Programme Specification

Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay]

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Validated

Contents

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay]

Highest award: BSc (Hons) Psychology

Interim award: BSc Psychology

Interim award: DipHE Psychology

Interim award: CertHE Psychology

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: Yes

Sandwich year: Yes

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Social Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

British Psychological Society (BPS)

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time, Sandwich

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 September 2018

Programme code: C80F00

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: This is a four-year programme of study of which the first year is a foundation year, which at UWE is a thematically-organised introduction to social sciences incorporating psychology, criminology, sociology, and philosophy.

Upon successful completion of the foundation year, students go on to join the BSc (Hons) Psychology degree programme at UWE, which is a three-year (full-time) undergraduate programme of study accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and confers the Society's 'Graduate Basis for Chartership' (GBC). Our psychology programme fosters an inclusive culture for students to acquire and develop a range of transferable skills. In our supportive and nurturing community, students are immersed in a strong research culture with opportunities for collaboration with world-leading experts in diverse areas of psychology. Our broad range of psychological content, curriculum options, and research projects allows students to pursue individualised study focused on their own unique interests as they transform from students to industry-ready professionals. Students are trained in a wide range of advanced psychological methods and transferable digital, communication, critical-analysis, and team-working skills that are essential for a career as a Chartered Psychologist or employment in competitive industries. Our programme produces graduates who make a positive impact in their communities, workplaces, and broader society.

Features of the programme:

Educational Aims: Our programme is designed to meet the British Psychological Society's 'Graduate Basis for Chartership' requirements which are outlined below:

Ability to apply multiple perspectives to psychological issues, recognising that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories, evidence and applications;

Ability to integrate ideas and findings across the multiple perspectives in psychology

and to recognise distinctive psychological approaches to relevant issues;

Ability to identify and evaluate general patterns in behaviour, psychological functioning and experience;

Ability to understand and investigate the role of brain function in all human behaviour and experience;

Ability to generate and explore hypotheses and research questions;

Ability to carry out empirical studies involving a variety of methods of data collection, including experiments, observation, psychometric tests, questionnaires, interviews and field studies;

Ability to analyse data using both quantitative and qualitative methods;

Ability to present and evaluate research findings;

Ability to employ evidence-based reasoning and examine practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with the use of different methodologies, paradigms and methods of analysis in psychology; and

Ability to use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

PO1.   Understand the variety of theoretical perspectives and associated supporting evidence from the core domains of psychology, including biological, cognitive, developmental, social, and individual differences, as well as conceptual and historical issues in psychology.

PO2.   Effectively search for, retrieve, and synthesise information from primary and secondary sources, and apply reasoning to critically examine and evaluate psychological theories, evidence, issues, and problems.

PO3.   Understand the roles and work of the diverse range of psychology professionals, and how psychological principles can be applied in practice to real-world challenges, issues, and problems across various contexts, and the contribution that psychology and psychologists can make to society, sustainability, and the human endeavour.

PO4.   Recognise the diverse range of quantitative and qualitative evidence-gathering techniques and practices that are employed within the discipline of psychology and gain an appreciation of the perspective of the participant by engaging in a range of psychological research.

PO5.   Understand how to design, conduct, and report quantitative and qualitative research in psychology, including measurement techniques, approaches to data collection, ethical issues and codes of conduct, the presentation of research findings, the discussion of research findings in the context of existing research, and the strengths and limitations of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and practical issues in their implementation.

PO6.   Analyse data from quantitative and qualitative psychological research using suitable digital tools; for example, statistical applications, demonstrate digital skills and literacy, make appropriate inferences and interpretations from data analysis, and discuss the assumptions and reasoning underlying different approaches to data analysis.

PO7.   Conduct and report an empirical and either quantitative or qualitative psychological research project while adhering to ethical principles and standards, including obtaining ethical approval, data collection, data preparation and pre-processing, data analysis, and the presentation and interpretation of findings.

PO8.   Clearly and effectively communicate psychological concepts, ideas, theories, and research findings, in written, oral, and visual formats, and recognise the potential benefits and risks of using artificial-intelligence-based large-language models to assist with the preparation of such communications.

