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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Psychology



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BSc Psychology
three years C801

MSci Psychology
four years C802

**MSci Psychology
with Innovation**
four years C804

Joint Honours

**MSci Psychology and
Neuroscience***
four years CB81

* This course is subject to approval.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, 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.

Ranked 6th in the UK for Psychology

Complete University Guide 2020

'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 three taught units:

- Individual and Social Cognition
- Brain and Cognition
- Continuing Psychological Research Methods.

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.

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. 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.

MSci Psychology

For the MSci degree, in the fourth year you will gain hands-on experience through an independent research project supervised by our academic and research staff. You will also choose taught modules that may include training in psychology research methods, a research apprenticeship option and master's-level lecture courses.

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. You join students from other innovation disciplines, such as computer science and history, to learn and apply design and systems thinking to digital and creative ideas.

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.



'We get hands-on experience in experiments - a great opportunity to understand how psychology works in the real world.'

Jason (BSc Psychology)

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.

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers.

High Fliers Research 2019



Graduate employers

Alzheimers Society
UBS
The NHS
KPMG
Cancer Research UK



Career destinations

Research Assistant
Trader
Befriending Manager
Health Community
Engagement Assistant
Graduate Audit Trainee

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-psychology for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BSc Psychology

A-levels A*AA (contextual AAB) including A in a science-related subject.

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

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs Higher numeracy requirement (6 or B in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-psychology.

Application advice for psychology courses

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 Psychological Science: bristol.ac.uk/psychology.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-psychology.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students