

## School of Psychology

### Head of School

Professor V J Brown

### Degree Programmes

M.Res.: Psychology

### Programme Requirements – *Please note amendments have been proposed to this programme – see update in September*

M.Res.: 180 credits from modules SS5101-SS5104, PS5001, PS5005, PS5005, PS5006 and Dissertation module PS5002

These modules are designed to constitute an M.Res. Programme and also a training for students who are accepted into a higher 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 higher 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

A set of formal generic research training modules are in preparation for the social sciences (Economics, Management, International Relations, Psychology, Geography and Social Anthropology). Complementary advanced training modules in psychology are also in preparation. The details for these generic and advanced training modules will be available at the beginning of session 2004/5. The purpose of these new modules is to provide robust, interdisciplinary training for psychology students whose research area is relevant to social science. With the agreement of their supervisor, M.Res. students in psychology can opt for this specialized training rather than the general psychology training programme described below.

### PS5001 Tutorial Course

Credits: 20.0 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 Master of Research Psychology Postgraduate Taught Programme and for all students doing postgraduate research in Psychology.

Description: This module 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 to which the student will be expected to contribute, and on occasion introduce.

Class Hour: To be arranged with the supervisor

Teaching: 22 sessions of one hour each

Assessment: 3,000 word essay = 100%

## **Psychology – 5000 Level Modules 2005/06 – August 2005**

### **PS5002 Research Project**

Credits: 60.0 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 Master of Research Psychology Postgraduate Taught Programme and 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

### **PS5003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology**

Credits: 20.0 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 Master of Research Psychology Postgraduate Taught Programme and for all students doing Postgraduate Research in Psychology.

Description: This module 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: 11.30 am – 1.30 pm Wednesday.

Teaching: Eleven 2 hour seminars

Assessment: Four elements of Continuous Assessment

### **PS5004 Methods of Study in Psychology**

Credits: 20.0 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 Master of Research Psychology Postgraduate Taught Programme and 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 six 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 additional sessions. Students may be constrained to take certain options depending on their area of study.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 Wednesday.

Teaching: Eleven 2 hour seminars

Assessment: Three elements of Continuous Assessment

## Psychology – 5000 Level Modules 2005/06 – August 2005

### PS5005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology

Credits: 40.0 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 Master of Research Psychology Postgraduate Taught Programme and 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. This includes such things as basic probability theory, non-parametric statistics, uni- and multi-variate parametric statistics. Students will also study advanced topics such as statistical modelling. 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 and 2 elements of Continuous Assessment

### PS5006 Advanced Topics in Psychology

Credits: 20.0 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 Master of Research Psychology Postgraduate Taught Programme and 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 = 100%

### SS5101 Being a Social Scientist: Skills, Processes and Outcomes

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for the MRes in Psychology

Description: This module focuses on developing students' specific research thinking and writing skills in a practically based way. Thus, the module will address the nature of being a research social scientist including exploring some of the ethical issues involved. The module will also consider selecting suitable research questions and framing these as appropriate for Masters and PhD dissertations.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: 3 hour lecture, fortnightly

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

## **Psychology – 5000 Level Modules 2005/06 – August 2005**

### **SS5102 Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences**

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s): Compulsory module for MRes in Psychology

Description: Beginning with a discussion of the evolution of the social sciences, this module addresses central philosophical questions of social science including discussion of epistemological and methodological aspects of positivism and interpretivism.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Details to follow.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

### **SS5103 Qualitative methods in Social Research**

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s) Compulsory module for MRes in Psychology

Description: This module offers both a theoretical and practical introduction to qualitative research. The diversity of the approaches to qualitative research will be addressed but the focus of the module is primarily practical necessitating the active participation of students.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: 2 hour, weekly

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

### **SS5104 Quantitative Research in Social Science**

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s) Compulsory module for MRes in Psychology

Description: This module will cover basic concepts and approaches to quantitative research in the social sciences in order to provide students with the basic quantitative tools for collecting, organising and analysing data.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Details to follow

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%