Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MSc Psychology
2	**Course Code**	PT1168
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	British Psychological Society (BPS)

6	**Course Description**
	Interested in a psychology postgraduate course? Our fully online, BPS-accredited MSc Psychology conversion course is designed for those without a psychology background, enabling you to earn a recognised Master's qualification and progress towards chartered psychologist status. The course covers core psychological theories, research and practical skills in a more flexible and inclusive manner that enables you to study around different commitments. In Lifespan Development, we answer questions such as how do babies recognise faces, and how do we acquire language? The Psychopathology and Individual Differences module includes looking at different psychological disorders and the associated causes and treatments. We cover quantitative and qualitative research methods, where you will gain knowledge and experience in analysing and reporting different data types. For your final dissertation you will be supervised in conducting a piece of psychological research in an area that interests you – this can be an excellent talking point in job interviews. We provide a variety of assignment types to help you develop and enhance a range of transferable skills. Alumni have already advanced to doctoral study and secured roles in clinical, educational, academic, and various other professional settings.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Master of Science Psychology	Level 7	180
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Postgraduate Certificate Psychology (no BPS accreditation) Postgraduate Diploma Psychology (no BPS accreditation)	Level 7 Level 7	60 120

8	**Variations from the University Regulations**
	This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract.

9	**Delivery Patterns**		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time (September and January)	Online	1 year	PT1168
Part Time (September and January)	Online	2 years	PT1169

10	**Entry Requirements**
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk.

11	**Course Aims**
	1. Pursuing Excellence: Our programme specialises in enquiry-based learning that closely adheres to quality standards of the British Psychological Society and the international academic community. We aim to facilitate your ability to evaluate, synthesise and apply information in order to contribute to contemporary knowledge. The transferability of these skills is also a key programme element, enabling learners to solve significant real-world problems. 2. Practice-led, knowledge-applied: Our programme emphasises partnership with academics with a background in (international) contemporary research and applied psychological practice. Programme content and assessments are therefore both contemporary and value-led, being notably distinct from traditional textbook and exam-based curricula. 3. Interdisciplinary: The very nature of psychology is in itself interdisciplinary. As such, the nature of course content and assessment inherently account for interdisciplinarity. Importantly, the research and applied practice of BCU psychologists typically also involves active engagement with the other disciplines and the local community. Individuals studying our programme will naturally gain both cultural and social capital as they progress through the degree. 4. Employability-driven: Our graduates will not only gain a Master's with diverse career options, but also the transferable skills to support these. Each of the abilities detailed across the other programme aims are designed with employability in mind. Importantly all content is underpinned by active learning so that you develop skills through practical experience. Degree content and assessment not only meet the criteria for our accrediting body, but allow flexibility of the learning process, which can be tailored to career goals. Engaging you in group learning and facilitating your independent approach to problem-based learning ensures that you are remaining competitive in a changing job market. Overall, our teaching practice focuses on providing the skills for lifelong learning and development, which not only allows graduates to gain a job, but develop and progress throughout their career. 5. Internationalisation: Based on our international (psychological) standards and the applicability of our degree content to different contexts, our programme is suited towards internationalisation. With interdisciplinary perspectives and technological advances underpinning both course content and assessment, many of the skills needed for graduates to work on an international

	level are incorporated into the degree. Communication of knowledge and the understanding of culture are also covered in detail on the course, ensuring our graduates are ready to work in a global context. The online nature of the course will attract students from a variety of backgrounds both nationally and internationally. These active learning communities we will create will allow you to become aware and sensitive to global and international issues in psychology.

12	**Course Learning Outcomes**
	On completion of the course, you will be able to:
1	**Knowledge and Understanding** i. Understand the empirical and theoretical basis of six core areas of psychology (as stipulated by the BPS and QAA benchmarks). ii. Understand the historical and scientific underpinnings of psychology, and how these change across the core areas. iii. Understand the ethical guidelines that govern psychological research, and the role of brain functioning across a range of phenomena. iv. Evaluate the limits of Psychology as a discipline and apply what is learnt to human interactions with a social world.
2	***Intellectual Skills*** i. Understand the role of evidence in science and Psychology and be able to reason scientifically. ii. Critically evaluate arguments and evidence within Psychology, adopting as you do so multiple perspectives. iii. Analyse arguments and the relationship between different theories and evidence. iv. Evaluate the significance of these in the light of various psychological perspectives. v. As part of a project generate and explore hypotheses/research questions, and plan, execute and present an independent project under supervision. vi. Formulate and apply ethical judgements in a research context.
3	***Practical, Research and Independent Learning Skills*** i. Employ and apply appropriate statistical methods when undertaking research. ii. Initiate, design and conduct empirically based research under supervision. iii. Evaluate the implications and applications of such research. iv. Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments, as well as evaluate their use. v. Analyse research in the context of ethical considerations, and the potential applications.
4	***Transferable Skills*** i. Communicate effectively in a variety of modes, retrieve and organise information effectively and show effective presentation skills. ii. Select, apply and evaluate appropriate numerical and statistical methods for complex tasks, and interpret data effectively. iii. Construct written reports, consolidate information effectively and use software applications which are generic, and discipline based. iv. Engage in teamwork, engage in reflective practice and where possible apply skills attained to research projects. v. Apply GBC skills and knowledge in preparation for graduate destinations.

