PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	MSc Psychology
	The MSc Psychology is a Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (120 credits)
	Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology (60 credits)
	Neither of these intermediate awards will confer GBC (Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the BPS).
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Cavendish
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Ian Hodges
Course URL:	http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/ psychology/postgraduate-courses/full- time/p09fppsy-msc-psychology
Mode and length of study:	FT/PT
University of Westminster course code:	PSYPPSY
JACS code:	
UCAS code:	
QAA subject benchmarking group:	
Professional body accreditation:	British Psychological Society
Date of course validation/review:	March 2012
Date of programme specification:	2012-13

Admissions Requirements

This is a Conversion course designed for graduates who wish to pursue a career in psychology but need to acquire the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS). This was previously termed 'Graduate Basis for Registration' (GBR). We welcome applications from graduates with a recognised University degree at second class Honours level or above, who have either completed a degree in another subject or who have insufficient psychology in their degree to be eligible for GBC. This course is ideal for recent graduates and graduates planning a career change. Graduates do not need to have studied psychology to be eligible for this programme.

We require the standard University of Westminster admission requirements to be fulfilled which include a good first Honours degree from a recognized university and, in the case of overseas students, demonstrated competence in the use of the English language (see below). As statistical procedures are a key element of Psychology, we require applicants to

demonstrate competence in mathematics, for example through having obtained GSCE mathematics at Grade C or above (or equivalent).

Applications are scrutinised for evidence of interest in the discipline of psychology and reflection on the ways that the applicant's experience to date would enable them to succeed at M level. If an applicant's first language is not English, an attainment of at least IELTS 6.5 or equivalent must be demonstrated. Applicants who have taken an honours programme but only obtained a pass/ordinary/aegrotat degree will not be eligible for the course.

Applications from overseas students wishing to undertake a BPS accredited conversion programme will be evaluated to ensure that their qualifications have been gained from an internationally recognised institution, and to ensure that the applicant has achieved the required academic level equivalent to a British Bachelors degree. This will be confirmed through the World Higher Education Database and the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) for the United Kingdom.

BPS regulations for Accreditation of Prior Learning
The eligibility for Accreditation of Prior Learning on this course is limited to Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) only – this refers to learning from another Master's course taken at an internationally recognised University or other Higher Education Institution.

For any conversion programme awarding GBC, accreditation of prior certificated learning (APCL) is limited to a maximum of 60 credits, accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL), for example learning in the workplace, is not permitted. All students must successfully complete an empirical Honours project or other equivalent forms of empirical practical work in psychology as part of the accredited conversion programme. No exemption on the grounds of APCL may be granted for this. For GBC curriculum areas, the learning outcomes applied in the process of awarding APCL will reflect the level of delivery of the relevant modules. Therefore only Masters level modules will be eligible for APCL. Any credit that has already been applied to another Master's programme will not be eligible for APCL.

Aims of the course
The course aims to provide:

- An accessible route for graduates to gain eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS);
- A high quality Masters-level course which enables students with little or no psychological background to gain advanced skills and knowledge in core areas of contemporary psychology;
- A set of advanced modules which together provide coverage and critique of the core elements of the discipline of psychology as specified by the British Psychological Society;
- Advanced understanding of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods deployed in contemporary psychology;
- Advanced understanding of the social, cultural and historical contexts of psychological research;

Employment and Further Study Opportunities
This Master's programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC), provided the minimum standard of an overall pass mark of at least 50% is achieved. Students must also pass the empirical project element to be eligible for GBC. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. Gaining GBC through the MSc Psychology will enable you to progress towards a career in psychology. For example successful completion of the MSc will

enable you to apply for BPS accredited training as a psychology practitioner (e.g. Clinical, Counselling, Occupational, Health, Forensic or Educational Psychology) or to become involved in academic/research psychology. The course also offers enhanced employability as a postgraduate qualification for other career paths. The theoretical rigor and practical application of psychology, along with its emphasis on qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, are widely acknowledged as a sound platform for a wide variety of careers.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e., employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

Learning Outcomes
Learning outcomes are statements on what students are expected to have achieved as the result of learning. They are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and Understanding
On completion of the course students should be able to:

- Describe, discuss and critically evaluate psychological theory and research in core areas of contemporary psychology;

- Achieve the breath and depth of coverage of core areas of psychology as required by the BPS for GBC.

- Demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of psychological issues, concepts and approaches, including historical, theoretical and philosophical issues relevant to psychological research;

- Utilise advanced skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods employed in psychology and plan, conduct and write up, under supervision, an independent research study;

Specific Skills
On completion of the course students should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Writing clearly in appropriate academic formats about theory and research evidence in psychology;

- Advanced discipline-specific skills in literature searching, formulation of research questions, and evaluating research findings;

- Planning, execution and production of an empirically based psychology research project, under supervision;

- Analytic appraisal of the theoretical bases of different approaches and core conceptual frameworks within psychology;

- Identification of appropriate psychological research methods for particular research questions.

Key Transferable skills

On completion of the course students should be able to demonstrate the following transferable skills:
- information search, retrieval and organisation;
- planning and managing an independent research project;
- ability to work in a group of peers;
- other interpersonal skills, through working with participants in research studies;
- application of appropriate ethical concerns to existing and own research;
- oral and written communication skills;
- producing presentations and written reports, for a range of audiences;
- use of ICT at an appropriate level for a Masters course.

Students will also have the opportunity to practise the following key transferable skills to a high level:
- ability to assess current strengths and weaknesses and motivate self;
- critical analysis of their own work;
- using and responding to feedback received from experts and peers;
- taking responsibility for, and managing, their own learning and development, within time constraints;
- assessing and presenting their skills and achievements, and managing their career needs;
- recognising, outlining and executing steps required for their own development.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Teaching and learning methods include the following: traditional lectures and seminars; small group work; demonstrations of equipment and techniques, and training in their use where appropriate; practical sessions, both for collecting and for analysing data; attendance at Department research seminars; student presentations; computer-based work; independent student-directed study (including research for the research project and small-scale studies in the methods modules).

Assessment methods are intended to develop professional level skills. The majority of assessments are various types of coursework, drawn from: practical reports; report in style of specific publication; essays; conference-style presentations; time-restricted closed and open book tests or exams; literature searching, retrieval, and organisation; reviewing papers; critiquing methods; study design suitable for grant proposals; data analysis, including in-module computer-based tests; reflective practitioner log book.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits in the academic year. Part time students will normally complete the 180 credits in two academic years. The course consists of six core taught modules, a core project module, and one option taught module. Each taught module will have 30 to 36 contact hours, and may also have a formal examination in the summer term.

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPSY700	Psychology in Practice: Quantitative Research Methods	Core	20
SPSY701	Psychology in Practice: Qualitative Research Methods	Core	20
SPSY702	Psychobiology and Cognitive Psychology	Core	20

SPSY703	Developmental and Differential Psychology	Core	20
SPSY704	Social Psychology and Conceptual Issues in Psychology	Core	20
SPSY706	Fundamentals of Psychology	Core	20
SPSY707	Project for MSc Psychology (40 credit)	Core	40

Plus ONE option module in Semester 2 (year 1 for PT) chosen from:

SPRM7A3	Work Experience in a Psychological Setting	Option 20
SPRM7A4	Psychology Literature Review	Option 20
1BPY7A6	Developing Communication Styles for Professionals	Option 20

<u>Or any 20 credit module taken from a Masters programme within the Psychology Department at the University of Westminster, subject to the approval of the course leaders of both courses and timetabling constraints.</u>

Named option modules:-

SPRM7A3 Work Experience in a Psychological Setting: this module is intended to allow students to use their voluntary or paid positions in settings related to Psychology. The student must fully read the whole of the module outline, to ensure that they follow all of the necessary procedures. The Module Leader's decision about the suitability of a position for the module is final. Students must attend meetings as notified, and if they do not obtain approvals and clearance in time, they must take a different option.

SPRM7A4 Psychology Literature Review: a systematic review of a topic agreed with the Course Leader and supervisor, and written in a style suitable for a review paper in a peer-reviewed psychology journal. Supervisory sessions, by arrangement between student and supervisor, can include email discussions.

1BPY7A6 Developing Communication Styles for Professionals: this module, from MSc in Business Psychology, equips the student with psychological skills and knowledge that will help them to make their presentations more effective.

Modes of Study
The course may be taken in full-time or part-time mode. Full-time MSc students must take the seven taught modules and the project within the 12 month period. Part-time MSc students will normally take two years to complete the course.

It is expected that students, regardless of their mode of study, will complement the contact hours with further study and research up to 150 hours work for each 20 credits gained. At module level there is no distinction between full-time and part-time students.

