

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 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 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 within the School of Social Sciences.</p> <p>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 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 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.
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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
	None.

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	4 years	US0691F
	Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	5 years	

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 Aims
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	<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>

11	Course Learning Outcomes
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Know and understand of the British Psychological Society (BPS) GBC core syllabus and topic areas in Psychology.
2	Understand the historical and scientific underpinnings of the discipline of Psychology and how these underpin changes across the core curriculum topic areas.
3	Apply knowledge of cognitive psychology theory and how research can explain factors that influence the mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and of the complex interactions between these.
4	Appraise key aspects of how developmental psychology contributes to the understanding of contemporary issues and those issues that are at the forefront of the discipline.
5	Recognise and understand individual differences using psychological theory to answer real-world questions.
6	Discuss the key issues and debates that relate to social psychology recognising theoretical, methodological, and key social psychological processes.
7	Understand the biological psychology approach and how the role of brain functioning across multiple psychological domains aids the understanding of psychological phenomena.
8	Appropriately use a range of qualitative methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
9	Appropriately use a range of quantitative methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
Subject-specific skills	
10	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.
11	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.
12	Identify and evaluate patterns in behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and evaluate their significance in light of various psychological perspectives.

13	Competently use research skills in conducting and disseminating findings of empirical studies that employ different methods of data collection.
14	Analyse, present, and evaluate quantitative and qualitative data and research findings.
15	Employ evidence-based reasoning and examine practical, theoretical, and ethical issues associated with the range of methodologies
16	Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments
17	Apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems
18	Review and critically evaluate psychological theory and empirical research using a range of techniques.
19	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.
Transferable Skills / Key Skills	
20	Communicate effectively in writing and orally using cogent arguments supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience.
21	Use numerical reasoning skills and understanding to employ appropriate statistical methods.
22	Be computer literate, displaying skills in the using software applications which are generic, and discipline based.
23	Effectively retrieve, organise, and evaluate primary and secondary sources of information found in library books and journal collections, and online.
24	Recognise and understand the complexity of social interaction and behaviours required for effective teamwork and competent in evaluating your own strengths and weaknesses.
25	Show the capability to learn independently and pragmatically. Show responsibility for own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection, and project management skills.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of Level 3/ the Foundation certificate, students will be able to:</i>
	Apply foundational knowledge of Psychology as an academic and scientific discipline.
	Discuss the foundational contemporary and historical approaches to Psychology, as well as the key debates and issues within the subject.
	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, students will be able to:</i>
	Know and understand the historical and scientific underpinnings of the discipline of Psychology and how these underpinnings change across the core curriculum topic areas.
	Recognise and understand individual differences using psychological theory to answer real-world questions.
	Apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems
	Display numerical reasoning skills, understanding and employing appropriate statistical methods.
	Be computer literate, displaying skills in the using software applications which are generic, and discipline based.
	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, students will be able to:</i>
	Apply knowledge of cognitive psychology theory and how research can explain factors that influence the mind, brain, behaviour, and experience, and of the complex interactions between these.

	Understand the biological psychology approach and how the role of brain functioning across multiple psychological domains aids the understanding of psychological phenomena.
	Appropriately use a range of qualitative methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
	Appropriately use a range of quantitative methods and understand how to obtain and analyse evidence acquired and demonstrate understanding through practical work.
	Analyse, present, and evaluate quantitative and qualitative data and research findings
	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, students will be able to:</i>
	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.
	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.
	Identify and evaluate patterns in behaviour, psychological functioning and experience and evaluate their significance in light of various psychological perspectives.
	Review and critically evaluate psychological theory and empirical research using a range of techniques.
	Communicate effectively in writing and orally using cogent arguments supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience
	Show the capability to learn independently and pragmatically. Show responsibility for own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills.

