

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BSc Honours Psychology BSc Honours Psychology with Professional Placement BSc Honours with International Study The BSc Honours Psychology is a BSc degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, with option to take an additional work placement year
QAA subject benchmarking group(s) :	Psychology
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	This programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved, and the empirical project has been passed. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.
Date of course validation/review:	July 2016
Date of programme specification approval:	July 2017
Valid for cohorts :	2016/17 level 4/5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader	Alan Porter
UCAS code and URL:	C801 westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information:

westminster.ac.uk/study/current-students/your-studies/forms-and-procedures/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning-rpcl

Aims of the course

The BSc Honours Psychology has been designed to provide you with a broad contemporary education in Psychology within a vibrant global learning environment situated in the heart of London. What you study has been designed to meet the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society. This aspect prepares our graduates for postgraduate training on the path to becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

The BSc Honours Psychology has also been designed to offer you the opportunity to follow your own interests through an attractive range of option modules. A distinctive feature of the option modules we offer is that the majority are focussed on professional practice. This provides you not only with a chance to specialise, but also with a better understanding of potential career paths available to you as a graduate psychologist.

Importantly, we do not assume that all our graduates will wish to become a Chartered Psychologist. For this reason, BSc Honours Psychology has also been designed to help you to think creatively and critically, developing the problem solving skills that enable you to apply psychology to address a wide range of personal, professional and societal needs. Relatedly, the degree is designed to equip you with the graduate attributes that are highly sought by employers. Psychology graduates from the University of Westminster have a rich blend of attributes: they are numerate and effective communicators, enterprising in outlook, that are engaged global citizens equipped to help shape a better future for all.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU).
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 4 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

L4.1 Knowledge and Understanding of key concepts and theories across the breadth of four core areas of the discipline: biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology and individual differences (KU)

L4.2 Knowledge and Understanding of basic research methodologies, their strengths and weaknesses, and ethical issues relating to research (KU)

L4.3 Ability to conduct data analysis using basic analytic techniques, and to report the results using conventions of the discipline, with support, grounded by participation in empirical studies (PPP)

L4.4 Ability to work collaboratively on clearly defined tasks (KTS)

L4.5 Ability to communicate ideas clearly and fluently orally, visually, and in writing (KTS)

L4.6 Knowledge and Understanding of conceptual and historical issues relating to five core areas of the discipline: individual differences, biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology (KU)

L4.7 Ability to use evidence-based reasoning to evaluate a claim (PPP)

L4.8 Ability to gather information on a given topic, with guidance, using a range of resources, and to use this information with appropriate regard to the quality of the source, and to principles of information usage including plagiarism and copyright issues (KTS)

L4.9 Ability to use statistical analysis software, and to use productivity tools for writing and for presenting information visually (KTS)

Level 5 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

L5.1 Ability to analyse and to evaluate knowledge about selected topics drawn from each of the core areas of the discipline (KU)

L5.2 Analyse and evaluate the contribution of psychology to the understanding of contemporary issues including social justice, diversity and environmental sustainability (KU)

L5.3 Ability to apply multiple perspectives to psychological problems and to create connections to aspects of everyday experience (PPP)

L5.4 Knowledge and understanding of the conceptual and theoretical basis of qualitative, and multi-factorial quantitative research methodologies (KU)

L5.5 Ability to devise, conduct and report the results of both qualitative and quantitative empirical research studies, using a variety of specialist psychological tools, under supervision (PPP)

L5.6 Ability to select and conduct appropriate data analytic techniques, and draw inferences warranted by these analyses (PPP)

L5.7 Ability to think and behave ethically, respecting codes of ethical conduct, in the planning and execution of psychological research (PPP)

L5.8 Ability to work collaboratively to a task brief that sets out an aim, without specifying in detail the means of achieving this aim (KTS)

L5.9 Ability to communicate ideas clearly and fluently orally, visually and in writing in a range of formats (KTS)

Level 6 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:

L6.1 Application of psychological theory and evidence to domains of professional practice (KU)

