PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Psychology
Award	BSc (Hons)
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of Psychology
UCAS Code	C800
Programme code	USPSYC
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This highly popular British Psychological Society accredited BSc in Psychology aims to provide you with a well-rounded, high quality and challenging education in Psychology, defined as the scientific understanding of the human mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and of the complex interactions of these. It is taught within a strong research-based Department, encourages analytical and critical thinking, the careful appraisal of evidence and the application of various technical skills. You will learn about a broad range of topics within the discipline of psychology, including the application of psychological knowledge in a range of professional areas, and you will learn to appreciate how the subject progresses through the careful use of research methods. A wide range of transferable skills are also incorporated into the programme to enhance your employment prospects.

The programme is an excellent preparation for further training in psychology at MSc level, but is also very well suited for those interested in pursuing careers across a broad range of sectors.

The programme prepares you for postgraduate study through a BPS Accredited degree pathway leading to the Graduate Basis for Registration of the BPS. In order to be eligible for GBR, you need to obtain at least a lower second class honours degree and must successfully complete the psychology project.

The BSc Psychology is a single honours degree offered by the Department of Psychology in the School of Arts and Social Sciences. You may also study Psychology as a minor subject in conjunction with Sociology (see Programme Specification for BSc Sociology with Psychology).

BSc Psychology with Pathways:
In addition to the BSc Psychology degree we provide the opportunity for you to graduate with a BPS accredited BSc Psychology degree in a specialised area of Psychology. All of you enter our BSc Psychology route and can apply to specialise in one of the 4 pathways below, or continue with your BSc Psychology degree. You make this choice at the end of your 2nd year.

Those of you who enter a specialised pathway will study modules related to that pathway and conduct your honours research project in that field in your 3rd year.

The additional pathways and respective degree titles are:
BSc Psychology with Counselling & Health Psychology
BSc Psychology with Organisational Psychology & Behavioural Economics
BSc Psychology with Cognitive & Clinical Neuroscience
BSc Psychology with Child Development

Aims
The aims of the programme are to:
1) Provide a full range of different core and elective topics for you to learn.
2) Provide a curriculum that is up-to-date and informed by the research interests of the teaching staff.
3) Provide a solid grounding in a range of research methodologies and statistical data analysis techniques.
4) Encourage you to develop their analytical and critical capacities as applied to the relation between theory, evidence and method.
5) Encourage you to develop a capacity and an enthusiasm for self-directed learning in order to prepare them for a diverse range of careers as well as for further study and lifelong learning in a rapidly changing social world.
6) Encourage you to develop transferable skills including strong communication and presentation skills, group working skills, and time and work management skills.

Certificate / Programme Stage 1
For all of you completing Programme Stage 1 *or* the Certificate in Psychology, by the end of this Programme Stage you will have an understanding of the major concepts, theories, definitions, classification and controversies within the discipline of psychology. You will have been introduced to the key aspects of quantitative and qualitative research design and be able to undertake, with support and guidance, descriptive and evaluative reports, essays and other assessment tasks within the substantive areas of the discipline. You will have an awareness of ethical issues in psychological research and knowledge of the fundamental numerical and statistical skills relevant to psychology.

Diploma / Programme Stage 2
For all of you completing Programme Stage 2 *or* the Diploma in Psychology you will build on your previous knowledge and experience. You will have a critical understanding of the core curriculum areas of the BPS. You will have developed an evaluative and critical understanding of the major theories, concepts and controversies within the discipline of psychology. You will develop a knowledge and critical understanding of conceptual and historical issues in contemporary psychology. You will have the appropriate skills to select and use a range of research methods and tests to analyse psychological data and evaluate and synthesise information from a variety of sources to construct a reasoned argument. You will have knowledge of important applied and specialized areas of psychology to help make an informed choice if you wish to specialize in a pathway for your Psychology degree.

Degree / Programme Stage 3
For all of you completing Programme Stage 3 *or* the BSc Psychology degree, you will further develop a systematic understanding of theory and research in a range of specialised areas of psychology. You will have a critical understanding of the practical applications of psychology as well as the uses and implications of psychological research. You will develop the ability to

deploy advanced methodological and statistical approaches in psychological research through the completion of a substantial and original piece of research. You will apply the methods and techniques that you have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge in a specific domain of psychology.

Micro-Placements module (SA3000)
The Careers and Employability Service and the School of Arts and Social Sciences are working together to offer most students within the School the option to undertake professional level work experience opportunities as part of the Level 6, 15-credit bearing Micro-Placements module (SA3000). The placement opportunity is short and not related directly to your area of study and will support the development of key employability skills whilst enabling you to gain valuable work experience. Placements on the module are competitive and are subject to availability. All eligible students will be contacted and invited to express their interest during Term 1 of Level 5 (Year 2), with formal module selection taking place at the end of Level 5.

