

Bute Medical School

Head of School

Professor H MacDougall

Degree Programmes

M.Sc.:

Health Psychology

Programme Requirements

Health Psychology

M.Sc.:

120 credits from MD5001, MD5002, MD5003, MD5004, MD5090 plus
60 credits from PS5003, PS5005

Modules

MD5001 Theories of Health Psychology and Behaviour Change

Credits: 15 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology

Description: This module will consist of the knowledge base that covers the context and perspectives of health psychology including an historical overview and current theories and approaches in health psychology. It will include an awareness of other related disciplines, and acknowledgement of social and cultural factors. Theoretical models of health behaviour and behaviour change will be introduced including associated health-related beliefs and cognitions.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Three lectures and a two hour tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%

MD5002 Quality of Life, Communication and Chronic Illness

Credits: 15 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: MD5001

Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology

Description: This core module will contain the knowledge base for understanding the conceptual underpinnings of the quality of life field and its importance in generating a debate about the success of health care interventions, assessment of care and definitions of health and illness. The relevance of psychological issues to the person suffering acute and chronic illness will be covered and the important role of communication processes in the interface between patient, clinical staff and care-givers will be included as a key theme. Some practical observation of clinical-related communication processes will be an additional feature of this module.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Three lectures, a two hour tutorial and a practical.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%

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MD5003 Biological Systems and Development

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|---------------|--|-----------|---|
| Credits: | 15 | Semester: | 2 |
| Prerequisite: | MD5001, MD5002 | | |
| Programme(s): | Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology | | |
| Description: | This core module will introduce the importance of biological and developmental systems to the understanding of people's perceived and actual health status including methods of assessing health behaviour and intervening to change health behaviour. This module will consist of learning a generalisable tool to analyse and pool the effects of interventions, namely meta-analysis. | | |
| Class Hour: | To be arranged. | | |
| Teaching: | Three lectures, a two hour tutorial and a practical. | | |
| Assessment: | Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60% | | |

MD5004 Health Information and Decision Making

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|---------------|--|-----------|---|
| Credits: | 15 | Semester: | 2 |
| Prerequisite: | MD5001, MD5002, PS5003 | | |
| Co-requisite: | PS5005 | | |
| Programme(s): | Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology | | |
| Description: | This core module introduces the student to the expanding field of health information and decision making. Members of the public, whether they are patients or not are bombarded with health information and mis-information, via various media, from which they may process and make decisions about entering or remaining in the health care system, or embarking on new health or self care interventions designed to improve outcome. Students will acquire understanding on how to assess the influence of these interventions through detailed examination of a mixture of theoretical and practical steps. | | |
| Class Hour: | To be arranged. | | |
| Teaching: | Three lectures, a two hour tutorial and a practical. | | |
| Assessment: | Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60% | | |

MD5090 Research Project in Health Psychology

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|---------------|--|-----------|------------|
| Credits: | 60 | Semester: | Whole Year |
| Programme(s): | Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology | | |
| Description: | The dissertation will consist of a written report of original, empirical health psychology research, up to 15,000 words in length. It will consist of an appropriate literature review, statement of aims, methods, results, discussion and conclusion sections with supporting bibliography. The project will be supervised and receive ethical approval. | | |
| Class Hour: | To be arranged. | | |
| Teaching: | Individual Supervision. | | |
| Assessment: | Project report = 100% | | |

PS5003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology

Credits: 30 Semester: Whole Year

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health 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 topics, such as academic presentations (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, and how to build an academic career.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Seventeen 2 hour seminars

Assessment: Ten elements of Continuous Assessment

PS5005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology

Credits: 30 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology

Description: This module aims to ensure that students are competent in the use of advanced data analysis in psychology. This includes advanced training in common statistics (including regression, analysis of variance and multivariate techniques) plus additional training in qualitative methods. Students will also study more complex topics such as statistical modelling.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Eleven 2-hour workshops

Assessment: Ten elements of Continuous Assessment

