Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

Date amended: 21/07/2020

For 2020/21 entry

1. Programme title(s) and UCAS code(s):

BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience C850

With optional Year in Industry or Year Abroad (transfer available in Year 2 subject to availability)

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study: Full Time

b) Type of study: Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is three years (four years for those who take one year abroad or in industry)

The maximum period of registration is five years (six years for those who take one year abroad or in industry)

5. Typical entry requirements:

- A2 level grades: ABB-BBB
- Normal GCSE requirements: At least Grade C / 4 in English Language, Mathematics or statistics, Biology or Core Science and Additional Science
- International Baccalaureate: 32-28 points
- European Baccalaureate: Pass with 80% overall
- Access to HE diploma: Pass with 30 credits at distinction (plus the three GCSEs as stated above)
- English Language requirement: IELTs 6.5

For students on the year abroad:

Entry to the year abroad variant of a degree will be subject to performance in Years 1 and 2. Students need to achieve a year average of a 2.1 with no failed modules in Year 1 with a good record of attendance (a minimum of 60% across lectures and tutorials is expected). Students need to achieve a year average of a 2.1 with no outstanding modules by the end of Year 2 (records should continue to reflect good attendance with a minimum of 60% across lectures and tutorials expected).

Students who do not meet these criteria by the end of Year 2 will revert to the programme that they entered on.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL not accepted

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to:

- develop students' knowledge of psychology and cognitive neuroscience, through exposure to key theoretical and methodological approaches and research evidence;
- deliver a curriculum informed by the research, scholarship and practice of our staff;
- develop intellectual and research skills appropriate to the level of study, including a critical and systematic approach to the evaluation of evidence;
- provide opportunities to develop a variety of personal transferable skills, relevant to the needs of a wide range of graduate employers;
- prepare students for further research training in psychology and postgraduate training in professional applied psychology;
- satisfy the educational requirements for degree accreditation and graduate membership of the British Psychological Society.

For those on the year abroad, additional programme aims are to:

- provide an opportunity for Leicester students to spend their third year studying at a partner institution in Europe as part of the European Erasmus framework exchange program or a partner institution on another continent as part of the Study Abroad exchange programme;
- develop study skills in another university following a guided programme of learning for the period spent abroad;
- provide an opportunity for exchange students from partner institutions in another country to study in the United Kingdom;
- provide and build on links between the University of Leicester and its partner institutions;
- consider the different approaches to the study of psychology adopted by scholars working outside of the UK.

For those on the year in industry, see additional programme specification content for Year in Industry programmes

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- Accreditation reports by the British Psychological Society (Latest review March 2019)
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Psychology (December 2019)
- QAA institutional Audit (2016)
- QAA: The UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Learning Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report (Latest review Spring 2012).
- National Student Surveys (NSS) - Annual
- Annual Developmental Review
- Destinations of Leavers of Higher Education Survey - Annual
- External Examiners' Reports - Annual

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies		
(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge		
Demonstrate awareness of the core underlying principles and key theoretical and methodological themes in psychology and cognitive neuroscience. <u>Year Abroad students:</u> Acquire knowledge of different debates and schools of thought outside the UK	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects.	Examinations, coursework (e.g. essays, research reports including the dissertation, reviews, critiques, oral presentations, poster presentations)
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Evaluate and determine the importance of research findings in psychology and cognitive neuroscience in the context of theoretical development, knowledge advancement, and practice. <u>Year Abroad students:</u> consider cultural context in the evaluation of research findings	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects.	Examinations, coursework
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
Demonstrate the capacity to analyse and critically appraise evidence from both experimental procedures and the literature.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects.	Examinations, coursework
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
Produce clear and concise quantitative analysis and results.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects. Those on Year Abroad Year 4: Year abroad Information session	Examinations, coursework Those on Year Abroad Year 4: Oral presentation during Year abroad Information session

