Course Specification

Course Summary Information

1	**Course Title**	BSc (Hons) Psychology with Foundation Year	
2	**BCU Course Code**	**UCAS Code** US0691F	C80F
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**
	Looking for a foundation course in psychology in Birmingham? Our BSc (Hons) Psychology with a Foundation Year degree has lower entry requirements and can lead to a full undergraduate qualification.

This course has been specifically designed to allow home and EU students, who do not initially meet the Birmingham City University entry requirements for our standard Psychology degree, to undertake additional level 3 study designed to ensure they are successful on their chosen degree course.

Why study a degree with a foundation year
- If you want the flexibility of a year's study on a more general course to find out the best degree choice for you.
- If you have changed your mind about your career since you chose your A-levels or BTECs and need to improve your skills in a different subject area.
- If you would like extra time and support to help you build your knowledge, skills and confidence before starting a full degree.
- If you don't quite meet our entry requirements but know you have the potential to succeed at university.

What's covered in the course?
The foundation year itself will equip you with the required knowledge and skills to proceed on to any of our undergraduate Psychology degree courses offered within the School of Social Sciences.

You will gain a deep understanding of how the core and specialised areas in psychology contribute to our understanding of contemporary issues, as well as looking at the role of brain function across multiple psychological perspectives. You'll apply scientific reasoning and evaluate patterns of behaviour, gaining key transferable skills in communication, teamwork and problem-solving. You'll also adopt a variety of perspectives ensuring you get the big picture.

You will explore scientific approaches to understanding the mind, brain and behaviour. Our Psychology department works in partnership with the nationally recognised Higher Education Academy (HEA) to continually develop the quality of both our staff and the course, focusing on

self-development, contemporary learning practices and integrating practice within the community.

Instead of only engaging with other academics and psychologists, we focus on connecting with, and making an impact on, the local community through links with businesses, NHS and the surrounding prison services.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Psychology	6	480
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Foundation Certificate Psychology	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Psychology	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Psychology	5	360
	Bachelor of Science Psychology	6	420

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City Centre	4 years	US0691F
Sandwich	City Centre	5 years	US0691FS

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/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	**Course Learning Outcomes**
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the GBC core syllabus topic areas in Psychology as stipulated by the British Psychological Society (BPS)/ Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) and The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statement (2010), and their empirical, theoretical and conceptual basis.
2	Demonstrate 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	How the six core areas in Psychology can explain factors that influence the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, and of the complex interactions between these.
4	How the core and derived specialised areas in Psychology contribute to the understanding of contemporary issues and those issues that are at the forefront of the discipline.
5	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the two core curriculum topic areas of research methods and the practical component stipulated by the British Psychological Society/ Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC), and The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statements (2010), which require, an examination of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods, data collection, statistical analysis, data analysis, measurement techniques, psychometrics and their appropriate application to research and practical laboratory work.
6	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the limits of Psychology as a discipline and the application of related disciplines can explain the interaction of the human organism as a whole in the social world.
7	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the role of brain functioning across multiple Psychological perspectives which aid the understanding of psychological phenomena.
8	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the ethical guidelines prescribed by specialised and academic institutional ethical bodies, which govern Psychological Research.
9	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the career prospects that are available for GBC graduates who would like to pursue a career in the field of Psychology, or work, research, training areas that are related to Psychology.
Intellectual Skills	
10	Reason scientifically, understand the role of evidence and make critical judgements about arguments in Psychology.
11	Adopt and integrate multiple perspectives and analyse the relationships between them.
12	Detect patterns in behaviour and experience and evaluate their significance in light of various psychological perspectives.
13	Pose, formulate and critique research questions.
14	Demonstrate competence in research skills through practical activities.
15	Generate and explore hypotheses and research questions.
16	Apply the main perspectives in Psychology to contemporary issues.
17	Exhibit skills of scientific writing and presenting results.
18	Review and critically evaluate empirical evidence using a range of techniques.
19	Plan, execute and present an independent project under supervision.
20	Formulate and apply appropriate ethical judgments when carrying out research.
21	Exhibit psychological literacy.

