

Programme Specification

BA Psychology and Philosophy

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: CV85

UFPYXPP

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	3 years
Accreditation	British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA Quality Code for Higher Education 2018 and FHEQ level 6

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, cognitive, and biological science to help us explain human behaviour.

In the first two years, you will develop knowledge of psychological concepts and their supporting evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation (BPS). In the third year, you will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge to chosen areas of interest, increasing your degree of choice and independence as you move through the programme. You will learn about historical and cutting-edge research - its methods, applications and unresolved issues, and learn how to evaluate research and carry it out yourself, with staff research expertise providing stimulation, guidance and high-quality laboratory facilities.

Throughout the programme, you will build your knowledge of current and historical issues and approaches in psychology and develop a critical understanding of ethical issues in research and in professional practice.

In Philosophy, we provide a firm foundation from the start of your learning journey to progress towards gaining a comprehensive degree-level education. Throughout your studies, we offer inclusive learning opportunities so that you can engage with a diverse range of philosophical traditions, learn about current debates in philosophy, and develop a sense of the significance of philosophical thinking in dealing with modern problems. We encourage you to confront your deepest beliefs and assumptions in a characteristically philosophical way, to enhance your global engagement and multi-cultural awareness. We help you to shape your programme to your interests and strengths, and to acquire, develop and master skills such as critical thinking, philosophical argument, communication, presentation, and problem-solving.

In following this programme, you will have the opportunity to develop various skills, in particular relating to research methods, 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 the curriculum.	
Part 1:	Introduces you to the British Psychological Society core areas, including Psychological Research Methods, and aims to build your understanding of the ways in which the various core topics in psychology interrelate. In addition to compulsory modules, you will choose one optional module. You will also be introduced to some of the core topics of philosophy and the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, basic logic, and the psychology of reasoning.
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. In Philosophy, you will gain a deeper awareness of current philosophers, of the skills of argument and presentation, and of the methodology of Philosophy. There is a greater emphasis on developing skills of research and enquiry and to presenting arguments in public meetings in an effective way, anticipating and responding to questions, and using a range of means of communication including speaking, summary-writing, essay-writing, presenting, and designing slides.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students can study abroad in semester 2 of Part 2. Students can visit our campus in Malaysia for Semester 1 of Part 2.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to more specialist areas, offering you a wide choice of Part 3 optional modules led by experts in those fields. You will also design and implement your own research project in Psychology. In Philosophy, this year provides the opportunity to develop mastery of Philosophy across a wider range of different conceptions of what counts as 'Philosophy'. The emphasis is on developing independent learning, personal effectiveness and self-awareness.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Psychology and Philosophy	
During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:	
	Learning outcomes
1	To demonstrate knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and evidence in six core domains of psychology: individual differences, biological, cognitive,

	developmental, and social psychology, and conceptual and historical issues in psychology.
2	To integrate knowledge from different fields of psychology, philosophy, and cognate areas.
3	To explain the practical applications of psychological and philosophical theory and research.
4	To use evidence-based reasoning to argue and critically evaluate a claim.
5	To demonstrate practical research skills in relation to data collection, data management and analysis using a broad variety of quantitative and qualitative methods.
6	To critically evaluate the design and conduct of psychological research.
7	To identify, discuss and address issues concerning ethics in research and professional practice.
8	Construct and communicate complex, rational and persuasive arguments in a philosophical way for a variety of purposes and audiences, in oral and written formats.
9	Explain ideas, theories, schools of thoughts and arguments of some of the key philosophers and major fields of historical or contemporary philosophy.
10	To plan, implement, analyse, and independently write up a substantial research project.
11	To demonstrate transferable skills including, teamwork, independent work, concise written and oral communication, organisational skills, the use of IT skills to write, present and visualise information.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

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
PP1RA	Reason and Argument	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 optional modules in Philosophy.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PY2CBP	Cognitive and Biological Psychology	20	5
PY2DAL	Development across the lifespan	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 must select a further 40 credits from optional modules in Philosophy.

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 semester 2 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
PY3P	Project	40	6

PY3P is required for British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (BPS GBC).

Students must select a further 80 credits of modules from the list available from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science, 20 credits in Psychology and 60 credits in Philosophy. Students may not select PP3DIS Dissertation in Philosophy.

Optional Modules:

In semester 1, students select one 20 credit optional module in Psychology.

In semester 1 and semester 2, students select 3 x 20 credit optional modules in Philosophy from a selection of optional modules offered.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

There are opportunities to gain non-credit bearing placement and work experience throughout the programme.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Students will have the opportunity to learn from academic staff that are passionate about teaching and experts in their field. Our strategy to teaching and learning is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, support and opportunities to apply their learning in order to thrive in a global workplace.

Students are required to attend programme sessions and engage in independent learning activities, such as engaging in readings, preparing for sessions, using available staff drop-in hours, and maintaining contact with their academic tutor.

Students will experience a diverse range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the subjects they will study and the overall aims of the programme. In

Part 1 and Part 2 modules are taught in a variety of ways, including interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and lab classes. All of the core teaching materials will also be available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, in which everything such as lecture and seminar slides, screencasts, to external supporting materials are stored. Blackboard also features forums and online discussion boards where students can ask questions and discuss ideas. At Part 3 there continue to be interactive lectures and seminars.

The Research Methods teaching is supported by a mixture of interactive workshops, practicals and specialist drop-in sessions. Throughout the programme students will complete practical research work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 project).

Each module's assessable learning outcomes are typically assessed by a mixture of authentic assessments and formal examination. Authentic assessments include, essays, project reports, reflective writing, oral and poster presentations, portfolios and continuous assessment questions. Contact hours vary in each year of the degree.

Hours depend upon each student's module combination; information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Most modules are delivered and assessed within one semester (either semester 1 or 2). Only a small number of modules that include the delivery of research methods and professional skills are delivered throughout both semesters.

Throughout all years of taught content, we scaffold our students' practical, transferable and intellectual skills development enabling students to grow and further develop. Students will also learn about different careers in Psychology throughout their modules and will be encouraged to reflect on how they are developing transferrable skills across the programme.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated 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 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 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. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

- (iv) 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.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance; 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.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' 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

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 study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

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 £125 to £225 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. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

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.

BA Psychology and Philosophy for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
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