

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION KEY FACTS

<b>Programme name</b>	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
<b>Award</b>	Master of Science
<b>Exit Awards</b>	PG Dip, PG Cert
<b>School</b>	School of Health and Psychological Sciences
<b>Department or equivalent</b>	Psychology
<b>Programme code</b>	TBC
<b>Type of study</b>	Full-time, Part-time
<b>Total UK credits</b>	180
<b>Total ECTS</b>	90

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This programme meets the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS). It is designed to enable graduates in a discipline other than psychology to “convert” their existing qualification, providing the necessary basis for progression to postgraduate training in Psychology, and therefore eligibility for Chartered membership (CPsychol) of the British Psychological Society. The programme delivers the core content of a psychology undergraduate degree ordinarily necessary for the GBC, through a flexible and innovative delivery approach to MSc study. Modules such as biological psychology, cognitive psychology, and developmental psychology, will provide you with the breadth of knowledge necessary for the GBC membership whilst enabling you to develop your personal interests in the human mind. In addition, you will complete an empirical project, which will give you the opportunity to dig deeper into a particular area of psychology, gaining cutting-edge expertise and valuable research experience.

### Aims

The aims of this programme are to:

- To enable graduates with a non-accredited undergraduate degree to obtain a qualification which confers eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society.
- To provide a research-informed curriculum which covers the core topics in psychology required to provide GBC, using a variety of teaching methods and assessments that is informed by current research, scholarship and application.
- To develop critical awareness of issues in the scientific and applied areas of psychology and the methodological skills to critically examine and interrogate the discipline of psychology in all its facets.
- Employ pedagogical methods, digitally enhanced and flexible learning to inform and engage you as a student. This allows you to control your learning space.
- Provide you with flexibility in *when* you learn.

## Content

The core modules of the programme will cover the range of knowledge required for GBC of the BPS: biological psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, historical concepts in psychology, personality and differential psychology, social psychology, and research methods with statistics for psychology. In the second part of the programme you will also carry out an empirical research project culminating in a research report/dissertation.

## Registration Period

The normal period of registration for this programme is one year (for full-time students) or two years (for part-time students).

The maximum period of registration for this programme is 3 years (full-time) or 5 years (part-time).

## WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

### Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a systematic evaluation of research methods in psychology, including qualitative and observational research methods, the design and advanced statistical data analysis of experimental and correlational research, and the strengths and limitations of these.
- Critically analyse and evaluate (using evidence-based reasoning) the concepts within cognitive psychology, biological psychology, social psychology, the psychology of personality and individual differences, and developmental psychology, as well as understanding historical issues in psychology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of a number of research areas in psychology, and demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically different theories/models and evidence for them.

### Skills

- Carry out an extensive piece of independent empirical research at the forefront of its area of psychology, including selecting and operationalising a research question, searching and summarising previous literature, planning and conducting an empirical investigation, and demonstrating awareness of implications and ethical and methodological issues.
- Present and interpret research findings.
- Critically evaluate evidence from a methodological perspective, recognise patterns in behaviour, and demonstrate scientific reasoning.
- Identify appropriate psychological research methods for particular research questions
- Demonstrate an awareness of variation in individual experience and the existence of different viewpoints.
- Act as an independent and self-critical learner, demonstrating independence of thought, problem solving, and taking responsibility for your own learning and skill development.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to interpersonal factors in teamwork.

### Values and attitudes

- Identify and respect ethical issues in psychological research.

- Appreciate the importance of honesty and rigour in the conduct of scientific research and apply this in practice.
- Appreciate the value of the scientific approach to the study of mind and behaviour.
- Show awareness of the need to have respect for and sensitivity to the needs of research participants.
- Respect individual differences.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Psychology.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Taught component

#### Taught modules

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Biological Psychology	PSM001	15	Core	N	7
Cognitive Psychology	PSM002	15	Core	N	7
Developmental Psychology	PSM003	15	Core	N	7
Historical Concepts in Psychology	PSM004	15	Core	N	7
Personality & Differential Psychology	PSM005	15	Core	N	7
Research Methods & Statistics in Psychology	PSM006	30	Core	N	7
Social Psychology	PSM007	15	Core	N	7

Successful completion of every module (minimum 50% mark) is an essential requirement for the award of Master of Science and be eligible for GBC.

### Dissertation component

#### Dissertation module

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core	Compensation Yes/No	Level
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<b>Psychology Dissertation (Empirical Project)</b>	PSM008	60	Core	No	7
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You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation. Successful completion of the dissertation (minimum 50% mark) is an essential requirement for the award of Master of Science and be eligible for GBC.

## HOW WILL I LEARN?

The course takes a high-quality flipped learning approach to delivery, seamlessly combining in-person instructional methods alongside compulsory engagement with online asynchronous content. This is designed to give you maximum flexibility in how you carry out your studies while also providing you with a stable, predictable weekly timetable, ensuring maximum flexibility to accommodate varied learning preferences and work commitments without compromising on the academic rigour and quality.