L6.2 Knowledge and understanding of several types of psychological practice that are potential routes of professional development available to graduate psychologists (KU)

L6.3 Ability to consolidate and to extend a body of knowledge through independent primary research, under supervision (KU)

L6.4 Ability to plan and to carry out an independent empirical research project, under supervision (PPP)

L6.5 Ability to generate and to explore hypotheses and research questions (PPP)

L6.6 Ability to identify and to mitigate ethical issues relating to an independent research project (PPP)

L6.7 Ability to frame and to develop lines of enquiry (KTS)

L6.8 Ability to adapt communication style in order to communicate ideas clearly and fluently to diverse audiences (KTS)

How will you learn?

The course has been designed to enable you to develop deep and expansive knowledge about psychology, along with the tools with which to apply this knowledge to real-life. Your first year of study (*level 4*) provides a broad foundation to the discipline, and supports your transition into higher education by facilitating the development of the subject specific and key transferable skills that will be important during your degree and beyond. Your second year (*level 5*) will enable you to deepen your understanding of the discipline through integrating multiple perspectives. In your final year (*level 6*), the focus is on applying this knowledge to complex real-world problems, that include the sorts of issues dealt with in professional practice.

You will be taught in a wide variety of settings. *Lectures* are used to impart core knowledge, introduce theoretical concepts, and to delineate the syllabus being studied. *Seminars* will enrich your learning in smaller groups through discussion, or through participation in other activities. *Practical classes and laboratory workshops* allow you to experience research first hand, working collaboratively to collect and interpret data. Technology is used to enhance learning: You will make extensive use of *Blackboard*, our virtual learning environment. Your experience will be further enriched by opportunities for: museum visits, research participation, concert attendance, laboratory demonstrations, and work-based learning.

An important feature of how you will learn on BSc honours Psychology is a focus on active, and often collaborative, learning through project work. This includes carrying out research practicals, allowing you to engage first hand with practice and the knowledge base of our discipline. It also includes other kinds of enquiry based learning, in which you learn through tackling realistic problems similar to those faced by a practicing psychologist.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aim to provide a reliable and valid measure of the knowledge that you have acquired and the skills that you have developed. We use a blend of coursework assignments and end of year examinations. Various coursework tasks have been designed to assess the diverse range of skills and knowledge acquired on BSc honours Psychology. These encompass traditional academic assessments, such as essays, scientific reports, and presentations as well as assignments designed to resemble real-world tasks that you might encounter in your professional life, such as designing a health promotion leaflet based on psychological evidence.

Some modules assess learning outcomes from another module (called 'synoptic assessment'). This allows you to demonstrate that you understand the bigger picture, by drawing connections between what you have learned on different modules. Some of the research projects you will carry out use synoptic assessment in this way to encourage you to make connections between the study of research methodology, and the core knowledge base of the discipline, thus allowing you to experience first-hand how knowledge derives from research.

We strive to ensure that you are assessed fairly. Clear assessment criteria are set out in module documents that are explicitly linked to what we set out to teach you - the module Learning Outcomes. This means that you will know in advance what is required to do well. The feedback you receive on coursework assignments relates back to these assessment criteria, so that you understand how the mark awarded was determined.

Every module incorporates formative assessments that provide you with useful feedback on how you are doing, serving to allow you to prepare for the assessments that count. As such, formative assessments are an important and integrated aspect of the teaching and learning methods we employ. They help you to diagnose areas for improvement, and identify areas of strength to be nurtured and developed further.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers
- Literate and effective communicator
- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. To this end, career development skills are embedded in all courses and opportunities for part-time work, placement and work-related learning activities are widely available to students. Additionally, staff maintain knowledge of labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to

students. Moreover, staff continue to widen and strengthen University links with employers in all sectors relevant to the curriculum design and encourage their participation in other aspects of the University's career, education and guidance provision. Psychology provides a broad range of skills and thus, career opportunities are very diverse. For example, graduates may pursue careers in: clinical psychology, occupational psychology, forensic psychology, educational psychology, sports psychology, counselling and psychotherapy or academic research. A significant proportion of those who study Psychology obtain postgraduate degrees and/or pursue careers other fields, e.g. teaching, human resources, advertising and marketing, among others.

