Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MSc Applied Child Psychology
2	**Course Code**	PT1516
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)	

6	**Course Description**
	Want to study child psychology at Master's level? Our *MSc Applied Child Psychology* is a postgraduate degree course offering specific, in-depth study of child psychology across a range of contexts and settings. **What's covered in the course?** Modules will allow you to explore and develop knowledge of cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and neurological development, as well as research methods in child psychology, and consider the implications for policy and practice across a range of applied contexts such as educational and clinical psychology. You will also explore typical and atypical development and consider issues and approaches regarding inclusivity and diversity as well as professional issues and standards such as anti-discriminatory practice. The MSc Applied Child Psychology aims to enhance your knowledge and experience in applied areas of child psychology and equip you with the expertise and academic skills necessary to support graduate employment. The course aims are: • To equip you with a range of specific applied and transferable skills, enhancing your opportunities for professional and career development in a variety of disciplines within the field of child psychology. • To allow you to develop specialist theoretical and practical knowledge that will underpin your work with children and consider applications of this knowledge to professional contexts and situations, e.g., supporting children with diverse developmental, neurological, and psychological needs. • To allow you to develop your critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills, and the ability to plan and conduct high-quality research with applications to applied settings and professional practice. The course has been designed to provide knowledge, training, and employability skills relevant to many careers in the field of child psychology. This includes childcare professions, education, child and adolescent mental health, pastoral care, special educational needs (SEN), supporting children with a range of disabilities, coaching and mentoring young people, and careers involving research with children. In addition, if you already have an undergraduate degree in psychology which is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS), successful completion of the MSc Applied Child Psychology could help you progress towards a career as a chartered Educational Psychologist or Clinical Psychologist

	Please note: If you are from a non-psychology background and do not already hold a BPS accredited undergraduate degree in psychology, you will need to complete a BPS accredited postgraduate qualification, such as an MSc Psychology conversion course, in order to pursue a career as a chartered Educational of Clinical Psychologist. **Why choose us?** • Our diverse academic team are active researchers with first-hand experience of working and conducting research with children in developmental, educational, and clinical contexts. Their involvement in leading-edge research allows direct integration of contemporary research findings into our teaching material. • Staff contact hours provide an opportunity to engage in face-to-face group learning, whilst remote learning tasks and independent study provide an opportunity to engage in wider reading and private study. • Although the course is not part of a chartered route into psychology or a prerequisite for entry into Educational or Clinical Psychology training, the MSc Applied Child Psychology provides an MSc level qualification alongside employability coaching and the option of completing a relevant work placement. Students who already have a BPS accredited undergraduate degree in psychology can use successful completion of the course to significantly enhance their prospects of applying for doctoral training in these highly competitive fields. • The course is also open to applicants with non-psychology backgrounds. As this course is not part of a specific chartered route into psychology, it provides a wide range of opportunities for enhancing and specialising your knowledge of child psychology, relevant to work in a wide variety of other child-related working environments and professions. This includes childcare professions, education, child and adolescent mental health, pastoral care, special educational needs (SEN), supporting children with a range of disabilities, coaching and mentoring young people, and careers involving research with children. • This course also enhances your future employment and promotion prospects if you are already in relevant work, for example, teachers or teaching assistants who want to re-focus or concentrate on aspects of child psychology that can aid re-specialisation as SENCOs, mental health leads or in progressing to more senior roles. • The option to study full-time or part-time means that you can fit your studies around your work and personal commitments. • The course includes the *Practitioner Reflection and Development* module, , applicable to both emerging and developing practitioners with a range of existing professional experience related to child psychology. This module has been designed to help you enhance your employability and shape your learning to suit your current work status, experience level, and plans for the future. • The course emphasises ethical issues and professional standards that are integral to working with children, adolescents and other vulnerable individuals in a range of contexts, including acknowledgement of inclusivity, diversity, sensitivity, and anti-discriminatory practice. • Our Psychology department has a wide range of psychology testing labs to suit all needs, including our BPS computer lab, which consists of more than thirty networked computers with Psychology-specific software such as SPSS, NVivo and others such as OpenSesame. • On successful completion of the full-time MSc Applied Child Psychology course you have the option to enhance your employability skills and experience in a top-up *Professional Placement* module which will extend your course to 18-months. The placement module, through the placement experience, allows you to evidence your professional skills, attitudes and behaviours at the point of entry to the postgraduate job

	market. Furthermore, by completing the *Professional Placement* module, you will be able to develop and enhance your understanding of the professional work environment, relevant to your chosen field of study, and reflect critically on your own professional development within the workplace. You will be responsible for finding and securing your own placement. The university, however, will draw on its extensive network of local, regional and national employers to support you in finding a suitable placement to complement your chosen area of study. You will also benefit from support sessions delivered by our Careers+ team as well as advice and guidance from your course team.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Master of Science Applied Child Psychology Master of Science Applied Child Psychology with Professional Placement	Level 7 Level 7	180 240
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Postgraduate Certificate Applied Child Psychology Postgraduate Diploma Applied Child Psychology	Level 7 Level 7	60 120

8	**Derogation from the University Regulations**
	None.

