



1. Programme title(s):

MRes in Research methods in psychology

MRes in Research methods in neuroscience

MRes in Research methods in animal behaviour

Postgraduate Certificate in Research methods (available as an exit award only)

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study:

Full time and part-time

b) Type of study:

Campus based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is one year full time and two years part-time.

Students registered part-time take two 30 credits modules and carry out supervised work on a research project in year 1. The project is completed in year two.

5. Typical entry requirements:

Minimum 2.2 in Psychology or Biological Sciences or related disciplines. Equivalent international qualifications.

English Language requirements as specified by the University. See <https://le.ac.uk/student-life/international-students/english-language-requirements>

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

N/A

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to:

- equip students with the research and professional skills required for a career in research
- provide detailed theoretical instruction in research methods to enable students to select appropriate methods for data analyses and critically interpret their results
- equip students with the ability to explain good principles of design, conduct, and governance of research
- equip students with the ability to conduct effective, high quality research in a chosen area of research through training, practice and supervision in relevant research skills*
- provide students with practical experience of undertaking a supervised research project, applying the knowledge from taught modules and of writing a substantial research report of a 12000-15000 word thesis*

- provide students with experience of research project management and working with a research supervisor*
- equip students with appropriate skills for conducting advanced literature and data base-searches and critically evaluating published literature
- equip students with the ability to prepare a portfolio of professional activities

*MRes only, not applicable to Postgraduate Certificate in Research methods

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- [University of Leicester Discovery Led and Discovery Enabling Learning Strategy 2016-2020](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual, for MSc in Psychological Research methods)
- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement

8. 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? |
|---|--|--|
| <i>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</i> | | |
| Knowledge | | |
| Advanced knowledge of research methods | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research | Formal written assessment, oral presentations, research project, written examination |
| Concepts | | |
| Acquisition of key concepts in research, statistical data analysis and current developments in research in the chosen discipline | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised and independent research | Formal written assessments, oral and poster presentations, research project, written examination |
| Techniques | | |
| Acquisition of advanced techniques for data analysis, data presentation, use of software and appropriate equipment for chosen research area | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research | Poster presentation, research project, written examination |
| Critical analysis | | |
| Ability to independently evaluate theories, concepts, techniques, and published results relevant to chosen discipline | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised and independent research | Formal written assessment, oral presentation, research project, written examination |
| Presentation | | |
| Ability to organise research findings and theoretical arguments, to write research reports in accordance with specific guidelines for discipline, to present data effectively | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised and independent research | Formal written assessment, oral presentations, research project, written examination |

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|--|---|--|
| Appraisal of evidence | | |
| Ability to critically evaluate research findings and results published in the literature | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised and independent research | Formal written assessment, written literature review, oral presentation, research project |
| (b) Transferable skills | | |
| Research skills | | |
| Ability to conduct bibliographic search and literature review. Acquisition of time management skills and career development skills | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised and independent research* | Research project*; literature review; portfolio of activities, grant application proposal |
| Communication skills | | |
| Ability to deliver effective oral presentations. Ability to present written reports conforming to the specific guidelines for the discipline | Tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research*. Feedback on written and oral presentations | Oral presentation, poster presentation*, research project*, literature review; <i>viva voce</i> examination* |
| Data presentation | | |
| Ability to select and use appropriate descriptive statistics | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research* | Written examination, oral presentation, poster presentation*, research project* |
| Information technology | | |
| Ability to use programs for data analysis and presentations | Tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research* | Oral presentation, poster presentation*, research project* |
| Problem solving | | |
| Ability to design and conduct experiments | Seminars, Tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research* | Written examination, poster presentation*, research project* |
| Working relationships | | |
| Ability to work effectively in groups. Ability to self and peer assess other student's work | Seminars, tutorials, supervised research*, peer review of oral presentations. | Research project*, peer review of oral presentations. |
| Managing learning | | |
| Literature search, critical review of published research; critical assessment of research presentations | Tutorials; project supervision* | Literature review; research project* |
| Career management | | |
| Prepare effective CVs; plan job interviews; publicise own research; prepare academic teaching material | Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study | Grant application. Portfolio of professional activities |
| *MRes only | | |

9. Special features

The programme provides students with opportunities to conduct in-depth research into topics related to research conducted within the Department of Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour. The programme prepares students with a practical understanding of research methods and emphasises professional and career development skills. The course is suitable for students wishing to

take the MRes prior to undertaking a PhD or on a stand-alone basis prior to further research, vocational training (e.g., in Clinical Psychology) or career advancement.

10. Indicators of programme quality

The content of taught modules is largely derived from a successful MSc in Psychological Research Methods that the proposed programme will replace. External examiner's reports for the MSc indicated that: "a particular strength of the program is the focus on applying classroom skills in real research settings"; this is "a successful research methods course" with clear "structure and aims" and where students' performance provides "a strong sign of a successful research methods course" and where "quality of teaching is consistent".

11. Scheme of Assessment:

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6](#): Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

12. 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 a Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods, where appropriate.

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

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6](#): Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

14. External Examiners reports

Annually.

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

There will be continuous assessment in the form of a literature review, a research protocol and in the development of a portfolio of assessed activities, with the exception of the statistics content that is assessed with a formal examination, one module requiring the production of a large-scale review paper, and the MRes research project. On completion of the MRes project, the student will be required to submit a thesis and give an oral presentation (viva voce).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

| Module code | Module title | Semester | Credits |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| PS7601 | Advanced research methods | 1 | 30 |
| PS7602 | Professional skills | 1 | 30 |
| PS7603 | MRes project | 2 | 120 |

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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