13	**Level Learning Outcomes**
	Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7/ Exit award of Postgraduate Certificate* in Psychology, you will able to:
	*(*no BPS accreditation)*
1	v. Explain the empirical and theoretical basis of core areas of psychology. vi. Recognise historical and scientific underpinnings of psychology, and how these change across core areas. vii. Evaluate the limits of Psychology as a discipline and apply what is learnt to human interactions with a social world.
2	vii. Identify the role of evidence in science and Psychology and be able to reason scientifically. viii. Evaluate arguments and evidence within Psychology, adopting as you do so multiple perspectives. ix. Analyse arguments and the relationship between different theories and evidence. x. Evaluate the significance of these in the light of various psychological perspectives.
3	vi. Recognise basic concepts of research methods for undertaking research. vii. Evaluate the implications and applications of research.
4	vi. Communicate in a variety of modes, retrieve and organise information effectively. vii. Interpret forms of data effectively.
	Upon completion of 120 credits at Level 7/ Exit award of Postgraduate Diploma* in Psychology, you will be able to:
	*(*no BPS accreditation)*
1	i. Discuss the empirical and theoretical basis of six core areas of psychology (as stipulated by the BPS and QAA benchmarks). ii. Identify the historical and scientific underpinnings of psychology, and how these change across the core areas. iii. Consider the ethical guidelines that govern psychological research, and the role of brain functioning across a range of phenomena. iv. Evaluate the limits of Psychology as a discipline and apply what is learnt to human interactions with a social world.
2	i. Appraise the role of evidence in science and Psychology and be able to reason scientifically. ii. Critically evaluate arguments and evidence within Psychology, adopting as you do so multiple perspectives. iii. Analyse arguments and the relationship between different theories and evidence. iv. Evaluate the significance of these in the light of various psychological perspectives. v. Generate and explore hypotheses/research questions. vi. Formulate and apply ethical judgements in a research context.
3	i. Apply appropriate statistical methods when undertaking research. ii. Initiate, design empirically based research iii. Evaluate the implications and applications of research. iv. Employ a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments, as well as evaluate their use. v. Analyse research in the context of ethical considerations, and the potential applications.

4	i. Communicate effectively in a variety of modes, retrieve and organise information effectively and show effective presentation skills. ii. Select, apply and evaluate appropriate numerical and statistical methods for complex tasks, and interpret data effectively. iii. Construct written reports, consolidate information effectively and use software applications which are generic, and discipline based. iv. Engage in teamwork, engage in reflective practice.
	Upon completion of 180 credits at Level 7/MSc Psychology (BPS accreditation providing you meet the criteria) you will be able to:
1	viii. Apply advanced understanding of the empirical and theoretical basis of six core areas of psychology (as stipulated by the BPS and QAA benchmarks). ix. Apply knowledge of the historical and scientific underpinnings of psychology, and how these change across the core areas. x. Apply advanced understanding of the ethical guidelines that govern psychological research, and the role of brain functioning across a range of phenomena. xi. Critically appraise the limits of Psychology as a discipline and apply what is learnt to human interactions with a social world.
2	xi. Critically discuss the role of evidence in science and Psychology and be able to reason scientifically. xii. Critically evaluate arguments and evidence within Psychology, adopting as you do so multiple perspectives. xiii. Analyse arguments and the relationship between different theories and evidence. xiv. Critically evaluate the significance of these in the light of various psychological perspectives. xv. As part of a project, generate and explore hypotheses/research questions, and plan, execute and present an independent project under supervision. xvi. Formulate and apply ethical judgements in a research context.
3	viii. Employ and apply appropriate statistical methods when undertaking research. ix. Initiate, design and conduct empirically based research under supervision. x. Assess the implications and applications of such research. xi. Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments, as well as evaluate their use. xii. Analyse research in the context of ethical considerations, and the potential applications.
4	viii. Communicate effectively in a variety of modes, retrieve and organise information effectively and show effective presentation skills. ix. Select, apply and evaluate appropriate numerical and statistical methods for complex tasks, and interpret data effectively. x. Construct written reports, consolidate information effectively and use software applications which are generic, and discipline based. xi. Engage in teamwork, engage in reflective practice and where possible apply skills attained to research projects. xii. Apply GBC skills and knowledge in preparation for graduate destinations.