9	**Delivery Patterns**		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City Centre	12 months	PT1516
Part Time	City Centre	24 months	PT1517
Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre	18 months	PT1621

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**
	• To equip you with a range of specific applied and transferable skills, enhancing your opportunities for professional and career development in a variety of disciplines within the field of child psychology. • To allow you to develop specialist theoretical and practical knowledge that will underpin your work with children and consider applications of this knowledge to professional contexts and situations, e.g., supporting children with diverse developmental, neurological and psychological needs. • To allow you to develop your critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills, and the ability to plan and conduct high quality research with applications to applied settings and professional practice.

12	**Course Learning Outcomes** **As a result of their learning, learners will have gained:**
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Knowledge of the historical and theoretical constructs, approaches and scientific underpinnings of child psychology.
2	Advanced understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experiences in child psychology.
3	Advanced understanding of contemporary issues in applied child psychology.
4	Knowledge and understanding of research methods in child psychology, including quantitative and qualitative designs, data collection, use of standardised, psychometric and novel assessment techniques, data analysis and reporting of findings.
5	Advanced knowledge of ethical considerations relevant to working with children and adolescents.
6	Knowledge of the interaction between cognitive, neurological, biological, social and educational development in children and adolescents.
7	Advanced understanding of typical and atypical development, disability and diversity, and how individual differences might impact on various areas of child and adolescent development.
8	Understanding of the skills relevant to working with children in a variety of contexts and positions, and to working alongside multidisciplinary teams from a range of professional backgrounds.
Skills and Other Attributes	
1	An ability to critically synthesise, discuss and evaluate relevant theory and research relative to child and adolescent development.
2	An ability to recognise and critically reflect on current knowledge, experience and skills relevant to working with children in a range of contexts; recognise training needs and how to address these.
3	A skilled ability to apply relevant research concepts and techniques to plan, propose, conduct and complete an empirical and ethical research project in child psychology.
4	An ability to work autonomously and independently, and to manage time effectively to meet deadlines.
5	Skilled experience in working collaboratively to achieve common goals (e.g., in group work).
6	Skilled use of information technology and software packages to communicate and present information, and where appropriate, numerical and statistical data.
7	An ability to engage in academically-appropriate written and verbal communication, discussion and debate, and demonstrate an ability to formulate empirically-informed arguments.
8	Competency in problem solving and scientifically-informed reasoning.

13	**Level Learning Outcomes**
	Upon completion of the Postgraduate Certificate, students will be able to:
	1. Advanced understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experiences in child psychology.
	2. Advanced knowledge of ethical considerations relevant to working with children and adolescents.
	3. Understanding of the skills relevant to working with children in a variety of contexts and positions, and to working alongside multidisciplinary teams from a range of professional backgrounds.
	4. An ability to work autonomously and independently, and to manage time effectively to meet deadlines.
	5. Skilled use of information technology and software packages to communicate and present information, and where appropriate, numerical and statistical data.

	6. An ability to engage in academically-appropriate written and verbal communication, discussion and debate, and demonstrate an ability to formulate empirically-informed arguments.
	Upon completion of the Postgraduate Diploma, students will be able to:
	1. Advanced understanding of contemporary issues in applied child psychology.
	2. Knowledge of the interaction between cognitive, neurological, biological, social and educational development in children and adolescents.
	3. Advanced understanding of typical and atypical development, disability and diversity, and how individual differences might impact on various areas of child and adolescent development.
	4. An ability to critically synthesise, discuss and evaluate relevant theory and research relative to child and adolescent development.
	Upon completion of the Professional Placement, students will be able to:
	1. Reflect on your current skills, behaviours and attitudes within a professional environment and how you applied these graduate attributes within your placement setting
	2. Critically evaluate how you further developed your professional skillset during the placement and evidence how you have applied these new graduate attributes within your placement setting
	3. Explain corporate social responsibility and sustainable development issues in relation to your placement organisation
	4. Communicate your placement learning experience to others via a poster submission or reflective artefact

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	Teaching and Learning Strategy A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be implemented on this course, including lectures, interactive seminars and workshops, tutorials, one-to-one project supervision, and self-directed study. This range of approaches have been implemented to help students meet the learning outcomes for the course and achieve their full potential. - **Lectures**: Lectures provide subject based knowledge, covering key theories, themes, issues and debates, and providing students with the key information required to critically discuss, synthesise and evaluate ideas. - **Seminars**: Seminars provide an opportunity for group discussion and debate, allowing students to explore, evaluate and synthesise ideas, and to develop critical understanding, in a supportive teaching environment. - **Workshops**: Workshops provide an opportunity for students to explore and interact with data, and will be particularly relevant on the *Skills and Methods for Applied Research in Child Psychology* module. - **Tutorials**: Tutorials will be implemented in the two optional modules. These are designed to help students to reflect on their experiences and skills, and to consider how their current skills can be applied to the workplace. - **Project supervision:** The *Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology* module will involve students designing, planning, conducting and writing up an independent research project under the supervision of an academic member of staff. Students will need to be able to communicate effectively with their supervisor, utilise supervision effectively, and build a professional working relationship. - **Self-directed study:** Self-directed or independent study will make up a significant proportion of learning on this course. Students will need to be able to plan and manage

their time effectively between competing demands in order to complete independent activities, engage in wider reading, complete assessments, and meet deadlines.

