

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	<b>MSc Applications of Psychology</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 7</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>None</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>180 Credits at Level 7</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time and part-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>1 year full-time, 2 years part-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>MSc Applications of Psychology</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>PgD Applications of Psychology</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<b>2:2 or equivalent undergraduate bachelor's honours degree in Psychology and have Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) from the British Psychological Society (BPS) if required for their future career aspirations.</b>
Delivering Institution	<b>University of Suffolk</b>

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 2023-24 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

### Course Summary

The MSc Applications of Psychology programme is an innovative postgraduate programme which employs block and blend methods of teaching alongside practitioner enhanced learning to provide a dynamic and exciting master's Course. This course will provide you with an advanced ability to apply psychological theory, and an advanced understanding of psychological evaluation, assessment and formulation which will enable you to drive an evidence-based approach to decision-making and interventions in your future career. 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 placement experience and specialist optional modules that will allow you to shape the course into what you desire to prepare you for a future in psychology.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](#).

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

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

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

### Course Aims

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

- 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)<sup>6</sup>.

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

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

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

### *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;
- 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.
- Understanding of forensic psychology in terms of theory and practice.

### *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;

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

- 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;
- 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 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;

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

- 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 [Subject Benchmark Statement – Psychology \(2019\)](#) used to inform and adapted to reflect an advanced level of scholarship appropriate for level 7 master's qualification
- QAA [Characteristics Statement - Master's degree \(2020\)](#)

### 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 <sup>7</sup>
Level 7			
	Self-Directed Research	60	M
	Research Design and Analysis	0	M
	Clinical Applications in Psychology and Assessment	40	M
	Psychology Placement	0	M
	Educational Psychology	40	M
	Health Psychology	40	O
	Forensic Psychology	40	O

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

### 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 the MSc Applications of Psychology are likely to have approximately 4 hours of tutor structured learning per week. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activity and guided learning activities through our online learning environment. Students will also be required to participate in 100 hours of work placement. Students will be expected to find their own placement, although there may be some opportunity to attain placement through employer

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

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

partners through the course. Students will normally be expected to undertake 36 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 95% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), 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	£8,748 per year
Part-time UK	£972 per 20 credits
Full-time EU/International	£13,995 per year
Part-time EU/International	£1,555 per 20 credits

Payment of tuition fees is due at in three instalments 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 of Suffolk and published on the [website](#).