

Programme Specification

BSc Psychology with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

UCAS Code: C802

UFPSYCHFY

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
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year (Part 0) students will be eligible for transfer onto one of the suite of Undergraduate Programmes, accredited with British Psychological Society: Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership

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. 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.

During the course of their studies at the 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.

Foundation year:	The Foundation Year provides you with the skills and knowledge required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in psychology, by taking two psychology focused modules. You will also take a module in academic skills and will select from a list of optional modules taught within the broader university. These modules
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	will equip you with the skills necessary to excel at University. The goal of the Foundation Year is to provide each student with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to Higher Education.
Part 1:	Introduces you to the British Psychological Society core areas, including Psychological Research Methods, and aims to build students' understanding of the ways in which the various core topics in psychology interrelate. In addition to compulsory modules students choose one optional module from the School, or from 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.
Placement/Study abroad year:	All students complete a compulsory placement in Part 2, and there are additional opportunities for a further optional placement within the programme. Students can study abroad in the Spring term of Part 2 or can visit our campus in Malaysia for either Autumn or Spring term of 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.

Module information

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

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IFORAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0
PY0FIR	Foundation Introduction to Psychological Research	20	0
PY0FTP	Foundation Topics in Psychology	40	0

Your remaining 40 credits will be made up from the selection of optional modules which will be chosen from a list of foundation year modules offered from various Schools across the University.

International Students take IFOACA (Academic Skills), in place of IFORAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IFOACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

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

PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1PAB & PY1LAL are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

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
PY2PCP	Professional and Clinical Practice	20	5
PY2RMP	Research methods in Psychology	20	5
PY2SID	Social Psychology and Individual Differences	20	5

PY2RMP, PY2CBP, PY2DAL & PY2SID are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

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 in the section on Accreditation 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.

Students on BSc Psychology with Professional Placement will undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

Part 2 (continued) modules:

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

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Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY3CCP	Communicating Current Psychology	20	6

And either:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY3P	Project	40	6
or			
PY3EP	Extended Project	40	6

PY3P or PY3EP are required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

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.

Students taking the Year-long Placement within the School may replace PY3P with PY3EP, with permission from the Programme Director and Placement Supervisor.

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.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

All students have the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of PY2PCP. Students must secure their own placement, with the advice and support of the School Placement Officer.

There may be further opportunities within the programme to undertake an additional, optional placement.

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 0, 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 0 and Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 project). 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 taught classes. The remaining time is for your independent study, completing coursework and preparing for assessments. Most direct teaching occurs in the Autumn and Spring terms and so you will find that you spend more time than average in class in these terms. 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 3 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

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

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

1. Pass PY1IPR + PY1DMH + PY1LAL + PY1PAB with a minimum of 40% (see progression rules for further details).
2. Pass PY2RMP + PY2CBP + PY2SID + PY2DAL with a minimum of 40% (see progression rules for further details); except when they have taken Study Abroad (see above for details)
3. Pass PY3P or PY3EP with a minimum of 40%
4. Gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree

Assessment

Throughout the programme you will complete practical work, either in large groups (Part 0 and Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 project). 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

Part 0 (Foundation Year)

To gain an overall threshold performance at Part 0 a student shall normally be required to:

1. an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
2. no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
3. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module (IF0RAS or IF0ACA)

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 of this programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

1. at least 55% in PY0FTP and the remaining optional 40 credits
2. an average of at least 40% in the remaining two compulsory modules
3. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module (IF0RAS or IF0ACA); and
4. no module mark below 35%

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

To gain an overall threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to:

- (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 modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY1IPR, PY1DMH, PY1LAL, PY1PAB).

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;
- (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 marks of at least 40% in all modules required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (PY2RMP, PY2CBP, PY2DAL, PY2SID).

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.

To be eligible for Honours students must pass PY3P Project or PY3EP Extended Project module.

Classification

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
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

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

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(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.

BSc Psychology with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2023/24
15 September 2023

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