Assessment Strategy

The course implements a clear and well-balanced variety of assessment techniques, designed to assess work against the learning outcomes for individual modules, as well as course-level learning outcomes. Clearly defined marking criteria provide benchmarks by which marks are awarded for each assessed component and clearly specify the requirements for meeting each grade boundary. As well as providing an indication of the standard of the work, marks and feedback also provide opportunities for continuous learning and development throughout the course, by identifying strengths and weaknesses in the work. Feed-forward comments on coursework provide constructive advice on how to apply the feedback to future assessments on the course.

The main assessment methods implemented on this course include:

- **Examinations:** Exams assess understanding of a topic area and test your ability to produce clear and concise arguments and critical discussions, supported with empirical evidence, under timed conditions.
- **Essays:** Essays enable you to develop and demonstrate your ability to write to appropriate academic standards. They provide an opportunity to focus on a specified question, topic area or issue in child psychology, and assess your ability to critically discuss relevant theoretical perspectives and contemporary research evidence.
- **Presentations:** Presentations assess your ability to clearly communicate information to an audience in a convincing and confident manner. Presentation skills are a key employability skill and one which is transferable to careers in all areas within and outside of child psychology.
- **Lab reports:** Lab reports enable you to develop appropriate skills in reporting empirical research data – a key skill that will prepare you for the *Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology* and one which will be transferable to many careers within or outside of child psychology.
- **Independent research project:** The *Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology* provides an opportunity to engage in independent research under the supervision of an academic member of staff. The project will require you to independently design, plan, conduct and write up the results of an empirical research study in the field of child psychology. The project will need to meet appropriate ethical and professional standards and collect empirical research data which will need to be analysed and reported according to relevant ethical and data protection guidelines. The research project will build on knowledge and understanding developed in earlier stages of the course and is the culmination of your prior learning.

15	Course Requirements
15a	**Level 7:** ***In order to complete the Master's in Applied Child Psychology, a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY7077	The Applied Psychology of Child and Adolescent Development	20
PSY7076	Neurodiversity in Applied Contexts	20
PSY7078	Skills and Methods for Applied Research in Child Psychology	20
PSY7080	Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology	20
PSY7081	Educational Psychology in Practice	20
PSY7082	Practitioner Reflection and Development	20
PSY7083	Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology	60

In order to complete the Master's in Applied Child Psychology with Professional Placement, students must successfully complete 180 credits as above, and must also complete 60 level 6 credits by completing the Professional Placement module.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6001	Professional Placement	60

15b Structure Diagram

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

Full Time

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
Core PSY7077: The Applied Psychology of Child and Adolescent Development (20 credits) PSY7076: Neurodiversity in Applied Contexts (20 credits) PSY7078: Skills and Methods for Applied Research in Child Psychology (20 credits)	**Core** PSY7080: Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology (20 credits) PSY7081: Educational Psychology in Practice (20 credits) PSY7082: Practitioner Reflection and Development (20 credits)	
Core PSY7083: Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology (60 credits)		

Part Time

Year 1

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
Core PSY7077: The Applied Psychology of Child and Adolescent Development (20 credits) PSY7076: Neurodiversity in Applied Contexts (20 credits)	**Core** PSY7080: Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology (20 credits) PSY7081: Educational Psychology in Practice (20 credits)	

Year 2

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
Core PSY7078: Skills and Methods for Applied Research in Child Psychology (20 credits)	PSY7082: Practitioner Reflection and Development (20 credits)	

Core PSY7083: Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology (60 credits)

Full Time with Professional Placement

Year 1

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
Core PSY7077: The Applied Psychology of Child and Adolescent Development (20 credits) PSY7076: Neurodiversity in Applied Contexts (20 credits) PSY7078: Skills and Methods for Applied Research in Child Psychology (20 credits)	**Core** PSY7080: Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology (20 credits) PSY7081: Educational Psychology in Practice (20 credits) PSY7082: Practitioner Reflection and Development (20 credits)	
Core PSY7083: Empirical Research Project in Applied Child Psychology (60 credits)		

Year 2 (20 weeks)

SEMESTER 1
PLA6001: Professional Placement (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 students will need to allocate to different activities.

- *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 and assessments.

The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216
Directed Learning	396
Private Study	1188
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	84%
Exam	0%
In-Person	16%