

Programme Specification

BA Art and Psychology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: CW81

UFFAXPY

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 Graduate Basis of Registration
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Art and Design; Psychology

Programme information and content

The BA Art & Psychology is a unique four-year programme accredited by the British Psychological Society that brings together creative practice in Art with competency in Psychology, helping you to become a skilful, informed, and thoughtful creator and accredited psychologist. Your learning on this programme supports sustained experimentation and creative enquiry in practical studio modules alongside complementary studies to introduce, develop and master skills and knowledge of art and psychology.

In Art, the programme aims to provide you with the tools to develop, make and present art. It fosters investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study, discussion and practice of contemporary art and its global histories. You will be guided by the diversity of staff expertise in intellectual and technical production to find your own forms and expressions, and to help you to become a skilled and confident creative practitioner.

In Psychology you are introduced to the wide range of approaches that constitute modern Psychology, and to concepts and evidence within the domains of the subject required for British Psychological Society accreditation. 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.

The programme plays a vital role in connecting how people understand and shape the world, and so sustainability, accessibility and social engagement are thoroughly embedded into your studies. You will explore how creative practitioners, scholars and analysts respond to and shape our rapidly changing world and develop your ability to make psychologically engaged and creatively ambitious work.

The programme is excellent preparation for further study at postgraduate level. Graduates have found that the specific and transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter professions across the cultural field or psychology.

Part 1:	Art introduces you to a range of art making approaches and current discourses through a series of practical projects in different media. Psychology 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.
Part 2:	Part 2 Art provides you with the opportunity to develop your own art project in the studio guided by a series of individual skills training and the opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge and understanding of art historical issues. Psychology provides you with an in-depth level of knowledge and understanding of the BPS core areas, and focused training in developing practical skills including conducting experiments and collecting and analysing data. Part 2i Art provides you with the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of Part 2 through increasingly independent art practice and its relation to art history and theory. In Psychology you will take one compulsory module that is required for BPS accreditation as well as one advanced optional module in psychology. There is the opportunity for a semester abroad at the university's Malaysia campus (subject to availability).
Part 3:	Art facilitates your mastery of a sustained and focused studio practice with an emphasis on independent research, critical reflection, production and presentation skills. In Psychology you will design and implement your own empirical project (dissertation) as required by the British Psychological Society.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Art and Psychology

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	Share knowledge of the diversity of art practices, and identify, articulate and reflect the particularity of materials, media, techniques and processes.

2	Show imaginative, and critical understanding and engagement of fine art practices in their relation to their histories, the contemporary field, current critical theories and discourses and relevant cultural and/or other contexts.
3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding 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.
4	Integrate knowledge from different fields of psychology and cognate areas and to use evidence-based reasoning to argue and critically evaluate a claim.
5	Demonstrate an understanding of practical applications of psychological theory and research.
6	Initiate self-directed processes adopt and refine experimentation and risk-taking strategies as an intuitive approach to develop ideas, practices and outcomes.
7	Use materials, media and techniques in informed, effective and skilful ways, committing to sustainability, responsibility and safety.
8	Develop practical research skills in relation to data collection, data management and analysis using a broad variety of quantitative and qualitative methods and to critically evaluate the design and conduct of psychological research.
9	Develop awareness of issues concerning ethics in research and professional practice.
10	Plan, implement, analyse, and independently write up a substantial research project.
11	Develop transferable skills including, teamwork, independent work, concise written and oral communication, organisational skills, the use of IT skills to write, present and visualise information.
12	Engage actively in seeking and building new networks and peer relationships to develop and expand self and others in imaginative, meaningful and ethical ways.

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
FA1ART	Art Studio	40	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 with English as a second language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2ART	Art Studio 2	40	5
PY2CBP	Cognitive and Biological Psychology	20	5
PY2RMP	Research methods in Psychology	20	5
PY2SID	Social Psychology and Individual Differences	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Reading School of Art.

Part 2 (continued) modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA2IART	Art Studio 2b	60	5
PY2DAL	Development across the lifespan	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of ONE optional module from a choice of optional modules from the School of Psychology in Semester 1 and ONE optional module from a list of Reading School of Art approved modules in Semester 2.

Students taking a semester abroad at the university's Malaysia campus in Semester 1 will take FA2IARS instead of FA2IART.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FA3ARTB	Art Studio 3b	80	6
PY3PAP	Project for Art and Psychology	40	6

Placement 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:

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 objectives of the joint programme.