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	<p>Level 3:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <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> <p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>PSY4030</td><td>Introduction to Psychology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4045</td><td>Psychology of Individual Differences and Personality</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4033</td><td>Contemporary Issues and Applied Psychology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4034</td><td>Introduction to Psychopathology</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4032</td><td>Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p><i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>PSY4042</td><td>Positive Psychology & Counselling</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4041</td><td>Popular Images & Psychological Understanding</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4035</td><td>Parapsychology</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):</i></p>	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	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PSY4030	Introduction to Psychology	20	PSY4045	Psychology of Individual Differences and Personality	20	PSY4033	Contemporary Issues and Applied Psychology	20	PSY4034	Introduction to Psychopathology	20	PSY4032	Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PSY4042	Positive Psychology & Counselling	20	PSY4041	Popular Images & Psychological Understanding	20	PSY4035	Parapsychology	20
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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, you must successfully complete at least 60 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY5053	Health Psychology	20
PSY5070	Work and Organisational Psychology	20
PSY5052	Educational Psychology	20
PSY5050	Forensic Psychology	20
PSY5066	The Psychological Understanding of Mass Killing	20
PSY5056	Real World Work Experiences	20
PSY5065	Cultural Psychology	20
PSY5063	Work Experience	20
PSY5071	Stress and Health	20
PSY5059	Infancy	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 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PSY6095	Applied Social Psychology	20
PSY6097	Integrative Psychology Project	40
PSY6096	Lifespan 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
PSY6105	Advanced Statistics	20
PSY6109	Ageing and the Brain	20
PSY6110	Attachment Theory, Mental Health & Wellbeing	20
PSY6102	Communication and Language	20
PSY6107	Counselling Psychology	20
PSY6108	Gender and Sexualities	20
PSY6106	Intellectual Disabilities	20
PSY6115	Psychology in Policing and Criminal Justice	20

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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 PSY4033 Contemporary Issues and Applied Psychology (20 credits) PSY4030 Introduction to Psychology (20 credits) PSY4045 Psychology of Individual Differences and Personality (20 credits)	Core PSY4034 Introduction to Psychopathology (20 credits) PSY4032 Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits)
	Optional PSY4035 Parapsychology (20 credits) PSY4041 Popular Images and Psychological Understanding (20 credits) PSY4042 Positive Psychology and Counselling (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY5046 Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis (20 credits)	Core PSY5047 Neuropsychology (20 credits) PSY5048 Quantitative Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits)
Optional PSY5052 Educational Psychology (20 credits) PSY5050 Forensic Psychology (20 credits)	Optional PSY5065 Cultural Psychology (20 credits) PSY5059 Infancy (20 credits)

PSY5053 Health Psychology (20 credits) PSY5070 Work and Organisational Psychology (20 credits) PSY5056 Real World Experiences (20 credits) PSY5066 The Psychological Understanding of Mass Killing (20 credits)	PSY5071 Stress and Health (20 credits) PSY5063 Work Experience (20 credits)
Optional Yearlong Placement PLA5XXX Professional Placement Year (120 credits)	

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core PSY6096 Lifespan Psychology (20 credits)	Core PSY6095 Applied Social Psychology (20 credits)
Core PSY6097 Integrative Psychology Project (40 credits)	
Optional PSY6102 Communication and Language (20 credits) PSY6110 Attachment Theory, Mental Health & Wellbeing (20 credits) PSY6109 Ageing and the Brain (20 credits) PSY6105 Advanced Statistics (20 credits)	Optional PSY6115 Psychology in Policing and Criminal Justice (20 credits) PSY6106 Intellectual Disabilities (20 credits) PSY6108 Gender and Sexualities (20 credits) PSY6107 Counselling Psychology (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	396
Directed Learning	492
Private Study	312
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

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

Level 4

Workload

% Time spent in timetabled teaching and 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	70%
Exam	25%
In-Person	5%

Level 5

Workload

% Time spent in timetabled teaching and 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	67%
Exam	33%
In-Person	0

Level 6

Workload

% Time spent in timetabled teaching and 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	65%
Exam	25%
In-Person	10%