will be required to pay additional costs to the BPS to be certified and registered on the Register of Qualifications in Test Use (RQTU); costs may vary dependent on the BPS charge.

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](#).