MSc Psychology Course Structure

FULL TIME MODE (1 YEAR)

Semester 1	Semester 2
SPSY700: Psychology in Practice: Quantitative Research Methods	SPSY702: Psychobiology and Cognitive Psychology
SPSY701: Psychology in Practice: Qualitative Research Methods	SPSY704: Social Psychology and Conceptual Issues in Psychology
SPSY703: Developmental and Differential Psychology	Option module
SPSY706: Fundamentals of Psychology	SPSY707: Project for MSc Psychology (40 credit)

PART-TIME MODE (YEAR1)

Semester 1	Semester 2
SPSY700: Psychology in Practice: Quantitative Research Methods	SPSY702: Psychobiology and Cognitive Psychology
SPSY706: Fundamentals of Psychology	Option module

PART TIME MODE (YEAR 2)

Semester 1	Semester 2
SPSY701: Psychology in Practice: Qualitative Research Methods	SPSY704: Social Psychology and Conceptual Issues in Psychology
SPSY703: Developmental and Differential Psychology	SPSY707: Project for MSc Psychology (40 credit)

MSc Psychology
NOTE: SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Timetable 2014/2015

		Semester 1	Semester 2
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday	morn	SPSY703: Developmental and Differential Psychology **Core** **(PT Yr 2)** Lecture 10.00 **C2.14**	
	aft	SPSY701: Psychology in Practice: Qualitative Research Methods **Core** **(PT Yr 2)** Lecture 14.00 **C2.14**	SPSY704: Social Psychology and Conceptual Issues in Psychology **Core** **(PT Yr 2)** Lecture 14.00 **C1.03**
Thursday			
Friday	morn	SPSY706: Fundamentals of Psychology **Core** **(PT Yr 1)** Lecture 10.00 **Clipstone 1.110**	SPSY702: Psychobiology and Cognitive Psychology **Core** **(PT Yr 1)** Lecture 10.00 **C1.52**
	aft	SPSY700: Psychology in Practice: Quantitative Research Methods **Core** **(PT Yr 1)** Lecture 14.00 **C1.15-16**	

NOTES

Full-Time students will take all these modules, plus an option module in Semester 2 chosen from UoW Psychology Dept. MSc modules (must be approved by both course leaders).

Part-Time students will take modules marked as (PT Yr 1/2) plus an option in Semester 2 (in year 1) chosen from UoW Psychology Dept. MSc modules (must be approved by both course leaders).

Full time students take the module SPSY707 40 Credit Project for MSc Psychology during semester 2 and the summer, part time students take this module in year 2 (semester 2 and summer).

Teaching slots are normally 3 hours duration.

Award

To qualify for the award of MSc Psychology, a student must have:

- obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7 (this may include a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 where validated as part of the award);
- attempted modules worth no more than 240 credits; and
  Note: A first attempt of any module will count as an attempt, and a re-attempt of any module that a student has failed will count as a further, separate attempt. Re-assessment following referral at the first sit will not count as a further separate attempt.
- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant Course Scheme.

The University may award:

- a Masters Degree with Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across modules at Level 7.
- a Masters Degree with Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules at Level 7.

Support for Students

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

Student Affairs provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The Student Affairs Hub is located at 101 New Cavendish Street, Cavendish House (1st Floor), with an additional office located at the Harrow Campus.

http://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/new-students/when-you-arrive

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University. http://www.uwsu.com/.

Key Reference Points for the course

<u>Internal</u>
UoW Regulations;
UoW Framework for Postgraduate Courses;
UoW Quality Assurance Handbook;
UoW and Faculty Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policies;
UoW Skills Policy.

<u>External</u>
BPS Accreditation through Partnership Handbook: Guidance for Undergraduate and Conversion Psychology Programmes;
QAA Descriptor for a qualification at Masters (M) level;
QAA Code of Practice on Postgraduate Research Programmes, where relevant to taught programmes;
Input of knowledge of external courses through External Examiners.

Quality Management and Enhancement

Course Management
- Dr Ian Hodges, Course Leader, responsible for day to day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum;
- Dr Alison Eardley, Admissions Tutor;
- Dr Kathryn Waddington, Head of Department, holds overall responsibility for the course, and for the other courses run by the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Science and Technology,
- Professor Jane Lewis, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, holds overall responsibility for the course and for other courses run by the Faculty.

Course approval, monitoring and review
The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2011-12. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. The course will be revalidated in 2017-18. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement
Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full orientation to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the Module Leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review/accreditation of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from Course Committees is part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course, please go to:
http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/psychology/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fppsy-msc-psychology.