All in-person activities are timetabled to occur on the same day, once per week, and during term time you will spend the day on site with your cohort. Each module is supported by a weekly 1-hour seminar. The seminars will employ workshops, activities, and critical discussions, and are designed to assimilate, consolidate, and expand upon your guided independent learning. The Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology session is a 2-hour session focussed on developing the necessary practical, technical, and theoretical skills. All sessions are led by experienced and research-informed teaching staff.

As part of the flipped-learning approach to delivering this programme, each week there will also be new, high-quality asynchronous resources and materials that you will be required to engage with as part of your core module teaching. These materials will include specially designed video lectures, quizzes, reading material, and activities that provide you with the essential facts, commentary, and explanation of the core subject areas. You will have a range of assignments that you complete within a given period but at times of your choosing. This requires you to take responsibility and initiative for your own learning. You are additionally expected to read widely in the primary literature to learn more about the different theories and models used to explain key psychological phenomena.

When studying full-time you will join us on campus one day (half a day if part-time) a week to take part in in-person learning. With our flipped-classroom delivery approach, a typical 15-credit module will usually involve around 10 hours of in-person contact time blended with 15 hours of required online guided study (video lectures, required preparatory reading/activity each week). In addition, you will be expected to undertake around 125 independent-study hours for each such module. The 30-credit Research Methods & Statistics module involves around 40 hours in-person contact time, 30 hours of online guided study and 230 hours independent study.

For your empirical project, you will develop a research project (in collaboration with your supervisor) that addresses a new research question within a field of psychology. This will require critical reflection on the current literature. Supervisors will provide additional training to use available techniques and methodology (e.g. Eye Tracking, psychophysiological measurements, questionnaire and experiment design platforms, etc.).

## WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

The programme's assessment strategy has been designed to allow module assignments to be tailored to your specific learning and professional development needs, as well as prepare you for professional and academic practice as a psychologist.

There will be a variety of assessment methods to evaluate your knowledge and skills in all aspects of the programme.

**Formative assessment:** This type of assessment monitors your learning and provides ongoing feedback to you. It helps you identify your strengths and areas to develop, can enable you to improve your self-regulatory skills. It can take the form of quizzes, oral presentations, tests, group activities or engaging forums. Formative assessments can be tutor led, peer or self-assessment, and usually carry no grade.

**Summative Assessment:** In order to assess your full range of learning, you will complete essays, examinations, oral presentations, research methods projects, interpretation of statistical analyses, formal research proposals and a research dissertation. You will receive detailed feedback on your coursework as an aid to your further learning. These different forms of assessment aim to assess your knowledge, skills and appreciation in different areas of psychology.

You will be provided with Assessment Criteria, which are descriptions based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully.

You will be provided with Grade-Related Criteria, which are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge, or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. This information may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

You will be assigned a Personal Tutor as your primary contact. They will advise on academic matters and will monitor your progress throughout the programme, providing guidance and encouragement where required.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at: [Assessment | City, University of London](#)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Resit: You will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: [Senate-Regulation-19-Assessment-Regulations-2022-23-v2.5.pdf \(city.ac.uk\)](#)

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Master's Degree

For the award of Master of Science, together with eligibility for GBC of the BPS, you will have demonstrated a systematic understanding of knowledge across a breadth of topics in psychology, a critical awareness of current problems and new insights, much of which is at or informed by the forefront of the discipline. You will have demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research in psychology, as well as the ability to generate new hypotheses. You will also have demonstrated originality in the application of knowledge and a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in psychology.

### Programme credits and weighting

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	67
Dissertation	7	60	33

### Class requirements

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Diploma

## Programme credits and weighting

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100%

## Class requirements

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

## Postgraduate Certificate:

### Programme credits and weighting

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100%

## Class requirements

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

## EMPLOYABILITY AT CITY

### WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ONTO?

After completing an MSc Psychology conversion course, graduates have a range of career options. They can pursue roles in clinical, educational, or forensic psychology. Some choose health psychology to address individual and community health challenges, while others apply psychological principles in business contexts, such as human resources or market research. Occupational psychology focuses on improving workplace dynamics, and sports psychology aims to optimize athletes' mental performance. Additionally, the academic realm offers opportunities in research or teaching. It's important to note that some specializations may require further training and experience.

For more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career>

### WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

**Accreditation Body:** British Psychological Society

**Nature of Accreditation:** An application will be made to the BPS for this programme. Intended Accreditation: Graduate Basis for Chartered membership for the BPS. This is required for further training on BPS accredited Master's and Doctoral level courses. Students must achieve the pass mark on all modules and successfully complete the Psychology Project.

Version: 1.0

Version date: 07/09/2023

For use from: 2024-25

Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.