1. **Programme title(s):**

MSc Psychology (Conversion Course)

PG Dip Psychology (Exit Award)

PG Cert Psychology (Exit Award)

2. **Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

3. a) **Mode of study:**
   Part Time

   b) **Type of study:**
   Distance Learning

4. **Registration periods:**

The normal period of registration for the MSc Psychology (Conversion Course) is 24 months

The maximum period of registration for the MSc Psychology (Conversion Course) is 48 months

5. **Typical entry requirements:**

Applicants must have a second class honors (or above) degree.

Students for whom English is not their first language and who have not lived in a country where the first language is English for at least three years must demonstrate and IELTS of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 575 with a score of 4.0 in the test of written English.

6. **Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

Students can APL up to 60 credits into the PG Diploma or the MSc from another course and in accordance with Senate Regulation 2 and the University Policy on the Accreditation of Prior Learning. Credits must be at Level 7 and must be relevant to the programme. All APL of credits will be considered on an individual basis by the course directors once evidence of the APL credits has been submitted.

7. **Programme aims:**

The programme aims to equip students with a sound knowledge and understanding of a broad range of topics in Psychology. Each module on the programme covers a key field within psychology aimed at covering the breadth required by the BPS for graduate basis for chartership. This knowledge is based not only on theory and accumulated findings, but also on awareness of the strengths and limitations of research evidence and its application.

A particular aim of this programme is to make learning available to those who are unable to pursue a more conventional, campus-based programme.

The modules assume no prior knowledge of psychological studies.

The overall programme aims are to:

- develop students' knowledge of psychology and its relevance, through exposure to key theoretical and methodological approaches and research evidence.
- meet the appropriate British Psychological Society accreditation criteria for graduate basis for chartership
- develop intellectual and research skills appropriate to the level of study, including a critical and systematic approach to the evaluation of evidence.

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By the end of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate:

- integrated knowledge of psychological theory and methodology
- skills of research and enquiry, independent learning and the use of contemporary information resources.
- competence in psychology related empirical research design, implementation and evaluation.
- reasoning, analysis and creativity at a postgraduate level
- effective written communication skills

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- [University of Leicester Learning and Teaching Strategy 2011-2016](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- QAA subject benchmark for Psychology
- QAA benchmarks for Masters degree study
- BPS standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in psychology

9. Programme Outcomes:

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Certificate: Knowledge of psychological theories and research. Diploma: Detailed knowledge of psychological theories and research MSc: Broad knowledge of psychological theories/research.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative assessment, online discussions. MSc only Dissertation.
Concepts		
All Understanding of how concepts relating to psychological theories can be applied in variety of settings.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative assessment. MSc only Dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Techniques		
Certificate: Understanding of some of the following: researching, data analysis by quantitative or qualitative methods, research ethics and familiarity with IT packages including SPSS.. Diploma: Understanding and practical experience of some, of the following: researching, data analysis by quantitative or qualitative methods, research ethics and familiarity with IT packages including SPSS. MSc: Broad understanding of all, and practical experience of many, of the following: researching, data analysis by quantitative or qualitative methods, research ethics and familiarity with IT packages including SPSS.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative assessment, critique of literature, online discussions. MSc only Dissertation.
Critical analysis		
Certificate: Ability to evaluate concepts and techniques from a limited range of psychological areas, to critique material read and hence construct an informed opinion. Diploma: Ability to independently evaluate concepts and techniques from a limited range of psychological areas, to critique material read and hence construct an informed opinion. MSc: Ability to independently evaluate concepts and techniques from a broad range of psychological areas, to critique material read and hence construct an informed opinion.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative assessment. MSc only Dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Presentation		
All Ability to organise research findings to construct an argument, to write assignments to a high standard, to write empirical reports in the format expected for publication and to a high standard. To present statistical findings in the correct manner according to universal standards. In addition, to interpret findings in a form for effective communication to a non-specialist audience.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative assessment. MSc only Dissertation.
Appraisal of evidence		
All Ability to evaluate published research and commentary and make appropriate judgements about its application and practical relevance to real world issues.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative Assessment, online discussions. MSc only Dissertation.
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Certificate: Knowledge of psychological theories and research. Diploma: Detailed knowledge of psychological theories and research MSc: Ability to conduct a literature search and review, ability to write a research proposal, considering ethics and other methodological issues, ability to devise research tools or to use correctly those already designed.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	All Summative assessment. MSc only Dissertation.
Communication skills		
All: Good written communication skills developed in the context of formal written assignments.	Blackboard discussion groups, personal communication with tutors, module material.	All Summative assessment. MSc only Dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Data presentation		
<u>All:</u> Ability to present statistical findings correctly and to present other research findings clearly with a correct interpretation.	Module material particularly module 1, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	<u>All</u> Summative assessment. <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.
Information technology		
<u>All:</u> Ability to use a range of IT packages including data analysis software such as SPSS. Engagement with online discussion forums and podcasts through Blackboard.	Module material, Blackboard discussion groups, induction/welcome information provided.	<u>All</u> Summative assessment, online discussions. <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.
Problem solving		
<u>All:</u> Understanding of how to take an evidence based practice approach to problem solving. Ability to apply research findings to real world problems.	Module material, assignment briefs, supplementary readings and case studies provided, Blackboard discussion groups, independent research.	<u>All</u> Summative assessment, online discussion. <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.
Working relationships		
<u>All:</u> Drawing on the expertise and guidance from academic or support staff, informal interaction with fellow students at course conferences or via email/bulletin board, formal contact and negotiation with dissertation supervisor.	Email/bulletin board interactions with students, formal interactions with staff and, in particular dissertation supervisor, informal interactions with staff and students at course events.	Monitoring group discussions on Blackboard and communication with tutors. Attendance at course events.
Managing learning		
<u>All:</u> Ability to self-motivate and self-direct learning so as to schedule work adequately and meet deadlines.	Independent research, programme modules, integrated and supplementary readings, textbooks.	<u>All</u> Summative assessment. <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.
Career management		
<u>All:</u> Understanding of career opportunities within psychology and transferrable skills gained from the course.	Career advice and materials provided on Blackboard, career and job opportunity and further study discussion strand on Blackboard.	Monitoring group discussion on Blackboard. Attendance at course events.

10. Special features

N/A

11. Indicators of programme quality

As well as relying on the mainstream indicators (external examiner reports, student results, student feedback forms) the programme will benefit from external assessment by the BPS every three years once initial approval is granted. In addition module materials are reviewed on an annual basis and completely rewritten when required. The course director is actively involved in the BPS and keeps up to date with the changing requirements of their syllabus. The course team are all committed to CPD which directly benefits the course and students.

12. Scheme of Assessment:

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

13. Progression points

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

15. External Examiners reports

To be included following receipt of first report

16. Additional features (e.g. timetable for admissions)

N/A

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Module Code	Module Title	Credits
PS7503	Psychological Research Methods	15
PS7504	Abnormal Psychology and Individual Differences	30
PS7506	Biological Psychology	15
PS7505	Cognitive Psychology	15
PS7507	Social and Developmental Psychology	30
PS7508	Applied Psychology	15
PS7509	Dissertation	60

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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