	The British Psychological Society (BPS) accredits your degree, and if you achieve 50% or above you will be eligible for the graduate basis for Chartership in Psychology (GBC) from the BPS, and as a graduate member you can use the designated title of MBPsS.

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	Degree content and assessment not only meet the criteria for our accrediting body, but allow flexibility of the learning process, which can be tailored to career goals. Assessments are also underpinned by this philosophy, focusing on product development, reflexive diaries and producing conference posters for example. We use online-live technologies to assess your understanding during your teaching (e.g., live polls and Q&A's) and you will have access to Psychology specific technologies and software such as SPSS statistical package, NVivo qualitative coding package, Gorilla, an online experimental tool and Qualtrics an online survey tool. You will have access to a range of psychometric assessments that are used within practice by clinical, forensic, occupational, and educational psychologists. Post sessional activities will take place in our virtual learning environment (VLE) and will include discussion forums (for debating ideas), online chats and interactive tools and quizzes (formative testing of knowledge and understanding). Other technologies such as blogs, wikis will be used to create an active and engaging experience for you. Online live discussions, or *question and* answer forums will take place at two distinct times of day allowing for time zone and lifestyle differences you have. The pass mark for a module with one item of assessment is 50%. In modules which have more than one item of assessment a pass will be awarded where the overall average of the marks achieved for the items of assessment is 50% or more and the mark in each separate item of assessment is not less than 40%. In calculating the overall average mark for a module, the marks attributed to each item of assessment will be weighted equally unless a different weighting has been specified in the Student Course Guide. This section explains the learning and teaching approaches, activities and experiences that your course will offer; the range of assessments and types of feedback and feed forward you will encounter and explain how these will support your continuous learning throughout the course and explain the expectations we have of you in this learning partnership.

15	**Course Requirements**
15a	**Level 7:** ***In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY7049	Quantitative Research Methods	20
PSY7053	Applied Social Psychology	20
PSY7054	Brain and Cognition	20
PSY7058	Qualitative Research Methods	20
PSY7059	Psychopathology and Individual Differences	20
PSY7061	Lifespan and Development	20
PSY7057	Dissertation	60

15b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Your choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules, but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Include a structure diagram for each mode of study.

Level 7: September (Full Time)

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
Core PSY7049 Quantitative Research Methods 20 credits	Core PSY7054 Brain and Cognition 20 credits	Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits
Core PSY7061 Lifespan Development 20 credits	Core PSY7053 Applied Social Psychology 20 credits	
Core PSY7059 Psychopathology and Individual Differences 20 credits	Core PSY7058 Qualitative Research Methods 20 credits Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits	

Level 7: September (Part Time Year One)

SEMESTER ONE September	SEMESTER TWO January	SEMESTER THREE May
Core PSY7049 Quantitative Research Methods 20 credits	Core PSY7054 Brain and Cognition 20 credits	
	Core PSY7058 Qualitative Research Methods 20 credits	

Level 7: September (Part Time Year Two)

SEMESTER ONE September	SEMESTER TWO January	SEMESTER THREE May
Core PSY7061 Lifespan Development 20 credits	Core PSY7053 Applied Social Psychology 20 credits	Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits
Core PSY7059 Psychopathology and Individual Differences 20 credits	Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits	

Level 7: January (Full Time)

SEMESTER ONE (January)	SEMESTER TWO (May)	SEMESTER THREE (September)
Core PSY7058 Qualitative Research Methods 20 credits	Core PSY7061 Lifespan Development 20 credits	Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits
Core PSY7054 Brain and Cognition 20 credits	Core PSY7059 Psychopathology and Individual Differences 20 credits	
Core PSY7053 Applied Social Psychology 20 credits	Core PSY7049 Quantitative Research Methods 20 credits PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits	

Level 7: January (Part Time Year One)

SEMESTER ONE (January)	SEMESTER TWO (May)	SEMESTER THREE (September)
Core PSY7058 Qualitative Research Methods 20 credits	Core PSY7061 Lifespan Development 20 credits	
	Core PSY7049 Quantitative Research Methods 20 credits	

Level 7: January (Part Time Year Two)

SEMESTER ONE (January)	SEMESTER TWO (May)	SEMESTER THREE (September)
Core PSY7054 Brain and Cognition 20 credits	Core PSY7059 Psychopathology and Individual Differences 20 credits	Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits
Core PSY7053 Applied Social Psychology 20 credits	Core PSY7057 Dissertation 60 credits	

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g., coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by you. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Delete years where applicable.

Level 7

Workload

Percentage (%) of time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	35%
Directed Learning	65%
Private Study	
Total Hours	100%

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%