

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		September 2017			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
Psychology					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MRes in Psychology			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology					
Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology					
Admissions criteria					
A degree or equivalent qualification, normally in Psychology, and normally at the level of an upper second class honours award. IELTS 6.5; CBT: 250; iBT: 100; Cambridge Proficiency: A, B, C. GCE/iGCSE A, B, C. The same minimum requirement applies to each of the sections of the tests (listening, reading, speaking)					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MRes/Dip/Cert in Psychology	1 year full-time	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
The programme is recognised by the ESRC as a research training programme for 1+3 studentships.					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate: To lead students to an understanding of research methods, research techniques and a range of different approaches to data analysis that underpins the scientific study of psychological processes. To provide students with a range of specialist knowledge in particular areas of scientific psychology, research methods and data analysis. To provide the opportunity for students to undertake laboratory-based research in the context of the research groups present in the					

Department of Psychology.

To help students to develop a range of scientific skills based on an understanding of the principles of psychology. These include hypothesis testing, the use of methodologies to design and conduct empirical research, information handling, data analysis and the critical evaluation of empirical data.

To provide students with opportunities to acquire transferable skills in team working, problem solving, leadership, research and effective communication (both written and spoken).

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

To provide students with the opportunity to carry out an in-depth literature review of their particular research area of choice.

Additionally for the Masters:

To provide students with the opportunity to carry out an in-depth empirical project of their particular research area of choice.

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and understanding of:
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

1. the major issues and paradigms in contemporary Psychology
2. theoretical frameworks from Psychology
3. selected advanced topics in (psycho)linguistics, reading,

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Seminars 1-3, 5-9
- Lectures 1-10
- Laboratory work 1-5, 9, 10
- Research supervision 1-10
- Statistical practicals 4,10

<p>cognition, development and disorders, perception, memory and attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques and relevant software packages 5. what is involved in testing theories in Psychology and how to evaluate empirical research 6. the current literature on psychological processes and how to apply this knowledge critically to appraise new research findings 7. what is involved in constructing, developing and conveying to others a coherent argument based on information retrieved from a range of sources 8. how to communicate findings of research to different audiences and using different media (spoken and written) 9. the applications of Psychology to practice in laboratory settings 10. the statistical treatment of data. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. compiling an in-depth literature review <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. undertaking an empirical project 	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQs 4,10 • Open essay 1-3, 5-8 • Critical analysis 1-10 • Laboratory Journal 1-10 • Student presentations 8 • Abstracts 1-10 • Statistical practicals 4,10 <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature review 11 <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical project 11,12 • Poster conference 8
B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ability to plan, design and conduct systematic, scientifically rigorous studies of issues in experimental psychology and its applications. 2. ability to procure ethical 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars 2 • Lectures 1,3 • Laboratory work 1,3 • Research supervision 1-3 • Student presentations 1-3

<p>clearance for a piece of independent research</p> <p>3. ability to carry out quantitative and qualitative analyses of data, to summarise the results and to specify the limitations of such analyses.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>4. compiling an in-depth literature review</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>5. undertaking an empirical project</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQs 3 • Critical analysis 3 • Laboratory Journal 1, 2 • Student presentations 1-3 <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature review <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical project 1-3 • Poster conference 1-3
B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the ability to reflect on data and to draw implications for theory and practice 2. the ability to write for an academic and for a lay audience 3. the ability to use PowerPoint and poster formats for the 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars 1-4 • Lectures 1, 2, 4 • Laboratory work 1 • Research supervision 1 • Statistical practicals 1, 4 • Student presentations 1-4

<p>presentation of research findings</p> <p>4. ability to use a broad range of generic skills effectively (including IT skills and web-based resources).</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>5. compiling an in-depth literature review</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>6. undertaking an empirical project</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQs 1 • Open essay 2 • Critical analysis 1, 2 • Laboratory Journal 1-4 • Abstracts 1,2 • Student presentations 1-4 <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature review 4, 5 <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical project 1-6 • Poster conference 1-4, 6
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seminar discussions, presentations of papers, diagnostic tests and clinical cases 2. participation in the visiting 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars 1 • Lectures 2 • Laboratory work 4 • Research supervision 4,5

<p>speakers' colloquia</p> <p>3. participation in student-led meetings</p> <p>4. experience of planning, carrying out and evaluating a substantial experimental project, including liaising with participants and possibly outside agencies.</p> <p>5. time management skills involved in meeting regular deadlines and prioritising tasks</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>6. compiling an in-depth literature review</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>7. undertaking an empirical project</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open essays 5 • Critical analysis 5 • Laboratory Journal 5 • Abstracts 2,5 <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature review 5,6 <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical project 4-7
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Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

University award regulations

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g., payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook, the Department's website and the VLE.

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook, the Department's website and the VLE.

