

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	BSc (Hons) Psychology
2	Course Code	US0691
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
	<p>Are you curious about how the mind works and why people behave the way they do? Our BPS accredited Psychology degree gives you the scientific foundations you need to understand the brain, behaviour, and everything in between—while also helping you build a strong future, whatever direction you choose.</p> <p>From day one, we focus on your employability and long-term career options. In your first two years, you'll explore the key scientific approaches that shape modern psychology. You'll learn how psychologists study the mind and behaviour, and how these ideas develop across different areas of the subject.</p> <p>The course allows you to tailor your degree to your own interests and career goals. Choose from exciting optional modules such as Parapsychology, Cyberpsychology, or our popular Infancy module—perfect if you want to understand how humans develop from their very first days.</p> <p>The course also encourages you to explore psychology from multiple perspectives, examining how the mind and brain operate through scientific approaches while giving you the chance to tailor your studies with optional modules that match your interests.</p> <p>What's covered in this course?</p> <p>You'll explore how we think, learn, develop and interact through core areas such as cognitive, developmental, social and biological psychology. Along the way, you'll investigate what influences human behaviour by looking at topics like memory, emotion, personality, mental health and relationships, helping you understand why people act the way they do.</p> <p>You'll also have opportunities to apply psychological principles to real-life contexts, whether that involves improving mental health, enhancing learning environments or understanding behaviour in workplaces. As a result, you'll graduate well prepared for careers in areas such as counselling, clinical psychology, education, human resources and marketing.</p> <p>We use a variety of assessment methods, this includes essay and report writing, presentations, using real life examples such as analysing case studies, online based quizzes linked to lecture materials and exams. Our focus on contemporary and innovative learning practices will help you gain key employability skills, such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving, as well as key skills in two innovative, intriguing disciplines.</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Psychology	6	360

	Bachelor of Science with Honours Psychology with Professional Placement Year	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Psychology	4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Psychology	5	240
	Bachelor of Science Psychology	6	300
	Bachelor of Science Psychology with Professional Placement Year	6	420

8	Variatons from the University Regulations
	None

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City Centre	3 Years
	Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	4 Years
	Part Time	City Centre	5 Years
			Code(s)
			US0691
			US1401
			US0692

10	Entry Requirements
<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website</p>	

11	Course Aims
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course will be of particular interest if you are interested in psychology and are also wanting to gain knowledge highly employable skills • You will gain valuable insights into human behaviour, and we will equip you with skills that are applicable in various professional fields • The course has been carefully developed to enable graduates to gain the required knowledge base, practical skill, emotional awareness and maturity for postgraduate professions or employment • As the Psychology course is a BPS accredited degree, you will be eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartership and for BPS accredited MSc programmes • After completion, you can pursue a career into becoming a psychologist by going onto studying a postgraduate degree in a relevant area such as Health Psychology, Forensic Psychology, and Occupational Psychology etc.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
<i>On completion of this course, you will be able to:</i>	
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Know and understand of the British Psychological Society (BPS) GBC core syllabus and topic areas in Psychology.
2	Knowledge and understanding of the historical and scientific underpinnings of the discipline of psychology and how these underpinnings change across the core curriculum topic areas.

3	Understand core areas of psychology and explore how research and theory can be applied to behaviour
4	Explore how research methods can underpin concepts and approaches within psychology
Subject-specific skills	
5	Appraise how psychology can be part of the world and describe and apply these in non-core psychology contexts
6	Employ evidence-based reasoning and examine practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with the range of methodologies.
7	Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments.
8	Apply multiple perspectives to psychological issues, recognising that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories, evidence and applications in a way that fosters critical evaluation and reflection.
9	Appropriately use a range of research methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
10	Integrate ideas and findings across the multiple psychological perspectives, recognising the distinctive approaches to relevant issues, leading to an appreciation of theory, research findings, and relevant ethical and socio-cultural issues.
11	Review and critically evaluate psychological theory and empirical research using a range of techniques.
12	Appropriately comply to APA referencing and formatting expectations
13	Appraise and evaluate psychological approaches, and discuss the key issues and debates related to these
14	Carry out an extensive piece of independent empirical research to demonstrate a range of research skills, including planning, considering and resolving ethical issues, analysis and dissemination of findings.
15	Apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems.
Transferable Skills / Key Skills	
16	Be effective in written and oral communication using appropriate arguments supported by relevant evidence
17	Display numerical reasoning skills, understanding and employing appropriate statistical methods.
18	Be computer literate, displaying skills in the using software applications which are generic, and discipline based.
19	Effectively retrieve, organise and evaluate primary and secondary sources of information found in library books and journal collections, and online.
20	Recognise and understand the complexity of social interaction and behaviours required for effective teamwork and competent in evaluating your own strengths and weaknesses.
21	Show responsibility for own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills
22	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how to convey meaning to a variety of audiences

