

## MSc/MA Psychology

### Programme specification

#### 1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MSc/MA Psychology
b) Programme code(s)	TBC
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Bence Palfi
e) Entry requirements	<p>Designed for graduates from any discipline who wish to deepen their understanding of psychology and develop the knowledge and skills to apply psychological insights into human behaviour within their current position or future career path.</p> <p>You'll have a BA or BSc Degree at level 2:1 or above in any subject.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A BA or BSc Degree at level 2:2 and at least 2 years of relevant work experience.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>No degree and at least 3-5 years of relevant work experience.</p> <p>We do not assume that students will have studied psychology before.</p>
f) Academic year effective from	2025/26

#### 2. Programme Aims & Overview

##### Aims

The programme aims to introduce students to the foundational theories, methods, and ethical principles of psychology while empowering them to explore and affirm potential career pathways. It aims to support students in becoming critical consumers and producers of psychological knowledge, who are capable of

evaluating evidence, generating insights, and applying psychology to real-life problems. Through collaborative and problem-focused learning, the programme supports students in designing and communicating solutions that promote positive change in individuals, organisations, and communities.

## Overview

This online MSc provides an accessible introduction into psychology for students from varied academic and professional backgrounds. The programme builds a strong grounding in the major areas of psychological science, including cognitive, social, developmental, and biological psychology, while developing students' competencies in research design, ethics, and quantitative and qualitative methods. Through applied modules and case-based teaching from professionals working outside academia, students learn how psychological insights can be used to understand and address contemporary social and policy challenges, as well as other real-world psychological issues. The programme places a strong emphasis on science communication, enabling students to translate complex psychological concepts and evidence for diverse audiences and stakeholder groups. Students also develop collaborative and reflective skills through group-based project work, culminating in one of two dissertation pathways: an empirical MSc dissertation or an MA policy proposal project. Scaffolded online learning, supervision, and structured learning materials support students throughout their studies. Graduates complete the programme equipped with the knowledge, ethical awareness, and applied skills needed to use psychology to create positive change in real-world settings and to pursue a broad range of professional and academic pathways.

## 3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	TBC
c) HECoS Code(s):	TBC
d) QAA Benchmark group:	Psychology

## 4. Awards

Item	Information
g) Awarding institution:	University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' University)
h) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
i) Home School:	Mind, Body & Society
j) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None <b>If other, name here: N/A</b>
k) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
l) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
m) Final awards:	Psychology MA/MSc/PGDip/PGCert

## 5. Delivery

Item	Information	
a) Language of study:	English	
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify: First intake June 2026, then intakes in Sept, January and May	
c) Mode of study:	Online Distance Learning  Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the table below.	
d) Total hours directed learning/year	195	
e) In-person hours	0	<b>0%</b>
f) Online hours	195	<b>100%</b>
g) Pace of study:	<input type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time	
h) Duration of programme	Full time: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 24 <input type="checkbox"/> years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> months	
i) External accreditation:	N/A	
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A	

## 6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

### Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

### On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

Learning Outcome		Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Critically evaluate the fundamental theories and findings of psychology	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Explain psychological methods and analytical techniques	7	Responsible agency

D3	Communicate a critical integration of the theories and findings of a specialised area of psychology	7	Diversity of perspective
F1	Apply psychological findings and ethical principles to real life issues	7	Responsible agency
F2	Apply psychological methods and analytical techniques to the investigation of research questions	7	Responsible agency
F3	Produce credible psychological research findings or interpretations	7	Responsible agency
P1	Collaborate in an active and reflective manner	7	Collaboration
P2	Handle and manage data responsibly and effectively	7	Responsible agency
P3	Communicate credible psychological knowledge or solutions to various audiences	7	Political in the personal

## 7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90 ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

**Compulsory** modules must be taken by all students.

**Option** modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

### Phase 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Mind, Brain and Society	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A
Biology and Development of the Mind	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A
Research Design and Statistics 1	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A
Psychology for Real-World Impact	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A

### Phase 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Research Design and Statistics 2	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A
Communicating Psychological Research	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A
Psychology & Education	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A
Social Psychology of Social Problems	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	Multi	N/A	N/A

## 8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

### Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your time on campus. You are expected to attend all your timetabled learning activities.

**Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:**

Each module will run over an eight-week period. Weeks 1 to 5 will focus on delivering content, readings, and formative activities, while Weeks 6 to 8 will be dedicated exclusively to assessment, supported by scaffolding to aid preparation and completion.

There will be no differentiation between the MA and MSc pathways, except for the Dissertation module.

All modules will be delivered through Goldsmiths' Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), incorporating H5P and other interactive tools. Each online module will consist of a carefully designed sequence of learning journeys, integrating content and activities with embedded graphics, videos, interactive elements, and reading links. Students will progress through the material on a weekly basis (Monday to Sunday), with flexibility to choose when to study within that timeframe, avoiding time-specific activities. Activity submissions will be due the following Monday before midday. Optional live sessions may be offered in Week 1 for module introductions and in Week 6 for assessment guidance and Q&A. Additionally, online lab-style activities will be included, encouraging group interaction and discussion, with tutors scheduling availability for feedback during these sessions.

### Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range of ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

**Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:**

In all modules, teaching will be delivered during the first five weeks, followed by three weeks dedicated to assignment work. To ensure students remain on track and make full use of the expected 18.75 hours per week, specific deliverables will be set for each of the three assessment weeks. Several modules will include group assessments, with a portion of the grade based on a shared group mark. These assessments will also incorporate elements of self-reflection and peer critique, requiring students to evaluate both their own contributions and those of their peers. For students unable to participate in a group, a standby ‘classic’ individual project will be provided. While grading units will remain consistent across modules, marking criteria and rubrics will be tailored to align with the requirements of each specific assessment.

**Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)**

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	1	1
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live (presentation, performance etc.)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0	6	6
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Written	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Of which...</b>	<b>Individual:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Group:</b>	<b>2</b>		

**9. Other information**

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	<a href="https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/">https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/</a>
b) Placement opportunities	N/A
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	Most graduates are likely to either continue their current careers or pursue career opportunities for which research skills, critical thinking, communication and a strong understanding of how psychological research can be applied to real world issues are advantageous. These options may include a career in research/academia (e.g., via PhD studentship or research assistant post), research and development roles outside of academia, education and training, human resources and organisational psychology, policy

Item	Information
	<p>analysis and consultancy, and data analysis and decision support (e.g., market research, UX design and business intelligence).</p> <p>For students who do not have a degree in Psychology but are interested in a professional psychology career in the UK, this programme could be a route into one of our BPS accredited postgraduate programmes. Note that students who wish to pursue a professional psychology career outside of the UK need to investigate country specific requirements.</p>

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## 10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.



## 11. Curriculum map

### Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Mind, Brain and Society	TBC	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biology and Development of the Mind	TBC	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Design and Statistics 1	TBC	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychology for Real-World Impact	TBC	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research Design and Statistics 2	TBC	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicating Psychological Research	TBC	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Psychology & Education	TBC	Option - Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social Psychology of Social Problems	TBC	Option - Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dissertation MA/MSc	TBC	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>