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 understanding of research methods in psychology, including qualitative and observational research methods, and the design and advanced statistical data analysis of experimental and correlational research.
- Analyse, evaluate (using evidence-based reasoning) and appreciate the concepts within cognitive psychology, biological psychology, theories of personality, group influences and decision making, and developmental psychology.
- Demonstrate specialised knowledge of a number of research areas in psychology, and the ability to evaluate critically different theories/models and the evidence for them.

Skills:
- Carry out an extensive piece of independent empirical research, including selecting a research question, searching and summarising previous literature, planning and conducting an empirical investigation, and demonstrating awareness of ethical and methodological issues.
- Present and evaluate research findings.
- Evaluate evidence from a methodological perspective.
- Demonstrate a broad range of relevant computer skills, including word processing, statistical software, presentation graphics, email and internet awareness.
- Demonstrate scientific reasoning.
- Demonstrate independence of thought and taking responsibility for your own learning and skill development.

Values and attitudes:
- Identify and respect ethical issues in psychological research.
- Appreciate the importance of honesty in the conduct of scientific research.
- Appreciate the value of the scientific approach to the study of mind and behaviour.
- Respect individual differences.

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

Psychology.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The Programme has been designed to meet the Subject Benchmarking Statement for Psychology, published by the QAA and the requirements for First Qualifications in Psychology by the BPS. The Teaching and learning strategy is adapted to the different levels of the Programme.

Programme Stage 1: We encourage the development of independent learning skills, requiring you to take responsibility and initiative for your own learning. You need to acquire knowledge of the key phenomena and concepts in psychology at level 1. Lectures are used to provide facts, commentary and explanation of key content areas.
Lab-based teaching is used to develop skills and understanding of research methodology, statistics and report writing. Self-directed CAL tutorials are used for development of general skills in ICT and web-based information use.

Programme Stage 2: Core areas of knowledge are covered through lectures. Research methods skills are developed through group project work. You are expected to read more widely in the primary literature and to learn more about the different theories and models used to explain key phenomena. Evaluative skills are important at level 2, involving an appreciation of how evidence is used to support or refute theory.

Programme Stage 3: Teaching focuses on topics in psychology related to current research interests of the academic staff, and also related to professional postgraduate training. The learning and teaching strategy differs from module to module. Many involve student-led seminar presentations and problem-based assessments. You are expected to develop understanding at a deeper critical level of the relation between theory, evidence and methodology. Theories are also evaluated on the basis of predictive power, specificity and internal coherence. Modules relating to professional applications of psychology aim to provide a clear and critical understanding of the validity and value of psychological theory in an applied setting.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria
Assessment methods include essays, problem-based assessments, presentations, class tests, lab reports, lab classes and end of year exams. In order to achieve the BSc Psychology, students are required to complete and pass a 30 credit empirical Psychology Project in Programme Stage 3.
Assessment Criteria 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, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

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:
https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

For how each Programme Stage of your programme is weighted, please see 'What Award Can I Get?' below.

The Pass mark for each module is 40%.

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

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of one sixth of the total credits of a Programme Stage at first or resit attempt, you may be allowed compensation if:
   - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and
   - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme Stage, and
   - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
   - An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for the Programme Stage.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original module mark will be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, 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 requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board will require you to be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage or 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:
http://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

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WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Bachelor's Degree with Honours:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	10		I	70
2	5	120	30		II upper division	60
3	6	120	60		II lower division	50
					III	40

Ordinary Degree:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	10		With Distinction	70
2	5	120	30		With Merit	60
3	6	60	60		Without classification	40

Diploma of Higher Education:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	35		With Distinction	70
2	5	120	65		With Merit	60
					Without classification	40

Certificate of Higher Education:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required

1	4	120	100		With Distinction	70	
					With Merit	60	
					Without classification	40	

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Programme Stage 1
Programme Stage 1 consists of 8 compulsory 15 credit modules in psychology.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Professional and Academic Development for Psychologists	PS1002	15	C	Y	4
Cognitive Approaches to mind and behaviour	PS1003	15	C	Y	4
History and Theory of Psychology	PS1004	15	C	Y	4
Biological approaches to mind and behaviour	PS1005	15	C	Y	4
Lifespan Psychology	PS1006	15	C	Y	4
Research Design and Analysis (Quantitative Methods)	PS1007	15	C	Y	4
Research Design and Analysis (Laboratory Methods)	PS1008	15	C	Y	4
Real World Applications of Psychology	PS1009	15	C	Y	4