PO9.   Engage effectively in collaborative teams by contributing to collective problem-solving and the achievement of shared objectives, by identifying and addressing interpersonal and contextual influences on group dynamics, and by recognising the diversity of, and differences between, individuals resulting from factors such as personality, neurodiversity, culture, and lived experience.

PO1 0.   Direct personal and professional development by reflecting on and evaluating their own strengths and weaknesses, and successes and failures of the past, while recognising the transferability of skills acquired during the course of the programme of study to the workplace.

Assessment strategy: Across our programme, the assessments are carefully aligned to ensure students build confidence, research capability and applied understanding as they progress from Level 4 to Level 6. Our programmatic assessment design emphasises real-world application, critical reflection, and feedback for learning. The assessments have been designed to develop a broad range of graduate capabilities. Students engage in written, oral and visual forms of communication through research reviews, research reports, presentations, funding proposals, media analyses, blogs and infographics. The variety of assessments promotes transferable skills in scientific writing, data analysis, digital literacy, communication and critical evaluation. Our programmatic assessment strategy has drawn upon evidence from pedagogical research showing that using a series of smaller, lower-stakes assessments supports consistent engagement, substantially reduces anxiety, enhances learning and well-being, and allows students to demonstrate both depth and breadth of understanding across the curriculum, also meeting the expectations and standards of the British Psychological Society (BPS). This approach has been extremely well-received by our students. Furthermore, our assessment design follows inclusive principles by offering alternative formats, authentic tasks, and varied opportunities to demonstrate learning. Smaller, low-stakes assessments promote inclusivity by supporting engagement and reducing barriers to achievement. The elimination of in-person timed exams, the use of formative feedback opportunities, and the focus on authentic assessments all contribute to an equitable learning experience for a diverse student body.

Student support: Transition to University
To help with the transition to university-level education and our psychology programme in particular, students have the opportunity to attend a series of induction events, at which they are able to obtain detailed information about the programme, modules, teaching and assessment strategies, the virtual learning environment

(VLE), sources of support, the academic personal tutor (APT) system, and to meet and chat informally with members of the psychology teaching team.

Academic Support

Students are allocated with an academic personal tutor (APT), who is a member of the psychology teaching team, and join a tutor group. APTs, student-support advisors, module leaders, year leaders, and the programme leadership team support students on the programme with their academic development.

Support for Disabled and Neurodivergent Students

Our psychology programme is pro-actively inclusive and psychology staff meet with disabled and neurodivergent students on a regular basis to discuss support issues and solutions. Furthermore, the variety of student-support teams at UWE can also provide guidance and assistance for disabled and neurodivergent students; for example, to help with registering reasonable adjustments.

The UWE Psychology Society

Students are encouraged to join the vibrant UWE Psychology Society which hosts both social and academic activities attended by psychology staff as well as students.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1
Full-time and Sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full-time and Sandwich)
Full-time and Sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQRUX-30-0	Essentials of Academic Practice 2025-26	30

UZQRUY-30-0	Exploring the Social World and the Problems of Crime 2025-26	30
UZQRV9-30-0	From Plato to Nato 2025-26	30
UZQRVA-30-0	People and Social Science 2025-26	30

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQRUX-30-0	Essentials of Academic Practice 2025-26	30
UZQRUY-30-0	Exploring the Social World and the Problems of Crime 2025-26	30
UZQRV9-30-0	From Plato to Nato 2025-26	30
UZQRVA-30-0	People and Social Science 2025-26	30

Year 2
Full-time and Sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Full-time and Sandwich)
Full-time and Sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPKJW-15-1	Critical Thinking (Psychology) 2026-27	15
USPSTW-15-1	Interpersonal Psychology 2026-27	15
USPJLS-30-1	Introduction to Psychology 2026-27	30
USPJMG-30-1	Psychology in Action 2026-27	30
USPJL7-30-1	Research Design and Analysis 1 2026-27	30

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQRUX-30-0	Essentials of Academic Practice 2026-27	30
UZQRUY-30-0	Exploring the Social World and the Problems of Crime 2026-27	30
UZQRV9-30-0	From Plato to Nato 2026-27	30
UZQRVA-30-0	Psychology, Policing and Society 2026-27	30

