



## Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2023/24

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Version no. Choose an item.

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### 1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

MSc Psychology

\*MSc Psychological Studies (Exit Award)

\*PGDip Psychological Studies (Exit Award)

\*PGCert Psychological Studies (Exit Award)

#### Notes

\* An award marked with an asterisk is only available as an exit award and is not available for students to register onto.

#### [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100497	100

### 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 for the MSc is 12 months

The maximum period of registration for the MSc is 24 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 equivalent.

### 6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

N/A

### 7. Programme aims

The programme aims are to:

- develop 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 through a variety of learning activities

- develop intellectual and research skills appropriate to the level of study, including a critical and systematic approach to the evaluation of evidence.

## 8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

## 9. Programme Outcomes

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

### a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

#### i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<u>Postgraduate Certificate:</u> Knowledge of psychological theories and research.	Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.	<u>All</u>
<u>Postgraduate Diploma:</u> Detailed knowledge of psychological theories and research		Reports, MCQs
<u>MSc:</u> Broad knowledge of psychological theories/research.		<u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.

#### ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<u>All</u> 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.	<u>All</u> MCQs Literature Review <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>Postgraduate Certificate:</u></p> <p>Understanding of some of the following: researching, data analysis by quantitative or qualitative methods, research ethics and familiarity with IT packages including SPSS..</p> <p><u>Postgraduate Diploma:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>MSc:</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u></p> <p>Scientific research reports</p> <p><u>MSc only</u></p> <p>Dissertation.</p>

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>Postgraduate Certificate:</u></p> <p>Ability to evaluate concepts and techniques from a limited range of psychological areas, to critique material read and hence construct an informed opinion.</p> <p><u>Postgraduate Diploma:</u></p> <p>Ability to independently evaluate concepts and techniques from a limited range of psychological areas, to critique material read and hence construct an informed opinion.</p> <p><u>MSc:</u></p> <p>Ability to independently evaluate concepts and techniques from a broad range of psychological areas, to critique material read and hence construct an informed opinion.</p>	<p>Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u></p> <p>Literature review</p> <p>Research Reports</p> <p><u>MSc only</u></p> <p>Dissertation.</p>

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>All</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u></p> <p>All types of summative assessment</p> <p><u>MSc only</u></p> <p>Dissertation.</p>

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>All</u></p> <p>Ability to evaluate published research and commentary and make appropriate judgements about its application and practical relevance to real world issues.</p>	<p>Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u></p> <p>Literature review</p> <p>Research Reports</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p><u>MSc only</u></p> <p>Dissertation.</p>

**b) Transferable skills**

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>Postgraduate Certificate:</u></p> <p>Knowledge of psychological theories and research.</p> <p><u>Postgraduate Diploma:</u></p> <p>Detailed knowledge of psychological theories and research</p> <p><u>MSc:</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Module material, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u></p> <p>Research reports</p> <p>Literature review</p> <p>MCQs</p> <p><u>MSc only</u></p> <p>Dissertation.</p>

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>All:</u> Good written communication skills developed in the context of formal written assignments.</p>	<p>Blackboard discussion groups, personal communication with tutors, module material.</p>	<p><u>All</u> All summative assessment. <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.</p>

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>All:</u> Ability to present statistical findings correctly and to present other research findings clearly with a correct interpretation.</p>	<p>Module material particularly module 1, Supplementary readings provided, Blackboard discussion groups moderated by tutors, Independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u> Research reports MCQs <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.</p>

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><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.</p>	<p>Module material, Blackboard discussion groups, induction/welcome information provided.</p>	<p><u>All</u> All summative assessment, online discussions. <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.</p>

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><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.</p>	<p>Module material, assignment briefs, supplementary readings and case studies provided, Blackboard discussion groups, independent research.</p>	<p><u>All</u> Professional Portfolio Reflective review Presentation <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.</p>

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><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.</p>	<p>Email/bulletin board interactions with students, formal interactions with staff and, in particular dissertation supervisor, informal interactions with staff and students at course events.</p>	<p>Monitoring group discussions on Blackboard and communication with tutors. Attendance at course events.</p>

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>All:</u> Ability to self-motivate and self-direct learning so as to schedule work adequately and meet deadlines.</p>	<p>Independent research, programme modules, integrated and supplementary readings, textbooks.</p>	<p><u>All</u> All summative assessment. Engagement with tutors <u>MSc only</u> Dissertation.</p>

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p><u>All:</u> Understanding of career opportunities within psychology and transferrable skills gained from the course.</p>	<p>Career advice and materials provided on Blackboard, career and job opportunity and further study discussion strand on Blackboard.</p>	<p>Monitoring group discussion on Blackboard. Attendance at course events.</p>

## 10. Special features

Depending on timetabling we are aiming to teach this programme across 2 days to support the postgraduate learner manage their time.

We will be applying for accreditation with the British Psychological Society.

The programme focuses on the application of psychology to real world scenarios.

## 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 as part of our annual programme review and updated or 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. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry. With the following exception

When accreditation is gained from the BPS, to get an accredited qualification with Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the BPS students will need to :

- achieve a credit-weighted average of at least 50.00%
- achieve a grade of 50.00% or above in the dissertation.

The award of MSc in Psychology is exempt from Senate Regulation 6.38 b), namely 'at least 90 credits at 50.00% or above from the taught modules, (grade C)'.

Students who do not meet the award requirements above but otherwise meet the requirements for the award of a master's degree as specified in Senate Regulation 6.38 b will be offered the exit award of an MSc in Psychological Sciences. The MSc Psychological Sciences is an exit award only and will not be BPS accredited.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the award of a master's degree will be considered for an appropriate intermediate exit award if they meet the requirements for that award as specified in Senate Regulation 6. The Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Studies and Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies are intermediate exit awards only; they *are not* accredited qualifications and *do not* give Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the BPS.

### **13. Progression points**

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

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/exit award where appropriate.

### **14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions**

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

### **15. External Examiners reports**

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

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

N/A

## Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

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### Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

MSc Psychology

#### Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	60 credits	60 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits

180 credits in total

#### Level 7/Year 1      2023/24

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PS7401	Historical and Conceptual Themes in Psychology	15 credits
Semester 1	PS7502	Brain and Behaviour	15 credits
Semester 1	PS7403	Exploring Mental Processes	15 credits
Semester 1	PS7408	Investigating Psychology	15 credits
Semester 2	PS7404	Applied Human Behaviour	15 credits



<b>Delivery period</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Semester 2	PS7406	Individual Differences	15 credits
Semester 2	PS7407	Professional Skills in Psychology	15 credits
Semester 2	PS7405	Lifespan Development	15 credits
Term 3	PS7409	Dissertation	60 credits

## **Appendix 2: Module specifications**

See taught postgraduate [module specification database](#) (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).