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
<i>Research Design and Statistics</i> 20 credits	<i>Issues & Methods in Applied Research</i> 20 credits	Empirical Project 80 credits	
<i>Practical Skills in Psychological Research</i> 10 credits	<i>Transferable Skills</i> 10 credits		
Either: <i>Specialist Option</i> Or: <i>Laboratory Placement</i> Each is worth 20 credits	Either: <i>Specialist Option</i> Or: <i>Laboratory Placement</i> Each is worth 20 credits		

Postgraduate Diploma (if applicable)

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
<i>Research Design and Statistics</i> 20 credits	<i>Issues & Methods in Applied Research</i> 20 credits	Literature Review 20 credits	
<i>Practical Skills in Psychological Research</i> 10 credits	<i>Transferable Skills</i> 10 credits		
Either: <i>Specialist Option</i> Or: <i>Laboratory Placement</i> Each is worth 20 credits	Either: <i>Specialist Option</i> Or: <i>Laboratory Placement</i> Each is worth 20 credits		

Postgraduate Certificate

Autumn term	Spring term
<i>Research Design and Statistics</i> 20 credits	<i>Issues & Methods in Applied Research</i> 20 credits
<i>Practical Skills in Psychological Research</i> 10 credits	<i>Transferable Skills</i> 10 credits
Either: <i>Specialist</i>	Either: <i>Specialist</i>

<i>Option</i> Or: <i>Laboratory Placement</i> Each is worth 20 credits	<i>Option</i> Or: <i>Laboratory Placement</i> Each is worth 20 credits
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Attainment of 60 credits will lead to a Postgraduate Certificate.

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Autumn term	Assessment/Weights	Key Dates	Summer Term	Date of final award board
<i>Research Design and Statistics</i> 20 credits	(i) 2 hour multiple choice examination (Weight - 80%) (ii) Practical reports (Weight - 20%)	Closed exam: Week 1, SpT. Practical reports to be completed by Week 10, AuT, 12 noon.	Progression Meeting Week 5. Week 5 – Week 10 Reassessment Period.	September 2018
<i>Practical Skills in Psychological Research</i> 10 credits	Experimental Report (Weight – 100%)	Week 1, SpT	All reassessments are to be completed by Week 10, SuT.	
<i>Specialist Option</i> 20 credits	3,000 word essay (Weight – 60%) Closed exam (Weight – 40%)	Week 10, AuT. Week 1, SpT.		
<i>Laboratory Placement</i> 20 credits	(i) Journal including a brief description of work completed and a self-reflective assessment of the placement (Weight - 30%) (ii) Critique/mini-review (max 3,000 words) of a few (~3 or 4) published research articles on a specific topic to be agreed upon with your supervisor (Weight - 50%) (iii) Supervisor's	Week 10, AuT.		

	report assessing student's contribution to the placement (Weight - 20%)			
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Spring term	Assessment/Weights	Key Dates	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
<i>Transferable Skills</i> 10 credits	Research Talk: i) oral presentation – 20% ii) 500 word open essay - 40% iii) poster – 40%	Week 10, SpT.	Progression Meeting Week 5. Week 5 – Week 10, Reassessment Period.	September 2018
<i>Issues & Methods in Applied Research</i> 20 credits	Research design protocol (60%), Short answer questions (40%)	Week 10, SpT. Week 2, SuT.		
<i>Specialist Option</i> 20 credits	3,000 word essay (Weight – 60%) Closed exam (Weight – 40%)	Week 10, SpT. Week 1, SuT.		
<i>Laboratory Placement</i> 20 credits	(i) Journal including a brief description of work completed and a self-reflective assessment of the placement (Weight - 30%) (ii) Critique/mini-review (max 3,000 words) of a few (~3 or 4) published research articles on a specific topic to be agreed upon with your supervisor (Weight - 50%) (iii) Supervisor's report assessing student's contribution to the placement (Weight - 20%)	Week 10, SpT.		

Summer term/Summer	Assessment/Weights	Key Dates	Date of final award board
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Vacation			
<i>Empirical Project</i> 80 credits	Project word limit – 8,000. (Weight - 85%) Student Contribution (Weight – 10%) Poster (Weight - 5%).	TBC TBC	September 2018

For the Diploma route

Summer term/Summer Vacation	Assessment/Weights	Key Dates	Date of final award board
<i>Literature Review</i> 20 credits	Review word limit – 6000. 100%	Week 10, SuT	September 2018

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module? ⁵
<i>Research Design and Statistics</i>	PSY00019 M	7	20	N/A	N/A	Closed exam: Week 1, SpT. Practical reports to be completed by Monday, Week 10, AuT.	No
<i>Practical Skills in Psychological Research</i>	PSY00049 M	7	10	N/A	N/A	Experimental Report: Week 1, SpT	No
<i>Specialist Option</i>		7	20	N/A	N/A	Essay, Monday, Week 10, AuT/SpT. Closed exam – Week 1 AuT/SpT	No

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

<i>Laboratory Placement</i>	PSY00013 M	7	20	N/A	N/A	Lab Journal, Critique/Mini-review Week 10, AuT/SpT.	No
<i>Issues & Methods in Applied Research</i>	PSY00003 M	7	20	N/A	N/A	Research design protocol (60%), week 10, AuT. Short answer questions (40%), week 2, SuT.	No
<i>Transferable Skills</i>	PSY00014 M	7	10	N/A	N/A	Research talk: i) Oral presentation 20% ii) Poster 40% iii) Open Essay 40%	No
<i>Empirical Project</i>	PSY00016 M	7	80	N/A	NC	Hand in date: TBC Poster: TBC	Yes

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
<i>Literature Review (Diploma route only)</i>		7	20	N/A	NC	Week 10, SuT.	Yes

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/</p> <p>Departmental Statements on Audit and Review Procedures are available at: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/deptstatements/index.htm</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	1 September 2017
Departmental web page:	http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/psych/
Please note	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	