Programme Specification

MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time)	PFTZPSYCONHM
MSc Psychology Conversion (part-time)	PPTZPSYCONHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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	MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time) - 12 months MSc Psychology Conversion (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	British Psychological Society (BPS) Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The overall aim of this programme is to provide you with a solid grounding in all areas of psychology and psychological research within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation (BPS).

In the first semester, you will learn about classic psychological experiments that have shaped the discipline over the 20th century, providing foundational knowledge of psychology to build upon throughout the rest of the programme. The first semester will also teach you about developmental psychology, social & individual differences, and quantitative research methods & statistics. You will have the opportunity to apply newly taught content and skills to your own small research project, as you develop, manage, analyse and write-up this small research project in developmental psychology.

In the second semester, you will learn about qualitative research methods, cognitive & biological psychology with the aim of increasing your breadth of knowledge of psychology as a whole. You will again have the opportunity to refine your research skills further by applying your knowledge and skills to another small research project in the area of cognitive & biological psychology. In the second semester, you will also begin your research dissertation (project).

During the summer, you will undertake the majority of your project work, and placement (if you have chosen this option). This will provide you with the opportunity to apply your knowledge to a chosen area of interest for your large research project, providing you with the skills and confidence towards becoming an independent researcher. It is expected that by the end of the summer, you will have an excellent knowledge of psychological concepts and their supporting evidence, and have the necessary research skills to evaluate and conduct empirical research independently.

Over the course of your studies, you will be expected to enhance your academic, personal and professional skills. In addition to the core modules mentioned above, you will have the choice of an optional module of 20 credits, one of which is a professional placement in which you can gain hands-on experience.

In addition to core knowledge of psychology and research, you will have the opportunity to develop numerous skills, in particular relating to conducting experimental psychology, 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 be encouraged to further develop and enhance such skills through a variety of opportunities available outside the curriculum.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time)

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 a systematic knowledge and critical 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 demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques with practical applications of psychological theory and research
3	To use evidence-based reasoning to argue and critically evaluate a claim
4	To apply practical research skills and understanding to create and interpret knowledge and research findings
5	To critically evaluate current knowledge, including issues such as the design and conduct of psychological research
6	To identify, discuss and address issues concerning ethics in research and professional practice
7	To demonstrate a range of skills relevant to professional psychology, such as independent learning, critical evaluation (e.g., of psychological research), concise written and oral communication, and organisational skills
8	To demonstrate reflectiveness and self-awareness, drawing on both psychological literature and personal learning experience

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.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYM0EP	Empirical Project	60	M
PYMCCBP	Cognitive and Biological Psychology (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCDAL	Development Across the Lifespan (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCIS	Influential Studies in Psychology (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCRMP	Research Methods and Data Analysis (Conversion)	20	M
PYMCSID	Social Psychology and Individual Differences (Conversion)	20	M

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

Part-time students may also choose the following 0-credit module in their first year of studies:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYMPPP	Preparing part-time students for placement	0	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete modules totalling no less than 80 credits and no more than 100 credits. In the first year of study, students will be required to complete the compulsory modules PYMCRMP and PYMCIS. In the second year of study, students will be required to complete the compulsory module PYM0EP. All other Compulsory and Optional modules can be completed in either the first or second year of study. Modules must be begun and completed in the same academic year. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Placement opportunities

Opportunity for first-hand research or clinical involvement is available on this course (via the optional placement module offered). Students will be offered a placement in either the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science or one of our internal/external partners, e.g., the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN) offering training and experience in state-of-the-art neuroimaging, psychophysiological and related techniques.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

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

Teaching and learning will be delivered by research-active experts able to share their knowledge and practical experience. The approach is intended to ensure that students are immersed in a research environment.

To achieve the PLOs, a range of approaches to teaching and learning will be used, with the intention that students will gain experience of a variety of activities enabling them to develop different skills. In-person teaching will comprise of lectures, workshops, drop-in sessions and seminars, during which students will participate in group activities and discussions and gain hands-on experience of specific research techniques. Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology, which will complement in-person teaching.

Students will gain practical experience of conducting research by undertaking an empirical research project. Students will be closely supervised by an academic who will guide them through each stage of research, from generating a research question through data collection and analysis, to writing a dissertation.

All students will be assigned an Academic Tutor for the duration of their study, who will provide guidance throughout their student journey.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

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

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

In order to be eligible for the BPS Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, students must pass the MSc with a pass mark of at least 50% and pass the empirical psychology project (PYM0EP).

Assessment

Modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Coursework includes essays, project reports, oral and poster presentations, and weekly continuous assessment questions.

Activities will be introduced at appropriate points across the semester to give students assessment-relevant practice and opportunities for formative feedback in preparation for the summative assessment. A variety of formative feedback will be used, including group-level feedback, peer feedback and written/oral feedback on drafts.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction
60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:
40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

Note that, in order to be eligible for the BPS Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, students must pass the MSc with a pass mark of at least 50% and pass the empirical psychology project (PYM0EP).

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits
AND
Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits
AND
No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

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

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

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

Additional costs of the programme
N/A

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the DTS Student Hub.

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.

MSc Psychology Conversion (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28
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