PSYCHOLOGY

MSc
Department of Psychology, Health and Professional Development

This programme is accredited by The British Psychological Society
**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This is a conversion course designed for students who intend to become professional psychologists. It is aimed at graduates in disciplines other than psychology, and psychology graduates whose undergraduate degree is not professionally recognised. The main purpose of the course is to allow students to gain a qualification in psychology that confers eligibility for graduate membership of the British Psychological Society and establishes the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC).

**KEY FACTS**

The MSc can be taken in 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time. You can also exit this course at three different points, depending on your particular needs: MSc, PGDip, PGCert. Only the MSc confers eligibility for graduate membership of the BPS. The course starts in September.

**MODULES**

**COGNITIVE AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT** provides a socio-cultural view of development and how education impacts on development and cognition. Examples of topics covered include paradigms for analysing cognitive developmental theory, reasoning, memory and executive function; culture and cognition, socialisation, and identity; children in schools; and gender roles in development.

**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY** considers the major themes in social psychology and how these influence society and social interaction. Themes include group dynamics, social identification, social influences, attraction, altruism, leadership roles, prejudice and attitudes.

**INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE** explores the functional organisation of the brain from a cognitive perspective. The module examines our current understanding and recent advances in a number of key cognitive processes and their underlying biological substrates. Topics covered include basic neuroanatomy, perception, attention, memory, language, emotional processing, and reading and writing skills.

**EXPERIMENTAL METHOD AND STATISTICS FOR PSYCHOLOGY** develops student knowledge of statistical concepts and techniques of analysis. It covers standard and advanced statistical theory and methods providing an opportunity to develop statistical expertise in descriptive and inferential statistics.

**INTELLIGENCE AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES** advances student knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods in psychology, with particular reference to cognition, intelligence and individual differences.

**PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS** advances student knowledge of theory and research methods in psychology with particular reference to personality, individual differences and psychological disorders.

**RESEARCH DESIGN SKILLS** provides a structured framework within which students will identify their dissertation topic, critically review relevant previous research, and develop a workable design for their empirical project.

**THE DISSERTATION** is 6-8,000 words long. It is an extended and supervised piece of work reporting new empirical data. It is always grounded in a thorough review of the relevant scientific literature and normally requires experimental data collection. The aim of the dissertation is to allow students to develop their own ideas in a specific domain of psychology and to provide experience in research design, data collection, analysis and interpretation. Students will also have the opportunity to work alongside an experienced academic from the Psychology team.

**WHERE WILL IT TAKE YOU?**

In order to be eligible for GBC you must achieve at least the equivalent of a 2:1 honours degree (50% or higher). Further post-graduate study will be required for a career in the main fields of professional psychology (academic, educational, clinical, occupational etc).
WHY CHOOSE BROOKES?

Oxford Brookes offers excellence in teaching and research; the results of the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 showed that 94% of Oxford Brookes research is internationally recognised. In addition to studying in this stimulating academic environment we have modern learning spaces and the wider benefits of the historic city of Oxford.

THE COURSE OFFERS

- GBC membership of the British Psychological Society which is a requirement for further professional training as a psychologist.
- A grounding in key theories and methods and the practice of psychology in relation to core areas such as developmental, social, cognitive and biological psychology, as well as individual differences, and abnormal psychology.
- Training in a range of research paradigms, methods and measurement techniques, along with statistical and qualitative analysis and enables you to put this knowledge into practice to conduct a piece of hands-on, independent research.
- A variety of active learning methods (e.g. lectures, discussions, seminars, practical exercises) and different forms of assessment (e.g. essays, critical reviews, oral presentations) including both coursework and exams.
- A number of transferable intellectual skills (e.g. critical thinking, reasoning, academic writing) and practical skills (e.g. data analysis, scientific method, presentation skills) which are valued by employers.
- State-of-the-art research facilities including a video observation lab, Babylab, perception and motion analysis (PuMA) lab, perception lab and EEG lab.
- A comprehensive programme of research seminars offered by the department as well as specialist seminars organised by individual research groups.
- A supportive and friendly learning environment with dedicated study and social-working space for postgraduate students. The Psychology team has achieved HEFCE quality assessment scores indicating excellence in the teaching it offers and you are taught by academic staff with international reputations in their field.
**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

You must normally possess the following qualifications:

- An upper second-class or first-class honours degree awarded by a recognised institution of higher education in the UK or overseas.

Students will also be considered with:

- A lower second-class honours degree AND
- 60 CATS (Credit Accumulative Transfer Scheme) credits in Psychology.
- You must have achieved an average of 60% in the above mentioned credits.
- Credits can either be gained through the Qualifying Certificate in Psychology at Oxford Brookes University or from a recognised institution of higher education.

Applicants with exceptional experience may apply for consideration of their portfolio by the admissions committee.

Applicants who, as a result of qualifications or experience or both, can demonstrate knowledge and capabilities equivalent to those possessed by holders of the qualifications listed above, may in exceptional circumstances be admitted with dispensation from the requirement to possess those qualifications.

Applications are considered on their own individual merits and depending on previous experience and prior subjects of study we may suggest or require that some students with an upper second-class or first-class honours degree achieve 60 CATS credits in Psychology (at an average of at least 60%) before entry onto the MSc Psychology course.

Please also see the university’s general entry requirements.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

You should have English as your first language, or GCSE or O-level English Language, or an IELTS score of 7.0, or equivalent evidence of proficiency in English. Please also see the university’s standard English language requirements:

[www.brookes.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/)

**HOW TO APPLY**

Application is made online through UCAS Postgraduate.

International applicants will:

- need to apply early to allow enough time for obtaining visas if offered a place.
- be asked to pay a deposit of £1,000 to secure a place on the course.

**TUITION FEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Information on fees and financial support can be found on the website (see below).

---

**CONTACT**

**PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR**

Tel: +44 (0)1865 483771  
Email: psychology@brookes.ac.uk  
Address: Faculty of Health and Life Sciences  
Oxford Brookes University  
Gipsy Lane, OX3 0BP  
Website: [www.brookes.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/psy](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/psy)

---

All information is correct at the time of going to press. Please refer to the University’s website for the most up-to-date details. Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit [www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod) or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.

07 March 2018