

School of Psychology

Important Degree Information:

B.Sc./M.A. Honours

The general requirements are 480 credits over a period of normally 4 years (and not more than 5 years) or part-time equivalent; the final two years being an approved honours programme of 240 credits, of which 90 credits are at 4000 level and at least a further 120 credits at 3000 and/or 4000 levels. Refer to the appropriate Faculty regulations for lists of subjects recognised as qualifying towards either a B.Sc. or M.A. degree.

B.Sc./M.A. Honours with Integrated Year Abroad

The general requirements are 540 credits over a period of normally 5 years (and not more than 6 years) or part-time equivalent; the final three years being an approved honours programme of 300 credits, of which 60 credits are gained during the integrated year abroad, 90 credits are at 4000 level and at least a further 120 credits at 3000 and/or 4000 levels. Refer to the appropriate Faculty regulations for lists of subjects recognised as qualifying towards either a B.Sc. or M.A. degree.

Other Information: Passes in PS3021, PS3022, PS4040 and PS4050 are required for recognition by the British Psychological Society. This recognition is required for those who wish to gain employment as professional psychologists.

In the case of students who spend part of the Honours Programme abroad on a recognised Exchange Scheme, the Programme Requirements will be amended to take into account courses taken while abroad.

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
(M.A. Honours or B.Sc. Honours): Psychology	Single Honours Psychology Degrees: Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Level 3: 120 credits from the PS3000 level modules and PS4040 Level 4: 120 credits from the PS4000 level modules, necessarily including PS4050 and PS4060; with the prior approval of the School, up to 30 credits from elsewhere in the Catalogue may be substituted for PS4000 level modules. Other Information: This degree is recognized by the British Psychological Society.
(M.A. Honours): Psychology and Art History, English, French[^], Geography, German[^], International Relations, Italian (WIYA only), Management, Mathematics, Mediaeval History, Modern History, Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Theological Studies.	Psychology element of Joint Honours Degrees: Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Level 3: 90 credits consisting of passes in PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011, (PS3006 or PS3012). Level 4: up to a further 60 credits; see Other Information, for BPS recognition.

[^] available also as 'With Integrated Year Abroad Degrees'

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Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Psychology and Computer Science</p>	<p>Psychology element of Joint Degree Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Level 3: 60 credits consisting of passes in PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, (PS3006 or PS3012). Level 4: 45 credits from PS4000 level modules. see Other Information, for BPS recognition. Note: the total Honours credits in Computer Science and in Psychology must equal or exceed 240.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Psychology and Mathematics</p>	<p>Psychology element of Joint Degree Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Level 3: 90 credits consisting of passes in PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011, (PS3006 or PS3012). Level 4: up to a further 60 credits; see Other Information, for BPS recognition.</p>
<p>(M.A. Honours): Psychology with Geography; or Linguistics[^] [^] available also as 'With Integrated Year Abroad Degrees'</p>	<p>Psychology element of Major Degrees: Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Level 3: 90 credits consisting of passes in PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011, (PS3006 or PS3012). Level 4: At least 60 credits from PS3021, PS3022, PS4040 and other PS4000 level modules.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Psychology with French[^], Linguistics or Spanish[^] [^] available also as 'With Integrated Year Abroad Degrees'</p>	<p>Psychology element of Major Degree: Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Level 3: 90 credits consisting of passes in PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011, (PS3006 or PS3012). Level 4: At least 90 credits from PS3021, PS3022, PS4040, and other PS4000 modules.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Psychology with Linguistics</p>	<p>Psychology with Linguistics: Level 1: 40 credits consisting of passes in both PS1001 and PS1002 Level 2: 60 credits consisting of passes at 11 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002 Levels 3 & 4: 90 credits consisting of passes in PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011, (PS3006 or PS3012) and 90 credits from PS3021, PS3022, PS4040, PS4050 and other PS4000 level modules; LI1002/2, LI2001 and a pass at 11 or better in LI2002, LI3001 (or for qualified students, one of FR3053, GM3077.GM3078, IT3009, ML3009, RU3015, RU3107, SP3011) and 45 credits from LI3002, LI4001, LI4002, LI4098.</p>

Psychology (PS) Modules

PS3007 Perception, Cognition and Action

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module is designed to develop those skills required to analyse human behaviour in addition to providing an opportunity for students to develop familiarity with computational modeling and its application to the principles of sensory coding. Stress will be laid on the integration of findings from physiology, neuropsychology, anatomy, psychophysics and cognition. The major areas covered will include the empirical study of perception, memory and action; theories of human vision and their application to understanding the nature of visual defects; the ability to perceive distinct properties (e.g. object motion, size, distance and identity) with emphasis given to specialized brain systems and coding at the level of brain cells.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Monday.

Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3008 Brain and Behaviour I

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge in several inter-related domains concerned with (i) the biological bases of mental health; (ii) the relationships between psychological theory and treatment. In both cases emphasis will be laid on the relationship between basic experimental science and its applicability in practical settings, and the relationship between cognitive, emotional, behavioural, neurological and physiological processes will be examined.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Thursday.

Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3009 Brain and Behaviour II

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module is designed to further understanding developed in PS3008. The module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge in several inter-related domains concerned with (i) the biological bases of mental health; (ii) the relationships between psychological theory and treatment. In both cases emphasis will be laid on the relationship between basic experimental science and its applicability in practical settings, and the relationship between cognitive, emotional, behavioural, neurological and physiological processes will be examined.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Tuesday.

Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3010 Social, Evolutionary and Developmental Psychology I

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge at large-scale levels of analysis. Thus the module includes such topics as: (i) psychological processes operating at whole individual, inter-individual and inter-group levels, (ii) the social, evolutionary and developmental influences on the acquisition of skills and knowledge, (iii) how individuals exist in society and the social influences on individuals, (iv) the impact of evolution, individual history and history of inter-group relations in the development of psychological processes, (v) social and cognitive evolution of thought processes, (vi) the relationship between communication and cognition.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Tuesday.

Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 30%, 2 Hour Examination = 70%

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PS3011 Social, Evolutionary and Developmental Psychology II

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module is designed to further understanding developed by PS3010. This module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge at large-scale levels of analysis. Thus the module includes such topics as: (i) psychological processes operating at whole individual, inter-individual and inter-group levels, (ii) the social, evolutionary and developmental influences in the acquisition of skills and knowledge, (iii) how individuals exist in society and the social influences on individual, (iv) the impact of evolution, individual history and history of inter-group relations on the development of psychological processes, (v) social and cognitive evolution of thought processes, (vi) the relationship between communication and cognition.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Thursday.

Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3012 Conceptual Issues and Individual Differences in Psychology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Anti-requisite: PS3006

Description: The aim of the module is to introduce students to two important areas of psychology (i) conceptual and historical issues surrounding psychological theory and measurement and (ii) the nature of and factors influencing individual psychological differences. The module will be taught via lectures and seminars including student presentations. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical thinking and the ability to relate conceptual debates in psychology to issues in the real world.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am and 2.00 - 5.00 pm.

Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 30%, 2 Hour Examination = 70%

PS3021 Research Design and Analysis I

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module is designed to provide a basic understanding of research design and statistics that will provide the foundations for independent empirical research and critical analysis required in the final year of the Honours programme. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of design and analysis skills and an understanding of the underlying philosophy that guides research. The syllabus will include core aspects such as ethical issues in research, basic statistics, technical writing and the use of statistical packages.

Class Hour: 9.00 am - 12.00 noon Friday.

Teaching: One lecture and one 2 hour laboratory class or seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, 2 Hour Examination = 60%

PS3022 Research Design and Analysis 2

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: PS3021

Description: This module is designed to provide a more advanced understanding of research design and statistics. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of analytical skills covering typical research situations encountered in the behavioural sciences. The syllabus will include advanced analysis of variance, multivariate statistics and non-parametric statistics, as well as training in computerised data analysis and presentation.

Class Hour: 9.00 am - 12.00 noon Friday.

Teaching: One lecture and one 2 hour laboratory class or seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, 2 Hour Examination = 60%

PS4040 Psychology Review

Credits: 10.0 Semester: Whole Year

Co-requisite: PS3021 and PS3022.

Description: This module will foster the abilities needed to search, collate and integrate an extensive area of psychological literature. Emphasis will be placed on analytical and methodological issues, and this module therefore complements PS3021 and PS3022. A systematic approach to the analysis of a specific body of literature will be encouraged. Students are invited to identify preferred subject matters so long as they fall within the area of the supervisor's expertise. Supervision will be given to aid students in the collation, planning and organisational phases of their work. The review will be limited to 5,000 words.

Assessment: Review = 100%

PS4050 Psychology Project

Credits: 30.0 Semester: Whole Year

Prerequisites: PS4040, PS3021 and PS3022

Description: The aim of the project is to develop and foster the skills of experimental design, appropriate research management and statistical analysis. A wide choice of topics is possible, but the skills developed in modules PS3021, PS3022 and PS4040 are an essential preparation. The empirical part of the project may be conducted with another student, to allow greater research scope and the choice of more realistic problems, but all analysis and report-writing must be carried out individually. Topics range over all areas of psychology under active investigation in the School, and effort is made to arrange for students to work in one of their preferred areas.

Assessment: 6,000 word Project = 100%

PS4060 Review Essay

Credits: 15.0 Semester: Whole Year

Prerequisite: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: In this module candidates will choose a title from a range of topics and questions and write an unsupervised review essay addressing it. Titles will be designed to allow candidates both to tackle an issue of current active interest in psychology and to display their ability to appreciate links between material from different areas of psychological inquiry.

