Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: 01/02/2022 **Last amended:** 12/06/2022 **Version no.** 1

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

MRes in Research Methods in Psychology

MRes in Research Methods in Human Cognitive Neuroscience

MRes in Research Methods in Psychology of Mental Health

Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods*

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	%
100959	100%

2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time or part-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods

The normal period of registration for the MRes is 12 months full time or 24 months part-time

The maximum period of registration for the MRes is 24 months full time or 48 months part-time

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, IELTS 6.5 or equivalent

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 (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy [log-in required]
- 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).

Exit awards: (for students who pass the two taught semester 1 modules but fail, the MRes project module): PG Cert in Research Methods IL Human cognitive Neuroscience; PG Cert in Research Methods in Psychology of Mental Health

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Advanced knowledge of research methods	Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research	Formal written assessment, oral presentations, research project, written examination

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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; *viva voce* examination*

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to select and use appropriate descriptive statistics	Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research*	Written examination, oral presentation, poster presentation*, research project*

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to use programs for data analysis and presentations	Tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research*	Oral presentation, poster presentation*, research project*

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to design and conduct experiments	Seminars, Tutorials, guided independent study, supervised research*	Written examination, poster presentation*, research project*

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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.

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Literature search, critical review of published research; critical assessment of research presentations	Tutorials; project supervision*	Literature review; research project*

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Prepare effective CVs; plan job interviews; publicise own research; prepare academic teaching material	Seminars, tutorials, guided independent study	Grant application. Portfolio of professional activities

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
*MRes only		

10. 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.

11. 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 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”.

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.

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 [log-in required]

16. 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).

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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.

MRes in Research methods in psychology

MRes in Research methods in human cognitive neuroscience

MRes in Research methods in psychology of mental health

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	60 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dissertation/project	120 credits	n/a	120 credits	n/a

180 Credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 **2024/25**

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PS7601	Advanced research methods: evaluating, planning and analysing research	30 credits
Semester 1	PS7602	Professional research skill: finding your path in the world of research	30 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	PS7603	MRes project	120 credits

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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