

Programme Specification

MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: C801

UFAPPYCLIN

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	British Psychological Society (BPS)

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a solid grounding in the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology as a social and biological science, and to concepts and evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation. In addition, students are provided with the practical and clinical skills required to work as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP). The programme has double accreditations from the British Psychological Society, with Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership and to practice as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP). Students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to chosen areas of interest, increasing their degree of choice and independence as they move through the programme. Students study current research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues - and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out themselves, with staff research expertise providing stimulation, guidance and high-quality laboratory facilities. Throughout the programme students will build their knowledge of current and historical issues and approaches in psychology and develop a critical understanding of ethical issues in research and in professional practice. Students graduate with an integrated Masters award.

During the course of their studies at University of Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic, personal and professional skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, self-awareness, personal effectiveness, use of IT, critical thinking and problem-solving, project management and reporting and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to the British Psychological Society core areas, including Research Methods, as well as a choice of additional psychology modules, or modules from across the University.
Part 2:	Provides you with an in-depth level of knowledge and understanding of the BPS core areas, and focused training in developing practical skills such as conducting experiments, collecting and analysing data, observation techniques, interview

	skills and psychometric testing. Skills in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy are also included in Part 2.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to more specialist areas, offering you an unparalleled choice of Part 3 optional modules led by experts in those fields. You will also design and implement your own research project.
Part 4:	In Part 4 students become specialised in clinical work, completing clinical placements and taught modules supporting clinical practice. At the end of Part 4, students who meet the necessary requirements are accredited as BPS PWP.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY1APP	APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	20	4
PY1DMH	DEBATES IN MENTAL HEALTH	20	4
PY1IPR	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH	20	4
PY1LAL	LEARNING ABOUT LEARNING	20	4
PY1PAB	THE PERSON AND THE BRAIN	20	4

Students must select a further 20 credits from a list of optional modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY2CBP	COGNITIVE AND BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY	20	5
PY2DAL	DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN	20	5
PY2FIT	Introduction to CBT	20	5
PY2RMP	RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY	20	5
PY2SID	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES	20	5

Students take a further 20 credits from a list of modules provided by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students may have the opportunity to study abroad during Part 2 of the programme. In order to qualify for BPS GBC, students on Study Abroad are required to meet the criteria listed below except point 1, where they must pass PY2RMP+PY2DAL+PY2SID with at least 40% per module, plus take and pass the equivalent of 20 credits of modules covering

Cognitive and Biological Psychology at their host institution, with the agreement of the Study Abroad advisor.

Note that students studying abroad will be required to complete the spring term of PY2RMP via distance learning whilst at their host institution.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY3CCP	Communicating Current Psychology	20	6
PY3P	Project	40	6

Students will normally take 60 credits of optional modules from a list provided by the School. Students may take a maximum of 20 credits of optional modules from outside Psychology, with the advice and permission of the Programme Director.

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY40PL	Placement	60	7
PY4EAA	Engagement and Assessment of Common Mental Health Problems	20	7
PY4TRT	Evidence Based Low Intensity Treatment of Common Mental Health Problems	20	7
PY4VEC	Values, Employment and Context	20	7

All modules at Part 4 of the programme are compulsory.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £100 to £200 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Chargeable printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

All students have the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of PY40PL.

In order to undertake clinical placements, you will be required to have an enhanced criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service, which is organised by the University. You are also required to disclose any relevant criminal convictions accrued after you start the programme.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will experience a range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the subjects you will study and the overall objective of the programme. In Part 1 and Part 2 modules are taught in a variety of ways, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and lab classes. There are also a range of resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including online discussion boards. At part 3 there continue to be lectures, but the majority of part 3 options are taught via seminars. Research Methods teaching is supported by interactive workshops and specialist drop-in sessions. Throughout the programme you will complete practical work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 projects). Modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Coursework includes essays, project reports, reflective writing, oral and poster presentations, portfolios and weekly continuous assessment questions.