Teaching: This is an unsupervised assignment

Assessment: 5,000 Word Dissertation = 100%

PS4064 Working Memory

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module will have both a theoretical and an applied aspect. It will illustrate how cognitive models are developed, what type of evidence is important in sustaining this development and the weight of evidence required to significantly alter the direction of such development. In its theoretical aspect, the module will investigate an influential model of memory - the Working Memory Model. The model is wide-ranging with aspects concerned with verbal and visual memory and with attention. Increasingly, there is neuropsychological input to the model's development. In its applied aspects, the module will acknowledge the fact that WM is often used as a theoretical backdrop to our understanding of a variety of different "real life" matters. Teaching will be based on seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their own extensive reading. Emphasis will be placed on development of the skill of critical evaluation of research reports, and those skills necessary for going beyond current topics into future directions of research.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

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PS4065 Visual Perception

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module will include lectures and seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their own extensive reading and reviewing of research papers. The aim of the module is to develop an advanced understanding of visual recognition and its functions. Emphasis will be placed on development of the skill of critical evaluation of evidence and theory. Topics will be selected from those of particular current interest in visual processing (e.g. information conveyed by the face). The module emphasises the biological underpinnings of perception and will draw on evidence from a variety of experimental methods (e.g. neuroscience and psychophysics).

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4066 Neural Modelling

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Normally available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an understanding of some of the fundamental principles of brain function in terms of the information processing involved in psychological phenomena and working models of specific neural circuits in the brain. Teaching will be based on seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their extensive reading. Emphasis will be placed on developing the skill of critical evaluation of research reports, and those skills necessary for going beyond current topics into future directions of research. There will be some flexibility on the choice of topics to be covered by the seminars, but they may include some of the following topics: models of processes involved in perception, memory, neural organisation (e.g. neural maps), the representation of information and knowledge (e.g. neural coding and decoding) and models of cognitive processes.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4069 Group Behaviour

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an advanced understanding of selected topics relating to the psychology of groups and collective behaviour. It will address how behaviour is affected by the group context and examine the psychological mechanisms which shape how people act as group members. Teaching will be seminar based and students will be expected to read independently and contribute actively to sessions. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical skills and the ability to relate individual studies and theories to broader conceptual debates in social psychology. More detailed module content will be announced in advance of student choices.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4071 Behavioural Neuroscience

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: The overall aim of this module is to allow students access to current research in the area of behavioural neuroscience. Possible topics include motivation, learning and attention. Past themes explored in the module include: the relationship between ‘normal’ learning and addiction; the transition from goal-directed action to stimulus-response habit; the neural basis of compulsive gambling; the efficacy of biological treatments of addiction; and the behavioural and neural effects of MDMA (‘ecstasy’). Results from both human and animal research will be considered in parallel, with examples of papers ranging from molecular neuroscience to neuropsychology. The format of the module will include lectures (which are designed to provide the students with the background necessary to read research articles); guided seminars and student presentations summarising research articles. In order to maximise the benefits of the students’ presentations, each student will meet with the lecturer at least twice to discuss the topic and content of their talk.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4074 Cognitive Psychology and the Emotional Disorders

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module is designed to demonstrate how theories from cognitive psychology can enhance our understanding of the emotional disorders. Teaching will be based on individual seminar presentations followed by class discussion. In the presentations students will be expected to review and critically evaluate original research. Seminars will focus on topics such as autobiographical memory and depression, autobiographical memory and anxiety, attentional bias in depression and anxiety, and interpretative biases in depression and anxiety. At the end of the seminar series, students should understand how depression and anxiety can be differentiated on the basis of these biases.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4075 Animal Communication and Language

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This seminar-based module will go over current research to determine the cognitive abilities necessary for human language and how these abilities have evolved. Topics will include linguistic and biological approaches to language evolution, linguistic diversity, design and evolution of signals, natural and artificial communication systems, and the cognitive abilities underlying communication and language. Students will be expected to lead discussions based on a selection of empirical and theoretical research articles in order to acquire a detailed knowledge of the state-of-the-art of the field.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am.

Teaching: Two seminar hours.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%.

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PS4080 Social Memory

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: Only available to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an advanced understanding of the role of memory in everyday life. In particular it will consider the latest theoretical and methodological advances in the study of memory for self and for others drawing upon studies from the social, cognitive, and social neuroscience literatures. Core theoretical issues such as memory updating, memory malleability, and the role of memory in identity will be considered alongside a range of practical everyday problems and possible solutions. Teaching will be seminar based and students will be expected to read independently and contribute actively to sessions. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical skills and the ability to relate individual studies and theories to broader conceptual debates in psychology and issues in the real world.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4083 Psychology of Music

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: Only available to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: The aim of the module is to introduce students to psychological processes underlying music perception, cognition, and performance. The relationship between musical phenomena and mental functions will be illustrated. The module will cover different aspects of music perception including psychoacoustics and sound perception, music cognition including music memory emotion and expectancies, skilled performance as well as abnormalities in music perception and performance. The module will be taught in the form of seminars including student presentations. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical thinking and the ability to relate conceptual debates in psychology to issues in the real world.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS4084 Psychology of Visual Art

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: Only available to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module will explore the value and limitations of a scientific approach to understanding visual art, and the extent to which a neurological theory of aesthetic experience is possible. These questions will be addressed from evolutionary, cognitive and neurological perspectives. Examples of specific topics that will be tackled include: can the appreciation of art be reduced to a set of physiological responses?; is it possible to describe laws of aesthetic experience?; can particular works or art be understood in terms of the known properties of the visual system?; what happens to visual artists with neuropsychological deficits? The module will be based on a critical analysis of contemporary scientific studies in the field.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%