	Practical, Research and Independent Learning Skills
22	Employ appropriate statistical methods when undertaking psychological research.
23	Initiate, design, conduct and report on an empirically based research project under appropriate supervision. This involves recognition of its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations.
24	Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments.
25	Show awareness of ethical considerations involved in data collection.
26	Reflect on how perspectives in Psychology apply to both personal experiences and the experiences of others.
27	Utilise scholarly reviews and primary source material to gather appropriate information that contributes to the formulation of balanced arguments.
28	Handle primary sources critically.
29	Apply problem-solving skills and be aware that knowledge may require different approaches to problem-solving.
30	Show the capability to learn independently and pragmatically.
	Transferable Skills / Key Skills
31	Communicate effectively in a variety of modes.
32	Select, apply and evaluate appropriate numerical and statistical methods for complex tasks, and interpret data effectively.
33	Use software applications which are generic and discipline based.
34	Retrieve and organise information effectively.
35	Engage in effective teamwork.
36	Problem solve and reason scientifically.
37	Show sensitivity to contextual and interpersonal factors.
38	Show effective presentation skills.
39	Consolidate information effectively.
40	Construct Psychology reports.
41	Apply key competencies and skills which are relevant to the study of the GBC syllabus.
42	Engage in reflective practice.
43	Apply GBC skills and knowledge in the preparation for graduate destinations.
44	Utilise e-technology skills attained from virtual learning platforms and Psychology supporting software.
45	Apply skills attained from working experiences where possible.
46	Apply skills attained from student engagement with staff led research projects where possible.

12	**Course Requirements**
12a	**Level 3:** *In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling **120** credits):*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
BUS3002	Developing Academic Skills for Success	20
BUS3003	Developing Interpersonal Skills for Success	20
PSY3002	Origins in Psychology	20
BUS3006	Foundation Practice Project	20
PSY3000	Real World Psychology	20
PSY3003	Controversies and Myths in Psychology	20

Level 4:

*In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling **100** credits):*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY4030	Introduction to Psychology	20
PSY4031	Psychology and Research Skills	20
PSY4032	Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics	20
PSY4033	Contemporary Issues and Applied Psychology	20
PSY4034	Introduction to Psychopathology	20

*In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least **20** credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY4035	Parapsychology	20
PSY4XXX	Popular Images	20

Level 5:

*In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling **60** credits):*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY5046	Qualitative Research Methods and Analyses	20
PSY5047	Neuropsychology	20
PSY5048	Quantitative Research Methods and Statistics	20

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

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY5050	Forensic Psychology	20
PSY5052	Educational Psychology	20
PSY5053	Health Psychology	20
PSY5054	Work and Organisational Psychology	20
PSY5056	Real World Work Experiences	20
PSY5059	Infancy	20
PSY5063	Work Experience	20
PSY5064	Stress and Disease	20
PSY5065	Cultural Psychology	20
PSY5066	The Psychological Understanding of Mass Killing	20

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY6095	Applied Social Psychology	20
PSY6096	Lifespan Psychology	20
PSY6097	Integrative Psychology Project	40

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

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY6100	Psychology in Policing and Criminal Justice	20
PSY6102	Communication and Language	20
PSY6110	Attachment Theory, Mental Health and Wellbeing	20
PSY6105	Advanced Statistics	20
PSY6106	Intellectual Disabilities, Developmental Disorders and Mental Health.	20
PSY6107	Counselling Psychology	20
PSY6108	Gender and Sexualities	20
PSY6109	Ageing and the Brain	20

12b 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.

Level 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core BUS3002 Developing Academic Skills for Success (20 credits) BUS3003 Developing Interpersonal Skills for Success (20 credits) PSY3002 Origins in Psychology (20 credits)	**Core** BUS3006 Foundation Practice Project (20 credits) PSY3003 Controversies and Myths in Psychology (20 credits) PSY3000 Real World Psychology (20 credits)

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY4030 Introduction to Psychology (20 credits) PSY4031 Psychology and Research Skills (20 credits) PSY4033 Contemporary Issues and Applied Psychology (20 credits)	**Core** PSY4034 Introduction to Psychopathology (20 credits) PSY4032 Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits)
	Optional Optional Module (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY5046 Qualitative Research Methods and Analyses (20 credits)	**Core** PSY5047 Neuropsychology (20 credits) PSY5048 Quantitative Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits)
Optional Optional Module (20 credits) Optional Module (20 credits)	**Optional** Optional Module (20 credits)

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY6096 Life Span Psychology (20 credits)	**Core** PSY6095 Applied Social Psychology (20 credits)
Optional Optional Module (20 credits)	**Optional** Optional Module (20 credits)
PSY6097 Integrative Psychology Project (40 credits)	

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

Level 3

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	288
Directed Learning	288
Private Study	624
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	82%
Exam	0
In-Person	18%

Level 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	220
Directed Learning	320
Private Study	660
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	68%
Exam	27%
In-Person	5%

Level 5

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	207
Directed Learning	273
Private Study	720
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67%
Exam	33%
In-Person	0

Level 6

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	14
Directed Learning	279
Private Study	780
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	40%
Exam	60%
In-Person	0

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