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
Develop structured and mature arguments reflecting an understanding of prevalent issues in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects.	Examinations, coursework
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
Develop a sound understanding of statistical techniques and their applications. Design, execute and present research projects and a dissertation. Understand ethical principles in relation to the conduct of research in psychology and cognitive neuroscience. <u>Year Abroad students:</u> Reflect on cultural context to ethical practices, comparing principles in the UK with those of host country	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects. As above As above	Examinations, research reports Research reports, particularly the dissertation Examinations, research reports
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression of issues pertaining to psychology and cognitive neuroscience <u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> Present information on their experience of studying abroad in a way that is appropriate for prospective year abroad students	Lectures, tutorials <u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> Year 4: Active participation in year abroad Information session	Oral presentations to different target audiences <u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> 5 minute long oral presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Written communication		
Produce clearly written material with appropriate use of evidence, demonstrating the ability to write to varying lengths, audiences and levels of formality. <u>Year Abroad students:</u> Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical and methodological themes in Psychology outside the UK in an appropriate written form	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects.	Essay-based examinations, coursework
(iii) Information technology		
Demonstrate the effective use of IT for accessing databases and scientific literature; manipulating, processing and presenting information.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects.	Examinations, coursework
(iv) Numeracy		
Apply numerical and statistical techniques to data analysis.	Practical classes and workshops, resource-based learning, research projects	Statistics examinations, research reports, Dissertation
(v) Team working		
Collaboratively solve problems, identify methodologies, manage distribution of effort, and collectively arrive at conclusions.	Tutorials, group research projects,	Coursework (e.g. research reports based on collaboratively collected data)
(vi) Problem solving		
Be able, in a critical, balanced and informed manner, to evaluate issues and problems in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects, particularly the dissertation	Examinations, coursework
(vii) Information handling		
Demonstrate the capacity to retrieve and manage a variety of resource materials and to analyse evidence from the literature.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects, particularly the dissertation	Examinations, coursework

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Demonstrate the acquisition of the skills and attributes necessary for lifelong learning, including: intellectual independence, effective time management, planning and organisation, knowing when to ask for help, professional attitude to colleagues, research honesty, ethical frameworks.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, directed reading, resource-based learning, research projects	Examinations, coursework.
Plan for and obtain successful personal, educational and career development. <u>Year Abroad students:</u> Learn about the experiences of professionals in other cultures; demonstrate strategies for self-monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in a different culture and institution.	Tutorials, career development programmes, resource-based learning, personal development planning.	Personal development planning activities, curriculum vitae.

10. Progression points:

End of Year 1
To pass from Year 1 to Year 2, students must obtain an overall weighted average of at least 40, with no honours modules below 40. The normal expectation will be that students progress from Year 1 to Year 2 in a 12 month period. The maximum periods of study require progression from Year 1 to 2 within 36 months from first registration on the degree.

End of Year 2
To pass from Year 2 to Year 3, students must pass 120 credits of Year 2 modules, obtaining an overall weighted average of at least 40, with no honours modules below 40 and no non-honours modules below 35. The normal expectation will be that students progress from Year 2 to Year 3 in a 12 month period. The maximum periods of study require progression from year 2 to 3 within 48 months from first registration on the degree.
In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

In addition to those in BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience, BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a Year Abroad will have the following progression points: According to Senate Regulation 5.30, in the case of four-year programmes in which the year out does not count towards the final classification, the second and fourth years are used in determining the degree class, according to the standard scheme for three year programmes.

Application to Transfer from BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience to BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a Year Abroad.
Students are invited to apply at the end of their first year to transfer to the BSc with a Year Abroad. Students need to achieve a year average of 60% or more in their FHEQ Level 4 (with no failed modules in Year 1). We will also take into account student attendance with a minimum attendance rate of 60% across lectures and tutorials expected.

Progression from 2nd year of BSc with a Year Abroad
Students may progress to BSc with a Year Abroad with no outstanding modules by the end of Year 2. Good attendance rates (60% across lectures and tutorials) must be maintained throughout year 2. Additionally on the Year abroad programme must maintain good academic progress and achieve a year average of 60% or more in their FHEQ level 5. Students who do not meet the requirements will transfer back onto the programme on which they entered.

Progression from BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a Year Abroad to final year
Students must study the equivalent of 120 credits during their year abroad (60 in semester 1 and 60 in semester 2). At least 60% of these modules must be based within the discipline of Psychology, the other 40% may be in a related discipline or be language based modules. All Psychology modules that are studied should be at either Level 5 or 6. It is expected that modules studied from other disciplines will be at Level 4 or 5. For a student to progress to the final year of the BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a Year Abroad programme, students must pass the year according to the regulations in the receiving institution. Students who do not meet the pass requirements of their modules during their year will transfer back onto their traditional BSc programme, without a year abroad.

11. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in Senate Regulation 5.

12. Special features:

The School of Psychology is based in the Department of Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour. Teaching is drawn from staff with research expertise spanning the discipline of psychology, with additional specialisms in Experimental Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Behavioural Neuroscience, Clinical Neuroscience, Psychological Wellbeing and Professional Psychology. Students enrolled on this degree programme are provided with a solid theoretical and practical grounding in key issues in psychology with a particular focus on cognitive neuroscience. Material is taught through a range of traditional and contemporary teaching methods. Learning is assessed by a portfolio of traditional and innovative assessments. In Years 2 and 3, there is a focus on choice. In addition to core modules, students can choose from a range of option modules to tailor their curriculum to suit their particular interests. There is also a strong focus on the development of both academic and transferable skills. An additional Study Abroad Year is also available, subject to academic performance at the end of Year 2.

