



Dear Applicant

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you onto the programme in September.

Our first meeting with you as a new student will be during Welcome Week when you will have an opportunity to learn more about the programme and to meet informally with your peers and teaching staff. Attending this induction will also help you to prepare for the challenging and rewarding months ahead.

In the Autumn term, we will be working with you on a number of core units:

- [Brain, Mind and Education](#) (thinking about how biological psychology and neuroscience relate to education)
- [Cognition and Learning](#) (how we develop cognitive processes such as memory, thinking and reasoning, and language, and how these relate to education)
- [Introduction to Educational Inquiry](#) (understanding how we can answer psychological research questions in education)
- [Statistics in Education](#) (introducing and using commonly used statistical procedures in educational and psychological research)

Full-time students will take all of the above units and part-time students will take a selection of these. Part-time students will find it useful to review the programme timetable and discuss with their personal tutor before making a decision on which units to follow this coming Autumn. We recommend that part-time students take Introduction to Educational Inquiry in their first term, if at all possible, as this underlies many of the later units.

Part-time students studying over two years should look to take 60-80 credits in year 1 to allow space for the Dissertation in Year 2. Students studying over three years should look to complete the taught units (120 credits) in the first two years enabling the third year for working on the dissertation.

These units (and those that follow in later terms) are designed to provide the foundation for your dissertation. The dissertation is an opportunity for you to carry out some research in an area that you are really interested in. Each year, students come up with some really exciting ideas - examples of dissertations from this year include topics such as:

- How young people make decisions about their future educational pathways
- The development of young children's sense of fairness and equity
- The impact of extensive choice on motivation
- Exploring the experiences of parents using different intervention programs with their autistic child
- The relationship between reward processing and impulsivity in adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

- Factors influencing school choice for parents of children with autistic spectrum conditions
- Exploring the perspectives of secondary school students on mental health stigma
- Sense of self and the experience of being diagnosed with bipolar disorder
- Intergroup interactions and implicit prejudice amongst nursery school children
- The development of leadership authenticity
- Gender bias, empathy and altruistic behaviours



Of course, tutors on the programme are currently involved in their own research projects and writing as well. [Dr Jo Rose](#) is working on a number of projects looking at widening participation into and through higher education, and on how teachers work together to develop their practice; [Professor Paul Howard-Jones](#) is looking at how computer games with uncertain rewards can support learning; [Dr Shelley McKeown Jones](#) and [Dr Amanda Williams](#) are examining how racial and ethnic diversity in schools and neighbourhoods influences outcomes including education and health; [Dr Shu Yau](#) is working on brain imaging amongst children with autism and [Professor Melissa Allen](#) is working on language development in children with autism. Throughout the taught units, tutors will share their research and expertise with you as you continue to develop as an independent researcher.



We hope that the pre-arrival preparation information is useful for you as you get ready to join the School of Education in just under two months' time.

Checklist of things to do before arriving

- **Apply for Accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2017. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline of the end of this month (**31 July 2017**) is fast approaching.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a Visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders who have paid a [deposit](#) can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet Any Conditions of Offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming you into the School of Education community!

With best wishes,

Dr Jo Rose, Dr Shelley McKeown Jones, Dr Amanda Williams, Professor Melissa Allen and Professor Paul Howard-Jones

Representatives of the MSc Psychology of Education (BPS) and MSc Education (Psychology of Education) Programme Team

Graduate School of Education

University of Bristol