

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	BSc (Hons) Psychology with Foundation Year
2	Course Code	US0691F
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>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.</p> <p>This course has been specifically designed to allow home and international 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.</p> <p>Why study a degree with a foundation year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you want the flexibility of a year's study 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 do not quite meet our entry requirements but know you have the potential to succeed at university <p>What is covered in the course?</p> <p>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 at Birmingham City University.</p> <p>You will gain an understanding of how psychology contributes to our understanding of contemporary issues. You will apply scientific reasoning and evaluate patterns of behaviour, gaining key transferable skills in communication, teamwork and problem solving. You will also adopt a variety of perspectives ensuring you get the big picture.</p> <p>You will explore scientific approaches to understanding the mind, brain and behaviour. Our Psychology and Counselling 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.</p>

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.

If you are thinking ahead to our full undergraduate programme, then here's what our accredited **BSc (Hons) Psychology** degree has to offer:

- **Foundational Knowledge:** Learn about the major theories and concepts in psychology, including cognitive, developmental, social, and biological psychology
- **Understanding of Human Behaviour:** Explore topics such as learning, memory, emotion, personality, mental health, and interpersonal relationships
- **Develop key skills:** Apply scientific reasoning to evaluate behaviour patterns, and develop communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. This versatile course prepares you for a career in psychology or other diverse career paths
- **Scientific approaches:** Learn to understand the mind, brain, and behaviour through scientific approaches. You'll explore foundational topics, core areas of psychology, and the complex interactions between them and can tailor your degree with optional modules
- **Research Skills:** You'll gain practical knowledge and experience of quantitative and qualitative research methods
- **Ethical Awareness:** Learn about ethical considerations in psychological research and practice
- **Blended learning:** We combine core topic lectures with interactive seminars and online activities, as well as the University supporting learning further with lecture capture opportunities. Our expert staff, experienced in both practice and research, enrich your learning experience.
- **Innovative assessments:** Assessments include essays, reports, posters and leaflets, portfolios, presentations, recordings, case studies, quizzes, and exams. Our focus on contemporary and innovative learning practices will help you gain key employability skills, such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving
- **Practical Applications:** Apply psychological principles to real-world situations, such as improving mental health, enhancing education, and fostering workplace productivity
- **Career Preparation:** Prepare for careers in counselling, clinical psychology, human resources, marketing, education, and more
- **Gain real-world insights:** Take advantage of psychology-related field trips, study abroad opportunities, and year-long professional placements. Guest external speakers bring real-world perspectives, preparing you for employment or postgraduate studies.

Future opportunities include joining our BPS-accredited Master's programmes of MSc Health Psychology and MSc Forensic Psychology, or if you have a different career path in mind you can also join our MSc Applied Child Psychology or MSc Counselling (Children and Young People) courses.

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	Variations 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	4 years	US0691F
Full Time with Professional Placement		City Centre (and placement provider)	5 years	US1401

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
	<p>The BSc (Hons) Psychology with Foundation course will be of particular interest if you are interested in gaining knowledge of the subject of psychology, science, and if you want to develop highly employable skills. 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 relevant to the subject.</p> <p>As the psychology course is a BPS accredited degree, 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, Occupational Psychology, as well as research in psychology. The course provides you with an in-depth exploration of human mind, behaviour, and human development, scientific research methods, mental health, as well as practical listening which will prepare you for a range of people-focussed roles with adults, young people and children. This can include primary school teaching, social work or working in HR. The course aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to Psychology as an academic and practical discipline with a view to enabling you to pursue any one of a number of possible careers working with people.</p>

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 3/ the Foundation certificate, students will be able to:</i>
1	Apply foundational knowledge of psychology as an academic and scientific discipline.
2	Discuss the foundational contemporary and historical approaches to psychology, as well as the key debates and issues within the subject.

3	Apply key academic and interpersonal skills relevant to continuing to degree level study of psychology or associated social scientific disciplines
	<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.
3	Explore how research methods can underpin concepts and approaches within psychology
4	Apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems.
5	Display numerical reasoning skills, understanding and employing appropriate statistical methods.
6	Be computer literate, displaying skills in the using software applications which are generic, and discipline based.
7	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>
1	Understand core areas of psychology and explore how research and theory can be applied to behaviour
2	Appraise how psychology can be part of the world and describe and apply these in non-core psychology contexts
3	Employ evidence-based reasoning and examine practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with the range of methodologies.
4	Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments.
5	Appropriately use a range of research methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
6	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>
1	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.
2	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.
3	Review and critically evaluate psychological theory and empirical research using a range of techniques.
4	Appropriately comply to APA referencing and formatting expectations
5	Appraise and evaluate psychological approaches, and discuss the key issues and debates related to these
6	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.
7	Be effective in written and oral communication using appropriate arguments supported by relevant evidence
8	Show responsibility for own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills
9	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. <p>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 you as part of our diverse community of students in their chosen field of study.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) We use a variety of assessments to build your analytical, written, and oral communication skills. b) 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. c) We encourage learning outside of the classroom; you will be supported with further reading and online based resources that will promote independent learning. d) Formative learning activities will play a central role to building confidence and preparing you for your summative assessments.

15	Course Requirements																							
15a	Level 3: <i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i>																							
	<table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>PSY3001</td><td>Origins in Psychology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY3005</td><td>Thinking Psychologically</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY3009</td><td>Developing Academic Skills for Success in Psychology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY3000</td><td>Real World Psychology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY3002</td><td>Controversies and Myths in Psychology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY3007</td><td>Psychology Foundation Mini Research Project</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PSY3001	Origins in Psychology	20	PSY3005	Thinking Psychologically	20	PSY3009	Developing Academic Skills for Success in Psychology	20	PSY3000	Real World Psychology	20	PSY3002	Controversies and Myths in Psychology	20	PSY3007	Psychology Foundation Mini Research Project	20		
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PSY3001	Origins in Psychology	20																						
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PSY3000	Real World Psychology	20																						
PSY3002	Controversies and Myths in Psychology	20																						
PSY3007	Psychology Foundation Mini Research Project	20																						

Level 4:

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

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

Level 5:

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

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. 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 PSY3009 Developing Academic Skills for Success in Psychology (20 credits) PSY3005 Thinking Psychologically (20 credits) PSY3002 Origins in Psychology (20 credits)	Core PSY3007 Psychology Foundation Mini Research Project (20 credits) PSY3003 Controversies and Myths in Psychology (20 credits) PSY3000 Real World Psychology (20 credits)

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 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)

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Your 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	360
Directed Learning	528
Private Study	312
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	77%
Exam	0%
In-Person	23%

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%