Programme Stage 2

All modules in Programme Stage 2 are compulsory. This consists of six 15 credit modules and one 30 credit module.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research Methods in Psychology	PS2001	30	C	N	5
Cognitive Psychology	PS2002	15	C	N	5
Introduction to Clinical Psychology	PS2008	15	C	N	5
Biological Psychology	PS2004	15	C	N	5
Developmental Psychology	PS2005	15	C	N	5
Social Psychology	PS2006	15	C	N	5
Personality and Differential Psychology	PS2007	15	C	N	5

Programme Stage 3

BSc Psychology
Programme Stage 3 consists of a 30 credit psychology project, and six 15 credit electives.

Compensation is allowed for one 15 credit elective module.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Psychology Project	PS3001	30	C	N	6
Decision Making & Behavioural Economics	PS3003	15	E	Y	6
Approaches to Autism	PS3007	15	E	Y	6
Health Psychology and Behaviour Change	PS3012	15	E	Y	6
Organisational Psychology	PS3013	15	E	Y	6
Introduction to Clinical Psychology	PS3018	15	E	Y	6
Topics in Cognitive Neuroscience	PS3019	15	E	Y	6
Coaching Psychology	PS3021	15	E	Y	6
How the Neurosciences inform Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy	PS3027	15	E	Y	6
Memory and the law	PS3028	15	E	Y	6
Topics in Typical and Atypical Psychological Development	PS3022	15	E	Y	6
Introduction to Counselling Psychology	PS3030	15	E	Y	6
Forensic Psychology	PS3032	15	E	Y	6
Social Psychology for Behaviour Change	PS3033	15	E	Y	6
Emotions	PS3034	15	E	Y	6
Critical Perspectives in Psychology	PS3035	15	E	Y	6
Psychology of Music	PS3036	15	E	Y	6

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?
If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:
http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a period of study abroad whilst completing the programme. This is possible through the SASS Exchange Programme, a year of study at one of our European and/or international partner universities via a sandwich year, which is undertaken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BSc Psychology with Study Abroad.

Participation in the SASS Exchange Programme is through an application process. You are encouraged to investigate the opportunities available to you within your Department in your first year at City.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SASS Exchanges Team (SASS.Exchanges@city.ac.uk).

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a one year work placement whilst completing the programme. This is possible through joining the Integrated Professional Training Programme, which is a sandwich year that is taken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BSc Psychology with Integrated Professional Training. In identifying relevant placement opportunities you should consider your long-term plans for employment; whether the work placement proposed is relevant to final year modules; whether it might provide experience on which a project could be based.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SASS Placements Team (SASS.Placements@city.ac.uk).

1) You should discuss your plans with the relevant Department Placement Officer at the earliest opportunity, preferably during the autumn term of their second year.

2) The work placement must extend over a minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 12 months (including holidays allowed by the employing body). The Placement should normally run between the 1st September and the 31st August in the following year.

3) The placement must be approved by City as providing suitable supervision and training.

4) Participant students are required to pay an administrative charge to cover the School's costs associated with the work placement. This will be in the form of a reduced tuition fee for the placement year, which will cover continued enrolment with City and access to all of its facilities.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

Accreditation Body: British Psychological Society

Nature of Accreditation:
Provides the necessary first degree qualification for further training on BPS accredited Master's and Doctoral level courses.
Graduate Basis for Registration for the BPS. Students must achieve a minimum of a lower second class honours degree and successfully complete the Psychology Project.
PS1004, PS2001, PS2002, PS2004, PS2005, PS2006, PS2007, PS3001.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?
Entry Requirements
A-level grades: AABA/ AS-level: 360 UCAS tariff points
IB: 35
GCSE: grade B or equivalent in English language and Maths or Statistics.
Alternative entry requirements
National Diploma DDD

International Baccalaureate 35 points
European Baccalaureate 80%
Scottish AAABB
Irish AAAABB French 13.5/20
German 1.5
Italian 85-90%
English Language Requirements
Grade C in GCSE (or International GCSE)
Cambridge ESOL CPE grade C or above

RPL/RPEL Requirements
RPL/RPEL: Students may apply for RPL/RPEL for a minimum of one module and a maximum of 120 credits (direct entry to Year 2). Students who wish to gain direct entry onto Year 2 of the degree must be able to demonstrate that they have passed Year 1 of an equivalent BPS approved programme at another institution. They must also demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for Programme Stage 1 of the City Psychology degree. The weighting of the degree classification will be 1:2 for Programme Stages 2 and 3.

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