Student-centered learning in **Art** is situated within the art studio, your shared learning space, where you study amongst students from your programme; this core learning environment is informed by group work, collaboration and peer exchange, fostering inclusive and diverse debate.

Your learning experience will involve a mix of lectures, asynchronous recorded content and small-group seminar discussion. In Art, your learning will be initially guided through set practical projects, group and one-to-one feedback and weekly seminars. You will have the opportunity to be inducted in workshop facilities, technical and Health & Safety training. In addition, there are directed study visits to museums and galleries. Further academic guidance is given through oral and written feedback as part of a series of scheduled meetings with your Academic Tutor.

In part 2 and 2i your learning will be increasingly self-directed, supported by further training in skills and the deepening of your expertise through exhibiting your artwork, the visiting artist lectures and optional study visits. At this part you have increased optionality to support your own individual study path, your interests and strengths to allow you to bridge the two subjects. In part 3 in Art you extend your learning towards mastering your skills and knowledge in a final exhibition.

In **Psychology** in Part 1 and Part 2 modules are taught in a variety of ways, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and lab classes.

At Part 2i in Psychology there continues to be lectures, but the majority of part 3 options are taught via interactive lectures or seminars. Research Methods teaching is supported by interactive workshops, practicals and specialist drop-in sessions. Throughout the programme you will complete practical research work, either in large groups (Part 1) or in small groups or individually (Part 2 and Part 3 project).

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

For the BA Art & Psychology there are dedicated resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including online Psychology discussion boards.

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

BA Art & Psychology is accredited by the British Psychological Society and provides you with the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership.

Assessment

In Psychology, modules are typically assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; some modules are assessed 100% by coursework. Coursework includes essays, project reports, reflective writing, oral and poster presentations, and weekly continuous assessment questions.

Assessments in the Art are authentic to support your learning. Diverse and inclusive strategies provide real world professional practice and prepare you for the workplace.

Summative assessment points are predominantly coursework (no examinations) as a and combine a range of different assessment methods.

Practical modules support accumulative learning documented through portfolios of practice, combined with written reflective elements, and in larger credit modules, an end-of year group exhibition of your artwork.

Our studio assessment methods provide inclusive and diverse combinations that enable you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge relevant to your individual creative practice and strengths supported through detailed assessment handbooks.

Other forms, such as in-class tests, in-class discussions and oral presentations can be completed alone or with others, and may be presented online or in-person, providing inclusive opportunities for you to engage in your learning.

Academic research, writing and presentation skills are captured alongside knowledge acquisition through journals, essays, and reflective reports, culminating in a written dissertation or independent learning project.

Formative assessment as linked feedback and feedforward in studio modules consists of a series of exhibitions and a mid-module rehearsal of the summative assessment.

Formative assessments include a range of methods to build assessment literacy and competency, including assessment scheduling and briefings, self-assessment based on rubrics, peer-review, presentations, planning and drafting of written work, and revision of past samples of good practice.

Both summative and formative assessment volume and timing are distributed evenly across semesters and are shared from the beginning of the academic year.

Timely feedback and feedforward are both written and verbal:

In studio modules they are ongoing and continuous through one-to-one and small group tutorials; Every learning activity includes an embedded feedforward element.

In 20 credit modules feedback is attached to formative assignments and feedforward in-class advice and discussion or tutorials which support planning towards summative assessment.

Across the programme a series of scheduled Academic tutorials help acknowledge as well as join up and act on formative and summative feedback.

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; and
- (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 marks 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 considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

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 2i, 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, 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.

Part 2i

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 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 2i 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 (PY2DAL).

To be eligible for Honours, students must pass the module PY3PAP - Project for Art and Psychology.

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:

Four year programmes

Part 2: one-sixth

Part 2i: one-sixth

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

The Department of Art houses its own art supplies shop that provides a range of materials at subsidised prices. Equipment and software for video and digital media practices are all available to hire at no cost through our student media resource. Due to the individual nature of studio practice, the cost of materials throughout your programme will vary depending on your choice of media. At Part 1 most materials are provided by the department except where students wish to use specialist or unusual materials of their choice. In subsequent years we would suggest an approximate budget of £200 per year to cover basics. For the final year exhibition you may wish to invest more in materials. This is not a necessary requirement and advice should be sought from the module convenor. However a reasonable budgetary expectation would be an additional £200. In addition, students should budget approximately £100 per year for exhibition and museum trips.

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.

BA Art and Psychology for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

1 September 2026

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