Over an academic year, you will spend approximately 200-300 hours in lectures, seminars, online discussions or practical classes. The remaining time is for your independent study, completing coursework and preparing for assessments.. Contact hours vary in each year of the degree. In Part 1 and 2 contact hours are between 300-350 hours per year; in Part 4 the majority of time is spent on placement, plus contact hours between 150-200 hours per year. In Part 4 contact hours are between 200-300 hours per year. Hours depend upon your module combination; information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC)

To qualify for BPS GBC, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1PAB & PY1LAL
2. Achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY2RMP + PY2CBP + PY2SID + PY2DAL (see progression rules for further details and study abroad section if relevant)
2. Pass PY3P with a minimum of 40%
3. Gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree

To be eligible to undertake the Part 4 PWP element of the programme, students must pass PY2FIT with a minimum of 40%

In order to qualify to practice as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP), students must meet the Part 4 requirements of accreditation as a PWP as outlined below.

- (i) a module mark of at least 50% in PY40PL, PY4EAA, PY4TRT and PY4VEC
- (ii) a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for 'pass/fail' assessments) in all assessments in PY4EAA, PY4TRT and PY4VEC
- (iii) students must have attended 80% of the teaching days in each module of Part 4 of the programme.

Fitness to Practise and Disclosure & Barring Service Checks

In order to undertake clinical placements as part of the PWP accreditation, students will be required to have an enhanced criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service as part of the admissions process. Students are also required to disclose any relevant criminal convictions accrued after students start the programme. Students may also be asked to complete a health check to demonstrate appropriate health and vaccination status to complete clinical placements. Students are required to inform the School of Psychology any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability to continue their studies. Students are also expected to maintain behaviours associated with a healthcare professional and must abide by University regulations, the University Fitness to Practice Policy, the Health Care Professions Council Standards for Conduct, Ethics and Performance, and Student Code of Conduct. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practice processes.

Assessment

Throughout the programme you will complete practical work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 project). During Part 4 you will work towards BPS PWP accreditation through on-placement learning and interactive taught sessions. Modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal

examination. Coursework includes essays, project reports, oral and poster presentations, portfolios and weekly continuous assessment questions.

Progression requirements

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows:

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory modules (PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1LAL, PY1PAB, PY1APP).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student should normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2 and

- (iv) obtain a module mark of at least 40% in all modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY2CBP, PY2DAL, PY2RMP, PY2SID); and
- (v) obtain a module mark of at least 40% for PY2FIT; and
- (v) achieve an overall average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at level 5 or above)

Students who meet threshold and (iv) above, but who do not meet (v) and/or (vi) may transfer to BSc Psychology.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 3

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) an average of 40% over 120 credits taken in part 3; and
- (ii) achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PY3P.

Students who do not meet the requirements to progress to Part 4 of the MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical) but who meet the requirements specified in section the Assessment Handbook: Bachelor's (for cohorts entering in 2022/23 and onwards) may be eligible for the award of BSc Psychology. The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification for the BSc Psychology is:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two thirds.

Please note that the award of BSc Psychology confers eligibility for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC) but does not confer eligibility for practise as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP).

Part 4

To obtain the MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical), a student shall normally be required to have satisfied all of the above progression requirements and to achieve the following in Part 4:

- (i) a module mark of at least 50% in PY40PL, PY4EAA, PY4TRT and PY4VEC
- (ii) a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for 'pass/fail' assessments) in all assessments in PY4EAA, PY4TRT and PY4VEC.
- (iii) students must have attended 80% of the teaching days in each module of Part 4 of the programme.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the award of MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical) described above, but who meet the requirements for the award of an Integrated Masters degree (as described in the Assessment Handbook: Section 18) will be eligible for the award of MSci Psychology. The classification for this exit award will be based upon the following weighting: Part 2: 20%, Part 3: 40%, Part 4: 40%. Please note that the exit award of MSci Psychology confers eligibility for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for

Chartered Membership (BPS GBC) but does not confer eligibility for practise as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP).

Students who do not meet the requirements for obtaining the MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical) or MSci Psychology, may be eligible for the award of BSc Psychology. The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification for the BSc Psychology is:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two thirds.

Please note that the award of BSc Psychology confers eligibility for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC) but does not confer eligibility for practise as a Psychological Well-being Practitioner (PWP).

Classification

Integrated Master's degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
0% - 39%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Integrated Master's programmes (MSci, MEng, MMath, MChem, MEnvSci, etc.)

Part 2 20%

Part 3 40%

Part 4 40%

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSci Applied Psychology (Clinical) for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24
23 October 2024

© The University of Reading 2024