Year 3
Full-time and Sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Full-time and Sandwich)
Full-time and Sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPYTK-15-2	Research Design and Analysis 2 - Qualitative 2027-28	15
USPYTJ-15-2	Research Design and Analysis 2 - Quantitative 2027-28	15
USPSTV-30-2	Developing Self and Society 2027-28	30
USPSTX-30-2	Identities in Psychology 2027-28	30
USPSTY-30-2	Mind, Brain, and Development 2027-28	30

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPKJW-15-1	Critical Thinking (Psychology) 2027-28	15
USPSTW-15-1	Interpersonal Psychology 2027-28	15
USPJLS-30-1	Introduction to Psychology 2027-28	30

Year 4

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Students opting for the Sandwich award must take 15 credits from the modules in Year 4 and are enrolled on the level 6 module Social Sciences Placement Year (UZSY5D-15-3). This optional year is designed to enable students to gain valuable work experience in an area of their choice, or to engage in a study abroad programme. It will be particularly valuable for those seeking to follow a career in professional Psychology where significant relevant work experience is seen as a prerequisite for acceptance on professional doctoral-level training courses, or for alternate competitive careers where additional experiences assist students to further evidence their graduate skills and attributes.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPSTS-30-3	Psychology Project 2028-29	30

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPJMG-30-1	Psychology in Action 2028-29	30
USPJL7-30-1	Research Design and Analysis 1 2028-29	30

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5D-15-3	Social Sciences Placement Year 2028-29	15

Year 4 Optional Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPYTL-30-3	Forensic Psychology 2028-29	30
USPJJB-15-3	Animal Behaviour and Cognition 2028-29	15
USPKJJ-15-3	Clinical Aspects of Mental Health 2028-29	15
USPK6P-15-3	Cognitive Neuropsychology 2028-29	15
USPKJQ-15-3	Constructing Gender in Society 2028-29	15
USPJQU-30-3	Developmental Psychology: Contexts, Neurodiversity and Complexities 2028-29	30
USPKCH-15-3	Foundations of Forensic Psychology 2028-29	15
USPK6S-15-3	Health Psychology in Practice 2028-29	15
USPKJM-15-3	Human Sexuality 2028-29	15
USPKJN-15-3	Methods in Neuroscience 2028-29	15
USPK6Q-15-3	Principles of Counselling and Psychotherapy 2028-29	15
USPK6T-15-3	Psychology and Social Justice 2028-29	15

USPK68-15-3	Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment 2028-29	15
USPKJR-15-3	Psychology of Sport and Exercise 2028-29	15
USPKJS-15-3	Psychology of Work 2028-29	15
USPKJT-15-3	Psychopharmacology 2028-29	15
USPK6W-15-3	The Arts and Mental Health 2028-29	15

Year 5
Sandwich students must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPSTX-30-2	Identities in Psychology 2029-30	30
USPSTY-30-2	Mind, Brain, and Development 2029-30	30

Year 5 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)
Sandwich students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPSTS-30-3	Psychology Project 2029-30	30

Year 5 Optional Modules (Sandwich)
Sandwich students must take 75 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPYTL-30-3	Forensic Psychology 2029-30	30

USPJJB-15-3	Animal Behaviour and Cognition 2029-30	15
USPKJJ-15-3	Clinical Aspects of Mental Health 2029-30	15
USPK6P-15-3	Cognitive Neuropsychology 2029-30	15
USPKJQ-15-3	Constructing Gender in Society 2029-30	15
USPJQU-30-3	Developmental Psychology: Contexts, Neurodiversity and Complexities 2029-30	30
USPKCH-15-3	Foundations of Forensic Psychology 2029-30	15
USPK6S-15-3	Health Psychology in Practice 2029-30	15
USPKJM-15-3	Human Sexuality 2029-30	15
USPKJN-15-3	Methods in Neuroscience 2029-30	15
USPK6Q-15-3	Principles of Counselling and Psychotherapy 2029-30	15
USPK6T-15-3	Psychology and Social Justice 2029-30	15
USPK68-15-3	Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment 2029-30	15
USPKJR-15-3	Psychology of Sport and Exercise 2029-30	15
USPKJS-15-3	Psychology of Work 2029-30	15
USPKJT-15-3	Psychopharmacology 2029-30	15
USPK6W-15-3	The Arts and Mental Health 2029-30	15

Year 6
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 6.

