

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>Looking for Birmingham psychology courses? Our BSc (Hons) Psychology degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society and allows you to take a year-long professional placement.</p> <p>Make sense of the real world through gaining 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. This versatile course provides the opportunity for you to embark on a Psychology career or bring those skills to wide variety of other career paths.</p> <p>You will explore scientific approaches to understanding the mind, brain and behaviour. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the scientific underpinnings of the discipline of Psychology and how these underpinnings change across the core curriculum topic areas. Explore 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. You will develop knowledge and understanding of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods. During your degree you will be given a range of optional modules to choose from allowing you to tailor your degree to your interests.</p> <p>We use a blended learning approach, where we teach the core topics and theories in lectures; to explore the topics further we have interactive and activity-based seminars and then to enhance your learning we provide you with online activities and resources. The staff teaching on the course are experts in the areas and topics they teach on, which further enhances your learning experience, as they bring with them their practice or research-based knowledge.</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> <p>You will also have an opportunity to go on field trips related to Psychology. You can also apply to study abroad for a semester or take a year-long professional placement. Some of our modules also invite guest external speakers who are practitioners, giving you a holistic picture. Overall, the degree course is designed to prepare you for employment or Postgraduate studies.</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	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	3 Years	US0691
Full Time with Professional Placement		City Centre (and placement provider)	4 Years	US1401
Part Time		City Centre	5 Years	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"> • The BSc (Hons) Psychology course will be of particular interest if you are interested in Psychology and are also wanting to gain knowledge 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. • As the Psychology course is a BPS accredited degree • 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. • The course provides you with an in-depth exploration of human development, mental health and distress, crime and victimisation, as well as practical listening which will prepare you for a range of people-focussed roles with adults, young people and children.

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	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 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
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.
5	Recognise and understand individual differences using psychological theory to answer real-world questions.
17	Apply psychological knowledge ethically and safely to real-world problems.
21	Display numerical reasoning skills, understanding and employing 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.
	<i>Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
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.
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.
14	Analyse, present and evaluate quantitative and qualitative data and research findings.
24	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>
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.
18	Review and critically evaluate psychological theory and empirical research using a range of techniques.
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.
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.

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 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:</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 which 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 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 and Counselling</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>PSY4035</td><td>Parapsychology</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	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 and Counselling	20	PSY4035	Parapsychology	20
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PSY4042	Positive Psychology and Counselling	20																										
PSY4035	Parapsychology	20																										

Level 5:

In order to complete this course, you 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, 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
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
PSY6109	Ageing and the Brain	20
PSY6102	Communication and Language	20
PSY6107	Counselling Psychology	20
PSY6108	Gender and Sexualities	20

	PSY6106	Intellectual Disabilities, Developmental Disorders and Mental Health	20
	PSY6115	Psychology in Policing and Criminal Justice	20
	PSY6XXX	Psychological Understanding of Mass Killing *	20
	PSY6XXX	Popular Images and Psychological Understanding *	20
*To be introduced from September 2025			

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 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) 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) PSY5053 Health Psychology (20 credits) PSY5070 Work and Organisational Psychology (20 credits) PSY5056 Real World Experiences (20 credits)	Optional PSY5065 Cultural Psychology (20 credits) PSY5059 Infancy (20 credits) PSY5071 Stress and Health (20 credits) PSY5063 Work Experience (20 credits)
Optional PPY5001 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) PSY6109 Ageing and the Brain (20 credits) PSY6XXX The Psychological Understanding of Mass Killing (20 credits)	Optional PSY6115 Psychology in Policing and Criminal Justice (20 credits) PSY6106 Intellectual Disabilities, Developmental Disorders and Mental Health (20 credits) PSY6108 Gender and Sexualities (20 credits) PSY6107 Counselling Psychology (20 credits) PSY6XXX Popular Images and Psychological Understanding (20 credits)

Part Time Course Structure

Year 1	Semester 1	L4 Introduction to Psychology (20 credits)	PSY4045 Psychology of Individual Differences and Personality (20 credits)
	Semester 2	L4 Introduction to Psychopathology (20 credits)	L4 Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits)
Year 2	Semester 1	L4 Contemporary Issues and Applied Psychology (20 credits)	L5 Optional Module (20 credits)
	Semester 2	L4 Optional Module (20 credits)	L5 Neuropsychology (20 credits)
Year 3	Semester 1	L5 Qualitative Research Methods and Analyses (20 credits)	L5 Optional Module (20 credits)
	Semester 2	L5 Quantitative Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits)	L5 Optional Module (20 credits)
Year 4	Semester 1	L6 Optional Module (20 credits)	L6 Lifespan Psychology (20 credits)
	Semester 2	L6 Applied Social Psychology (20 credits)	L6 Optional Module (20 credits)
Year 5	Semester 1 Semester 2	Integrative 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

17% 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

17% 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****13% 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	90%
Exam	0%
In-Person	10%