The Psychology BSc Honours aims to create graduates who embody these graduate attributes. In the following list, course learning outcomes that develop these attributes are identified. Our graduates will be distinctive in being:

- **critical thinkers** - employing evidence-based reasoning, possessing deep and expansive knowledge of core domains of psychology, and applying multiple perspectives to psychological issues (L4.1, L4.2, L4.6, L4.7, L5.1, L5.3, L5.4, L6.1, L6.3);
- **creative thinkers** - making connections within and beyond the discipline, recognising distinctive contribution of psychology to real-world issues, and constructing knowledge by framing and developing lines of enquiry (L5.2, L5.3, L6.4, L6.7);
- **enterprising in outlook** - tackling problems resiliently and confidently both independently and in groups, reflecting and learning from own performance, with an appreciation of the routes of professional development to psychological practice (L4.4, L5.8, L6.2);
- **numerate, and effective communicators** - reasoning about data, presenting research findings effectively, and able to explain ideas clearly and fluently orally, in writing, and through the creation of artefacts such as posters or campaign materials (L4.3, L4.5, L5.5, L5.6, L5.9, L6.8);
- **global in outlook, and community engaged** – respecting diversity, promoting equality, and showing awareness of cross-cultural variance in psychological constructs (L6.9);
- **socially, environmentally and ethically aware** –practicing psychology in accordance with ethical codes, behaving with integrity, and aware of the potential application of psychology to the promotion of social justice and environmentally sustainable behaviour (L5.2, L5.7, L6.6);
- the possessor of a qualification **recognised by the British Psychological Society** that confers the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, the first step to becoming a Chartered Psychologist (all Learning Outcomes).

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4PSYC001W	Social Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC002W	Cognitive Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC003W	Biological Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC005W	Introduction to Psychological Research Methods	Core	20	10
4PSYC004W	Developmental Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC006W	Individual Differences	Core	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5PSYC001W	Data Analysis for Psychology	Core	20	10
5PSYC002W	Brain, Mind and Behaviour	Core	20	10
6PSYC002W	Understanding Psychological Diversity	Core	20	10
5PSYC004W	Self and Society	Core	20	10
5PSYC010W	Psychological Research at Westminster	Core	20	10
5PSYC005W	Volunteering and Employability in a Psychological Setting	Option	20	10
5PSYC006W	Mechanisms of Mind Body Therapies	Option	20	10
	[Westminster Elective]	Elective	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available				
Optional Sandwich Year Credit Level 5 leading to BSc Psychology with Professional Placement				
5PSYC013W	Psychology Placement Year	Option	20	10
Optional Sandwich Year Credit Level 5 leading to BSc Psychology with International Study				
5PSYC014W	Psychology International Study Year	Option	20	10
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6PSYC001W	Project in Psychology	Core	40	20
6PSYC003W	Occupational and Work Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC004W	Cognitive Disorders	Option	20	10
6PSYC013W	Psychology of Education	Option	20	10
6PSYC005W	Psychology of Counselling and Psychotherapy	Option	20	10
6PSYC006W	Health Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC007W	Forensic Psychology	Option	20	10

6PSYC008W	Clinical Psychology	Option	20	10
	[Westminster Elective]	Elective	20	10
Award BSc Psychology available Award BSc Honours Psychology available.				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

This programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved, and the empirical project has been passed. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

Course Leader Alan Porter, responsible for day to day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum,

Admissions Tutor Alan Porter;

Head of Department: Dr Damien Ridge holds overall responsibility for the course, and for the courses run by the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Science and Technology;

Dean of Faculty: Dr Mark Baldwin, holds overall responsibility for the course and for other courses run by the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. 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

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students¹ 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.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2016. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also 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 Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.

¹ Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

- All students are invited to complete a 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 seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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