For Students on the Year Abroad:

Students may apply to transfer to the BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience (with a Year Abroad) after successful completion of the first year and subsequent successful completion of the second year.

The BSc with a Year Abroad provides for students spending their third year at one of our partner institutions and then returning to Leicester for their final year.

Our partner institutions are currently:

- Groningen University, The Netherlands (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)
- Leiden University, The Netherlands
- Swinburne University, Australia

This list is subject to change at short notice.

The exchange is a 'cultural exchange', so that students cannot apply to study at a University in a country/region from which they originally come.

Students for the BSc with a Year Abroad degree must apply originally though UCAS for the BSc degree. Applications to transfer on to the BSc with a Year Abroad degree are made towards the end of the first year. Eligibility is determined on the basis of the first year marks and attendance records.

13. Indications of programme quality

BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience is accredited by the British Psychological Society and as such confers eligibility for Graduate Membership and/or the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership.

The BPS continued the accreditation of the programme in their partnership visit of March 2019. The reviewing team commended our programmes in view of the assessment and feedback practice that enhances students learning. Four further areas of good practice were highlighted in their report relating to our provision of a HelpDesk that runs throughout the term, the support systems we have in place as a school and how we have embedded employability and transferable skills training into the curriculum. They made no recommendations for further enhancement and commented that these are impressive, high quality and well managed programmes, which exceed the Society's expectations.

The teaching programmes have received consistent commendation from external examiners for the quality of the teaching provision.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Year 1			
PS1101	Historical Perspectives in Psychology (15)	**PS1105**	Introduction to Social, Developmental and Applied Psychology (15)
PS1102	Introduction to Sensation, Perception and Cognition (15)	**PS1106**	Introduction to Brain and Behaviour (15)
PS1103	Psychological Research Skills 1 (15) *	**PS1107**	Psychological Research Skills 2 (15) *
PS1104	Thinking and Communicating like a Psychologist 1 (15)	**PS1108**	Thinking and Communicating like a Psychologist 2 (15)
	Semester total: 60 credits		**Semester total: 60 credits**
Year 2			
Core modules [2]			
PS2101	Psychopathology: an integrated approach to disorders of the mind (15)*	**PS2111**	Information Processing and Cognition (15)*
PS2102	Social and Developmental Psychology (15) *	**PS2105**	Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience Research Project (15) *
PS2103	Practical Research Skills in Psychology (15) *		
		Option modules, 2 chosen from:	
PS2107	Topics in Cognitive Neuroscience (15) *	**PS2109**	Topics in Health and Wellbeing (15) *
		PS2110	Topics in Clinical Neuroscience (15) *
		PS2112	Topics in Social and Developmental Psychology (15) *
		PS2114	Introduction to Programming for Psychology (15) *
	Semester total: 60 credits		**Semester total: 60 credits**
With a Year Abroad (option)			
An appropriate number of modules equivalent to at least 120 Leicester credits will be selected chosen in consultation with the departmental study abroad coordinator among those offered by the partner institution.			

Year 3			
Core modules [2]			
Either			
PS3102	Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience Dissertation (30) – 2 semester module		
OR			
PS3104	Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience Dissertation: Project (30) – 2 semester module		
PS3107	Brain and Cognition (15)	**PS3108**	Advanced Social and Developmental Psychology (15)
		PS3120	Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience (15)
Option modules, 2 chosen from:		**Option modules, 1 chosen from:**	
PS3109	Individual and Interactive Decision Making (15)	**PS3113**	Occupational Psychology (15)
PS3110	Visual Cognition: from the laboratory to the real world (15)	**PS3114**	Neuroscience of Mental Health (15)
PS3111	Psychology Across the Lifespan (15)	**PS3115**	Individual Differences and Well-being (15)
PS3112	Clinical Psychology (15)	**PS3116**	Evolution, Cognition and Behaviour (15)
PS3118	Learning Theories: Understanding and Predicting Behaviour (15)	**PS3117**	Clinical and Cognitive Neuropsychology (15)
PS3121	Forensic Psychology (15)	**PS3122**	Psychology of Sport & Physical Activity (15)
		PS3126	Psychology in the Educational Context (15)
	Semester total: 60 credits		**Semester total: 60 credits**

Notes

1. To allow progression to the next year of your course, you must pass all pre-requisite modules. Pre-requisite modules are marked * above. There are no exceptions to this rule.

2. Core modules are compulsory. All Year 1 modules are core.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See module specification database http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation