

# Psychology



**Undergraduate study**

## Courses

### Single Honours

#### **BSc Psychology**

three years C801

#### **MSci Psychology**

four years C802

#### **MSci Psychology with Innovation**

four years C804

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## Why study psychology at Bristol?

The basic curriculum of our Psychology degrees emphasises experimental methods. Our unified course comprises lectures, small-group tutorials, seminars, laboratory classes and computer sessions. All our teaching is research led, so you will learn from lecturers who are undertaking internationally renowned and cutting-edge research in major areas of psychology. Our particular strengths are in cognitive (developmental, language, memory and social) and biological (human brain and behaviour, vision, behavioural genetics) psychology. We also have strengths in computational neuroscience and neuropsychology.

You will have the opportunity to get involved in current research to enrich your experience and your research portfolio for the future. Through excellence in research and concern for relevant and contemporary issues, we ensure that our teaching and research fit seamlessly together.

Students at Bristol benefit from state-of-the-art laboratories, with facilities including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG) recording, eye tracking, sleep labs and a dedicated virtual reality environment.

Our Psychology degrees are recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as qualification for graduate registration, and our courses are specifically designed to meet its requirements.

**'The University's facilities are excellent for experimental psychology, as there is access to MRI scanners, EEG, eye tracking, sleep studies and computer labs. The libraries also have great facilities to study, find relevant resources and get help if needed.'**

Nadia (BSc Psychology)

# What will you study?

All our first-year students take three mandatory units, which introduce key concepts and approaches, and experimental methods and analysis plus an additional open unit chosen from a list of options available across the University. First-year lectures provide you with a strong foundation in developmental, cognitive, biological and social psychology. In our developmental unit for example, you will explore major theoretical perspectives covering the development of children from birth through to middle childhood, focusing on the development of perceptual, cognitive, linguistic and social skills.

Our psychological experiments and research methods units run in conjunction with our lecture units and provide you with experience and training in the investigation, analysis and reporting of a range of psychological phenomena.

Your lecture units are supported by small-group tutorials with your personal tutor, a member of academic staff who will meet with you fortnightly and help you develop your study and presentation skills to complement the taught content.

Our optional Research Apprenticeship scheme during year one provides pure, lab-based and applied research experience, in addition to ongoing participation in research throughout your degree.

## Year two

The second year builds on these foundations by covering core topics in greater depth in four taught units:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Developmental Psychology and Language
- Social Psychology and Individual Differences
- Biological Psychology.

These are assessed through written exams, essays and oral presentations. Your understanding of research methods and approaches to conducting psychological investigations will also progress to a more advanced level. Your laboratory work will be supported by instruction in more advanced techniques of statistical analysis and in the use of statistical software in preparation for your individual project work in year three.

## Year three

The third year is largely based on optional units. The taught component includes a range of lecture units, assessed by examination and coursework, and seminar-based units, assessed by oral presentation and written coursework. In these units you will encounter topics that emphasise detailed knowledge of contemporary psychological issues.

It is possible that units for future academic years may change, for example due to staff changes or developments in the field. Please see [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study) for the most up-to-date information.

The third year also involves one other major piece of work: your empirical project. Here you will carry out an original piece of independent research, supervised by a member of staff. These investigations may be laboratory-based, or you may carry out your research in a local school, hospital or business organisation. As in previous years of study, your lecture units are supported by small-group tutorials and seminars, the University's online learning environment (Blackboard), and independent reading. Your personal tutor remains with you for the duration of the degree and is available to discuss any issue.

## Assessment

We use a variety of methods of assessment, including seen and unseen exams, coursework, laboratory reports, multiple-choice questionnaire examinations and oral presentations.

## MSci Psychology with Innovation

This course combines in-depth subject specialism in psychology with interdisciplinary breadth, creative teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. You will gain a solid foundation in psychology and use this subject knowledge to innovate and translate your ideas into plans for social and commercial enterprises.



The course will equip you to use the critical, theoretical and practical skills central to psychology, allowing you to develop your knowledge and skills across a range of areas as you proceed through the course. You will come together with students from other innovation disciplines, such as computer science and history, to learn and apply design and systems thinking to digital and creative ideas and put this into practice, ultimately creating new ventures together.

MSci Psychology with Innovation follows the same core material as BSc Psychology, alongside units in innovation and, like our other degrees, is accredited by the BPS. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/innovation](http://bristol.ac.uk/innovation).



## Careers and graduate destinations

Our graduates go on to successful careers within psychology-related fields and in a diverse range of other occupations in the UK and abroad. The multidisciplinary and scientific nature of psychology means that you will develop an impressive range of transferable skills: quantitative analysis and research skills; critical evaluation and numeracy; insight into the behaviour of individuals and groups; strong oral and written communication, including report writing and presentation skills; IT skills; and competence in handling and interpreting data.

Our degree is a pathway to professional training in psychology (such as clinical and educational psychology) and postgraduate training (MSc, MPhil or PhD) in behavioural and biological sciences, such as psychology, neuroscience, public health and epidemiology. Whatever your career choice, psychology's blend of specialist knowledge and transferable skills will provide you with many of the characteristics most sought after by potential employers.

**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).**



## Making your application

### Typical offer for BSc Psychology\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-psychology](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-psychology) for other qualifications.

**A-levels** A\*AA (contextual AAB<sup>†</sup>) including A in a science-related subject.

**IB Diploma** 38 points overall (contextual 34<sup>†</sup>) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 17<sup>†</sup>), including 6 at Higher Level in a science-related subject.

### English Language profile C<sup>††</sup>

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

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://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](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

We prefer applicants with one or more science subjects at A-level (or equivalent), reflecting the experimental and evidence-based approach to understanding psychological topics throughout our degree.

We welcome applications from mature students or candidates with non-standard qualifications. If you are planning to take an Access course we recommend those with a science rather than a humanities/social science basis as providing a more appropriate preparation for our degree.

While interviews are not a standard part of the selection procedure, we may interview mature applicants or those with non-standard qualifications.

### Further information

Find out more about the School of Experimental Psychology: [bristol.ac.uk/psychology](http://bristol.ac.uk/psychology).

From 1st August 2018, the school will be called the School of Psychological Science.

# Contact us

## Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

**Email** [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk)

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.

## Accommodation Office

Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640

**Email** [accom-office@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:accom-office@bristol.ac.uk)

**bristol.ac.uk/accommodation**

## Disability Services

Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444

**Email** [disability-services@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:disability-services@bristol.ac.uk)

**bristol.ac.uk/disability-services**

University guide to the city of Bristol

**bristol.ac.uk/citybristol**

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format please contact Student Marketing:

**Tel** +44 (0)117 394 1573

**Email** [ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk)

## Photography

Jason Ingram, Dan Rowley

© University of Bristol