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
1	Know and understand of the British Psychological Society (BPS) GBC core syllabus and topic areas in Psychology.
2	Knowledge and understanding of the historical and scientific underpinnings of the discipline of psychology and how these underpinnings change across the core curriculum topic areas.
4	Explore how research methods can underpin concepts and approaches within psychology

15	Apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems.
17	Display numerical reasoning skills, understanding and employing appropriate statistical methods.
18	Be computer literate, displaying skills in the using software applications which are generic, and discipline based.
19	Effectively retrieve, organise and evaluate primary and secondary sources of information found in library books and journal collections, and online.
	<i>Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
3	Understand core areas of psychology and explore how research and theory can be applied to behaviour
5	Appraise how psychology can be part of the world and describe and apply these in non-core psychology contexts
6	Employ evidence-based reasoning and examine practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with the range of methodologies.
7	Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments.
9	Appropriately use a range of research methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
20	Recognise and understand the complexity of social interaction and behaviours required for effective teamwork and competent in evaluating your own strengths and weaknesses.
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelor's Degree, you will be able to:</i>
8	Apply multiple perspectives to psychological issues, recognising that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories, evidence and applications in a way that fosters critical evaluation and reflection.
10	Integrate ideas and findings across the multiple psychological perspectives, recognising the distinctive approaches to relevant issues, leading to an appreciation of theory, research findings, and relevant ethical and socio-cultural issues.
11	Review and critically evaluate psychological theory and empirical research using a range of techniques.
12	Appropriately comply to APA referencing and formatting expectations
13	Appraise and evaluate psychological approaches, and discuss the key issues and debates related to these
14	Carry out an extensive piece of independent empirical research to demonstrate a range of research skills, including planning, considering and resolving ethical issues, analysis and dissemination of findings.
16	Be effective in written and oral communication using appropriate arguments supported by relevant evidence
21	Show responsibility for own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills
22	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how to convey meaning to a variety of audiences

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>Our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy delivers excellence by providing the framework for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality teaching, engaging, and inclusive approach to learning, assessment and achievement. • A clear structure through which you progress in your academic studies.

- Developing your personal development and towards professional-level employment or further study.

We recognise that our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and bring a wealth of different experiences to their higher education experience with us. Our strategy aims to inspire, develop, support and empower our diverse community of students in their chosen field of study. Our learning, teaching and assessment approach is informed by relevant subject research, pedagogic research, sector knowledge and awareness of potential graduate destinations, best practice, reflection and innovation. Through our strategy, we endeavour to develop curiosity, confidence, courage, ambition and aspiration in all students, in line with our widening participation values, and to prepare you for employment, enterprise or further study as follows:

- We use a variety of assessments to build your analytical, written and oral communication skills.
- The flexible nature of some of our assessment topics will allow you to tailor your student learning experience towards your current interests and areas relevant to future employment.
- We encourage learning outside of the classroom; you will be supported with further reading and online based resources which will promote independent learning.
- Formative learning activities will play a central role to building confidence and preparing you for your summative assessments.

15	Course Requirements																																					
15a	<p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PSY4047</td> <td>Doing Psychological Research 1</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY4048</td> <td>Modern World Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY4049</td> <td>Perspectives within Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY4050</td> <td>Doing Psychological Research 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY4051</td> <td>Psychology in Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY4052</td> <td>The Future of Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PSY5073</td> <td>Social, Cultural and Community Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY5074</td> <td>Lifespan Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY5075</td> <td>The Human Brain: Biological and Cognitive Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSY5076</td> <td>Research Methods and Analysis in Psychology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PSY4047	Doing Psychological Research 1	20	PSY4048	Modern World Psychology	20	PSY4049	Perspectives within Psychology	20	PSY4050	Doing Psychological Research 2	20	PSY4051	Psychology in Practice	20	PSY4052	The Future of Psychology	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PSY5073	Social, Cultural and Community Psychology	20	PSY5074	Lifespan Psychology	20	PSY5075	The Human Brain: Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	PSY5076	Research Methods and Analysis in Psychology	20
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																				
PSY4047	Doing Psychological Research 1	20																																				
PSY4048	Modern World Psychology	20																																				
PSY4049	Perspectives within Psychology	20																																				
PSY4050	Doing Psychological Research 2	20																																				
PSY4051	Psychology in Practice	20																																				
PSY4052	The Future of Psychology	20																																				
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																				
PSY5073	Social, Cultural and Community Psychology	20																																				
PSY5074	Lifespan Psychology	20																																				
PSY5075	The Human Brain: Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20																																				
PSY5076	Research Methods and Analysis in Psychology	20																																				

