

School of Psychology

Head of School

Professor D W Johnston

These modules are designed to constitute a training for students who are accepted into a research degree in Psychology, in order both to equip them with the specific skills necessary for the completion of their research and to provide them with the general skills necessary for undertaking a career as an academic psychologist. While these modules do not necessarily constitute the entirety of the student's academic activities in their first year of study, passing them is a necessary requirement for successful completion of the first year of the research degree with exceptions as indicated in the module descriptions. However, in cases where students already have an appropriate research training, exemption from part or all of the modules may be agreed at the discretion of the Head of School.

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Modules

PS4001 Tutorial Course

Semester: Whole Year

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: This course will expose students to discussions of the broad philosophical, theoretical and methodological issues pertaining to their personal research project. It will also provide training on specific issues relating to the project. The course will be taught in a tutorial format involving the student with other staff and research students working in the research area. The aim is to stimulate discussion which the student will be expected to contribute to, and on occasion to introduce.

Class Hour: To be arranged with the supervisor

Teaching: 22 sessions of one hour each

Assessment: 3,000 word essay

PS4002 Research Project

Semester: Whole Year

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: The student will carry out a major piece of original and independent research under the guidance of an academic supervisor. Supervision will be regular and will normally average approximately one hour per week. The aim of the module is to give the student an opportunity to develop expertise in designing, conducting and analysing psychological research, and also to learn how to present such work in writing.

Class Hour: To be arranged with the supervisor

Teaching: By personal supervision

Assessment: 15,000 word (maximum) research report

Psychology - 4000 Level modules

PS4003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology

Semester: 1

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: This course introduces students to the various skills and issues which are of importance to academic psychologists irrespective of their particular area of research. Weekly seminars will cover the various means of academic presentation (published writing, talks, posters), the use of technology in order to enhance communication, how to read research reports, how to gain ethical approval for research, how to deal with a series of legal and practical issues, and how to build an academic career.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am Tuesday.

Teaching: Eleven 2 hour seminars

Assessment: Four elements of Continuous Assessment

PS4004 Methods of Study in Psychology

Semester: 1

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: This module will introduce students to a range of methods of study used in psychology. There will be seven compulsory sessions which will cover topics such as designing and operationalizing experiments, devising and using questionnaires, interviewing and computer modelling techniques. Students will then choose four options from six sessions including studying human brain function, studying animal brain function, ethnography and measuring health. Students may be constrained to take certain options depending on their area of study.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 Thursday.

Teaching: Eleven 2 hour seminars

Assessment: Three elements of Continuous Assessment

PS4005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology

Semester: 1

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: This module aims to ensure that students are competent in the use of core analytic techniques within psychology. These include such things as a basic probability theory, non-parametric statistics, uni- and multi-variate parametric statistics. Students will also be given options amongst such advanced topics as modelling techniques and qualitative analytic techniques. Students may however, be constrained to take certain options depending on their area of study. Students will be given an initial assessment at the start of the session and, depending on their performance, will be given a guided programme of personal study which will focus on the areas where they need to gain competence.

Class Hour: Dependent on teaching programme

Teaching: Guided programme of personal study

Assessment: 3 Hour Examination

PS4006 Advanced Topics in Psychology

Semester: Whole Year

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Co-requisite: All six modules are to be taken together in the same session. In the case of part-time students, students arriving at non-standard times, or other special circumstances, the 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: The aim of this topic is to acquaint the student with current research across the range of psychology and to develop skills of critical appraisal of research. Students will attend sets of seminars given by invited speakers and also conducted by colleagues within the School of Psychology. They will be encouraged to participate in discussion sessions and to follow up seminars by reading the written work of speakers.

Class Hour: 1.00 - 2.00 pm Thursday and 4.30 - 6.00 pm Friday.

Teaching: Seminars

Assessment: 2,000 word essay

