



## **Module Specification**

### **Psychopharmacology**

Version: 2023-24, v5.0, 25 May 2023

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Psychopharmacology

**Module code:** USPKJT-15-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**Faculty:** Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Department:** HAS Dept of Social Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Psychology

**Module type:** Standard

**Pre-requisites:** Mind, Brain, and Development 2023-24

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This module will explore how drugs affect the brain and behaviour. You will expand your knowledge of the the brain, learn the foundations of pharmacology, and look at how these come together to create the neurobiological, psychological, and behavioural effects seen across different classes of psychoactive drugs.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module aims to explore the life of psychoactive drugs from how they get into the body and are removed, to the effects they have on how we think, feel, and behave. The emphasis will be on the science of the brain and pharmacology, with a wide variety of drugs discussed from those that are often abused to those that help in clinical conditions.

**Outline syllabus:** The content of the module may vary from year to year to take account of the expertise of staff and developments in the field. However, the list below provides a summary of the potential content for this module:

Structure and Function of Key Brain Areas

Communication Within the CNS (e.g. Neurotransmitters and receptors – sites for drug action)

Brain adaptation to the presence of drugs

Foundations of pharmacology

Research Methods in Psychopharmacology

Individual Differences in Drug Responses

Drugs of Reward and Abuse

Drugs used in Clinical Settings (antidepressants, anxiolytics, mood stabilizers, antipsychotics)

Psychoactive Lifestyle Drugs (cognitive enhancers, etc)

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars and workshops.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Independent learning includes engagement with essential reading, further reading, learning activities and tasks, and assignment preparation.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** A systematic understanding of key aspects and applications of Psychopharmacology and Neuroscience

**MO2** The ability to critically review, consolidate, and extend a systematic and coherent body of knowledge

**MO3** The ability to communicate Psychopharmacology accurately and effectively to a wide range of audiences

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspkit-15-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspkit-15-3.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The exact content of each task may vary year on year. The assessment requirements, weighting between assessment tasks, as well as marking criteria will be clearly stated in the assessment brief.

Portfolio (60%):

Weekly quizzes: Students must demonstrate benchmark understanding of the foundations of psychopharmacology. To encourage keeping current, and to provide regular feedback, there will be a weekly quiz on the previous week's content, discussion and readings.

Set Exercise: To ensure students extend this knowledge, and can accurately apply and critically evaluate information from a wide variety of sources, students will be given set questions within which to demonstrate their knowledge. Formative work in seminars will support the development of this skill set in the lead up to this portion of the portfolio.

**Presentation (40%):**

A recorded presentation on a predetermined topic will be given to provide students with the ability to evidence a more in-depth understanding and synthesis of information that is possible in the other assessments. Presentations are expected to draw on current and previous research in order to critically evaluate the subject matter presented. Formative work will be done in advance to support student project choice and skills.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Presentation

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

### **Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Presentation

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Psychology (Applied) [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Law with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Applied Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Health Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Social Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Biological Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology and Mental Health [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons)  
2020-21

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Health Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Applied Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Social Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Biological Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology and Mental Health [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-  
21

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons)  
2020-21

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)  
2019-20

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)  
2019-20

Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)  
2019-20

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Psychology with Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] - Withdrawn BSc (Hons) 2018-  
19

Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Applied Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19