Psychology in Education

Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours

BSc Psychology in Education

three years X301

Why study psychology in education at Bristol?

Our BSc Psychology in Education is an applied psychology degree that helps you understand how to use psychology in educational contexts. Students learn to apply psychological theory and research in real-life educational settings involving children, adolescents and adults. As well as increasing your understanding of psychology in education, you will develop broader skills and knowledge that will be relevant to a wide variety of future careers. Successful students will have an understanding of psychology in education that is well-rounded, evidence-based, flexible and highly relevant as a basis for professional development. In addition, the BPS accreditation will enable you to progress to professional training as a psychologist.

You will have the opportunity to develop your psychological research skills over the course of your degree, providing an excellent basis for exploring big questions in psychological and educational contexts. Our interactive and research-based approach to teaching will equip you with a range of transferable skills. You will also have the chance to apply your learning in practice, spending time in a school, community organisation or other setting where education matters.

The school is consistently ranked highly in national tables and our educational research is world leading. In the QS World University Rankings for education in 2018, we were ranked in the top 12 for Education in the UK.

You will be part of a vibrant and diverse community of staff and students in a school that has provided an excellent student experience for over 100 years. You will learn from and with inspiring researchers and committed teachers, making use of our excellent IT, teaching and library facilities, which are based at our school in Berkeley Square in the heart of Bristol, close to Clifton Village.

‘I am thoroughly enjoying my Psychology in Education degree and couldn’t recommend it more to anyone who has an interest in education and psychology. The units are exciting and the staff are passionate about the topics, creating a relaxed environment.’

Lucy (BSc Psychology in Education)
Year one
In your first-year core units you will be introduced to the key concepts and ways of thinking about and researching psychology in education. Optional units can be selected within the school or from a wide range of units offered elsewhere in the University.

Core units*
- Introduction to Psychology in Education
- Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology of Education (Part 1 and 2)
- Debates in Psychology of Education
- Education and Social Change.

You will meet your personal tutor in Welcome Week and they will support you throughout your three years at Bristol, working with you to develop academic study skills and to plan your professional development.

What will you study?

Year two
In your second year, core units will examine key areas of psychology in depth, focusing on how they can be applied in education. You will further develop your research skills through carrying out small-scale projects. You will also choose two optional units as you start to develop your own interests and expertise. Currently, options include Education in Practice, which involves a placement in a school or other education setting.

Core units*
- Social Psychology and Individual Differences
- Developmental and Educational Psychology
- Biological Psychology and Developmental Difference
- Cognitive Psychology and Special Education.

Two optional units from a selection, which may include:
- Education in Practice
- Language and Literacy: From Local to Global
- Principles of Quantitative Social Science in Education
- Curriculum Design for Learning
- Researching Education in the City
- Education Viewed from the Global South.

Year three
In your third year, you will be able to further develop your interests and expertise through a range of optional units taught by leading experts. You will showcase your expertise through an 8-10,000-word dissertation, allowing you to apply the research skills you have developed in your first and second years through an original research project.

Optional units may include:
- The Psychology of Social Differences and Educational Achievement
- Peace and Conflict Psychology
- Educational Evaluation
- Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination
- Building Powerful Knowledge
- International Assessment in Policy and Practice
- Pedagogies for Social Justice
- Children in a Global Context
- Digital Cultures and Participatory Learning.

Teaching methods
You will experience a wide range of teaching approaches designed to support your learning, including lectures, workshops, seminar discussion, guided independent study and tutorials. Seminars and workshop activities are designed to encourage you to collaborate with others, while individual and group presentations will help you develop confidence in communicating your ideas. A diverse range of assessment tasks will engage you in self-reflection and support your personal and professional development. Additionally, each of your lecturers offers times when they are available to discuss aspects of the course.

Assessment and feedback
Throughout the course you will receive supportive formative feedback from your tutors on your assignments and presentations. This will help you develop your skills and deepen your understanding. We use a wide range of assessments and few unseen exams, setting us apart from other programmes. Assessment formats including essays and research reports, debate participation and summaries, the use of blogs and reflective journals and poster and slide presentations. These are designed to help you build the skills required to successfully plan, carry out and report on a programme of original research. Our research-focused units link to the dissertation which you will undertake in your third year.
BSc Psychology in Education will give you Graduate Basis for Registration for the British Psychological Society (BPS), allowing graduates to apply for professional psychology training in careers including educational psychology, clinical psychology and counselling psychology.

It also offers excellent preparation for careers working with children, young people, schools and families and in settings where learning happens.

A number of our graduates may wish to remain with us to research educational questions at master’s level. Current areas of research specialism include game-based learning; neuroscience in education; assessment in education; reducing prejudice in education; and widening participation.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

Careers and graduate destinations

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Psychology in Education*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-education for other qualifications.

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC†) including B in an essay-based subject.

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 29†) including 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14†) with 5 at Higher Level in an essay-based subject.

English Language profile B††

GCSEs Higher numeracy requirement (B in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent).

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed students who have a genuine interest in applying psychology to educational contexts. We do not normally interview, so please demonstrate your commitment and suitability for the degree when writing your application form. You could show this by the way you talk about your own studies, work experience and other interests – what has interested you and why?

We welcome applications from mature students or candidates with non-standard qualifications. If you have non-standard qualifications, you may be invited to interview to better assess your suitability.

Further information
Find out more about the School of Education at the University of Bristol: bristol.ac.uk/education.
If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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