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY5077	Parapsychology	20
PSY5078	Creativity, Art and Media	20
PSY5079	Cyberpsychology	20
PSY5063	Work Experience	20
PSY5080	Psychopathology	20
PSY5059	Infancy	20
PSY5071	Stress and Health	20
PSY5081	Positive Psychology and Wellbeing	20

In order to qualify for the award of BSc (Hons) Psychology with Professional Placement Year a student must successfully complete the following module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5001	Professional Placement Year	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY6120	Independent Psychology Project	40
PSY6121	Debates in Psychology	20

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 60 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY6107	Counselling Psychology	20
PSY6122	Educational Psychology	20
PSY6123	Forensic Psychology	20
PSY6124	Health Psychology	20
PSY6125	Work and Organisational Psychology	20
PSY6126	Ageing, the Brain and Society	20
PSY6127	The Psychology of Addiction	20
PSY6128	The Psychology of Eating Behaviours and Body Image	20
PSY6129	Decolonising Psychology	20
PSY6108	Gender and Sexualities	20
PSY6130	Developmental Psychology Conditions	20
PSY6131	Professional Skills in Psychology	20
PSY6115	The Psychology of Policing and Criminal Justice	20

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 all students.

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY4047 Doing Psychological Research 1 (20 credits) PSY4048 Modern World Psychology (20 credits) PSY4049 Perspectives within Psychology (20 credits)	Core PSY4050 Doing Psychological Research 2 (20 credits) PSY4051 Psychology in Practice (20 credits) PSY4052 The Future of Psychology (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY5073 Social, Cultural and Community Psychology (20 credits) PSY5074 Lifespan Psychology (20 credits) Optional Psychology Module (20 credits)	Core PSY5075 The Human Brain: Biological and Cognitive Psychology (20 credits) PSY5076 Research Methods and Analysis in Psychology (20 credits) Optional Psychology Module (20 credits)
Optional International Exchange (Semester 1)	
Optional PPY5001 Professional Placement Year (120 credits)	

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY6120: Independent Psychology Project (40 credits)	
Optional Psychology Module (20 credits)	PSY6121 Debates in Psychology (20 credits)
Optional Psychology Module (20 credits)	Optional Psychology Module (20 credits)

Part Time Course Structure

Year 1	Semester 1	PSY4047 Doing Psychological Research 1	PSY4049 Perspectives within Psychology (20 credits)
	Semester 2	PSY4050 Doing Psychological Research 2 (20 credits)	PSY4052 The Future of Psychology (20 credits)
Year 2	Semester 1	PSY4048 Modern World Psychology (20 credits)	PSY5073 Social, Cultural and Community Psychology (20 credits)
	Semester 2	PSY4051 Psychology in Practice (20 credits)	PSY5075 The Human Brain: Biological and Cognitive Psychology (20 credits)
Year 3	Semester 1	PSY5074 Lifespan Psychology (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
	Semester 2	PSY5076 Research Methods and Analysis in Psychology (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
Year 4	Semester 1	Optional Module (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
	Semester 2	PSY6121 Debates in Psychology (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
Year 5	Semester 1 Semester 2	PSY6120 Independent Psychology Project (40 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 4

Workload

16.7% time spent in timetabled teaching and 28.3% learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	200

Directed Learning	340
Private Study	660
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	88%
Exam	12%
In-Person	0%

Level 5

Workload

17% time spent in timetabled teaching and 23% learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	204
Directed Learning	276
Private Study	720
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	97%
Exam	3%
In-Person	0%

Level 6

Workload

13% time spent in timetabled teaching and 22% learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	157
Directed Learning	263
Private Study	780
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	86%
Exam	3%
In-Person	11%