Year 6 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPYTK-15-2	Research Design and Analysis 2 - Qualitative 2030-31	15
USPYTJ-15-2	Research Design and Analysis 2 - Quantitative 2030-31	15
USPSTV-30-2	Developing Self and Society 2030-31	30

Year 7

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 7.

Year 7 Optional Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPYTL-30-3	Forensic Psychology 2031-32	30
USPJJB-15-3	Animal Behaviour and Cognition 2031-32	15
USPKJJ-15-3	Clinical Aspects of Mental Health 2031-32	15
USPK6P-15-3	Cognitive Neuropsychology 2031-32	15
USPKJQ-15-3	Constructing Gender in Society 2031-32	15
USPJQU-30-3	Developmental Psychology: Contexts, Neurodiversity and Complexities 2031-32	30
USPKCH-15-3	Foundations of Forensic Psychology 2031-32	15
USPK6S-15-3	Health Psychology in Practice 2031-32	15
USPKJM-15-3	Human Sexuality 2031-32	15
USPKJN-15-3	Methods in Neuroscience 2031-32	15

USPK6Q-15-3	Principles of Counselling and Psychotherapy 2031-32	15
USPK6T-15-3	Psychology and Social Justice 2031-32	15
USPK68-15-3	Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment 2031-32	15
USPKJR-15-3	Psychology of Sport and Exercise 2031-32	15
USPKJS-15-3	Psychology of Work 2031-32	15
USPKJT-15-3	Psychopharmacology 2031-32	15
USPK6W-15-3	The Arts and Mental Health 2031-32	15

Year 8
Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 8.

Year 8 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPSTS-30-3	Psychology Project 2032-33	30

Year 8 Optional Modules (Part-time)
Part-time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USPYTL-30-3	Forensic Psychology 2032-33	30
USPJJB-15-3	Animal Behaviour and Cognition 2032-33	15
USPKJJ-15-3	Clinical Aspects of Mental Health 2032-33	15
USPK6P-15-3	Cognitive Neuropsychology 2032-33	15
USPKJQ-15-3	Constructing Gender in Society 2032-33	15

USPJQU-30-3	Developmental Psychology: Contexts, Neurodiversity and Complexities 2032-33	30
USPKCH-15-3	Foundations of Forensic Psychology 2032-33	15
USPK6S-15-3	Health Psychology in Practice 2032-33	15
USPKJM-15-3	Human Sexuality 2032-33	15
USPKJN-15-3	Methods in Neuroscience 2032-33	15
USPK6Q-15-3	Principles of Counselling and Psychotherapy 2032-33	15
USPK6T-15-3	Psychology and Social Justice 2032-33	15
USPK68-15-3	Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment 2032-33	15
USPKJR-15-3	Psychology of Sport and Exercise 2032-33	15
USPKJS-15-3	Psychology of Work 2032-33	15
USPKJT-15-3	Psychopharmacology 2032-33	15
USPK6W-15-3	The Arts and Mental Health 2032-33	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

The programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and confers the Society's Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC). The programme is designed to promote a scientific understanding of mind, brain, behaviour, experience and the complex interaction between such. Students learn transferable skills that are essential for a career as a Chartered Psychologist or employment in a range of competitive industries. Students who complete the programme must demonstrate theoretical understanding and practical application of social, developmental and cognitive psychology, individual differences, biological psychology, conceptual and historical issues, and research methods and design (qualitative and quantitative).

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

Our BSc (Hons) Psychology programme is accredited by the BPS and confers the society's 'Graduate Basis for Chartership' (GBC). The design of the programme at all levels is based on the reference points and benchmarks set out by the British Psychological Society (BPS), the Quality Assurance Agency (QQA) for Higher Education (UK Quality Code for HE National Qualification Framework) and the University of the West of England (UWE) strategic framework.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.