

Programme Specification

Award and title: Psychology Foundation Year (Foundation Certificate Psychology)

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| <i>School:</i> | Education, Language & Psychology |
| <i>Entry from academic year:</i> | 2020-2021 |
| <i>in the month(s) of</i> | September |
| <i>Awarding institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Teaching institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Delivery location:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Programme/s accredited by:</i> | Not applicable |
| <i>Exit awards:</i> | Foundation Certificate Psychology |
| <i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i> | Not applicable |
| <i>Joint Honours combinations:</i> | Not applicable |
| <i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i> | Psychology |
| <i>Mode/s of study:</i> | Full-time for 1 year |
| <i>Language of study:</i> | English |
| <i>Paired with:</i> | BSc (Hons) Psychology; BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling; BSc (Hons) Psychology with Child Development |
| <i>Study abroad opportunities:</i> | No |
| <i>Placement Year opportunity:</i> | No |

Introduction and special features

Psychology is the study of the human brain and behaviour and, as such, is of interest to people from a wide range of backgrounds. The Psychology Foundation Year is designed as an alternative entry route to undergraduate study in Psychology for prospective students who may not be ready to start their university career at Level 4. The programme is suitable for students who have little or no prior experience of the academic study of Psychology and is designed to help you develop the relevant foundational knowledge and skills to enable you to progress to undergraduate-level study. The Foundation Year forms part of a four-year undergraduate programme; students who successfully complete the Foundation Year progress to undergraduate study on the BSc (Hons) Psychology, BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling, or BSc (Hons) Psychology with Child Development programmes, all of which are accredited by the British Psychological Society.

As a student on the Foundation Year programme, you will join a thriving academic community in Psychology at York St John University. You will be taught by a team of research-active academic staff, whose work spans the breadth of the discipline, and supported by an excellent team of technicians and teaching assistants. On commencement of the programme, you will be assigned a personal academic tutor from among the academic staff, who will provide personalised support as you progress through your studies.

You will have access to two well-resourced psychology laboratories, which contain a range of continually updated equipment and resources. You will also have the opportunity to extend your learning by acting as a

participant in psychological studies run by staff and students through the Psychology Research Participation Scheme.

The Psychology Foundation Year programme will equip you with a range of transferable skills to enable you to progress to further academic study and beyond. You will be supported to develop key study skills and competence in a range of information technology applications, as well as the ability to reflect on your own learning and identify strategies to help you succeed. Your confidence in communicating, both verbally and in writing, will be improved through practice in assessments and in-class activities. The research-informed teaching approach aims to inspire a lasting curiosity for the scientific study of people.

Admissions criteria

This programme adheres to the University's general entry criteria for undergraduate study. Any specific entry attainment will be made available to you through the University website and reviewed on a regular basis.

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL/APEL).

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/#most-foundation,-undergraduate-or-postgraduate-courses>)

Programme aim(s)

This programme aims to prepare students for the study of Psychology at undergraduate level, by providing you with the opportunity to develop foundational knowledge of the discipline, relevant academic skills and the ability to think and learn independently.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, you will be able to:

Level 3

- 3.1 Demonstrate knowledge of facts about a broad range of key theories and concepts in psychological science.
- 3.2 Describe and apply key methods of enquiry in psychological science.
- 3.3 Communicate factual and critical information in a variety of forms for different audiences.
- 3.4 Use a range of information technology for academic purposes, including being able to find and interpret reliable sources of information.
- 3.5 Work independently and as part of a team, using a range of skills to complete tasks.

Programme structure

| Code | Level | Semester | Title | Credits | Module status | |
|----------|-------|----------|---|---------|---|--|
| | | | | | compulsory or optional to take C or O | non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X |
| PSY3001M | 3 | 1 | Classic studies in psychological science | 20 | C | X |
| PSY3002M | 3 | 1 | Core academic skills | 20 | C | X |
| PSY3003M | 3 | 1 | Understanding evidence: Science, myth and fake news | 20 | C | X |
| PSY3004M | 3 | 2 | Contemporary debates in psychological science | 20 | C | X |
| PSY3005M | 3 | 2 | Core research skills | 20 | C | X |
| PSY3006M | 3 | 2 | Extended project | 20 | C | X |

Learning, teaching and assessment

The Psychology Foundation Year provides you with an introduction to the key questions, theoretical approaches and empirical methods of psychological science. You will work with our team of academic psychologists to explore the foundations of the discipline and develop core academic, research and independent thinking skills in preparation for the study of Psychology at undergraduate level.

Modules within the Foundation programme align to three key strands of learning. First, to develop your foundational knowledge of Psychology as an academic discipline, you will explore classic studies through the history of psychological science in Semester 1 and contemporary debates in psychological science in Semester 2. Second, foundational skills for university-level study are taught through discipline-specific modules in academic and research skills. Third, you will develop your independent thinking skills through a module designed to help you understand how to interpret evidence, and through an extended project in the second semester.

Modules are delivered through three-hour workshops, which allow flexibility for a variety of teaching methods and learning activities. Lecture-style delivery introduces you to key theoretical approaches, concepts and empirical studies, while structured independent and group activities allow you to consolidate and apply your learning. In preparation for taught workshops, you will be assigned reading and preparatory activities via Moodle, our virtual learning environment. Alongside the formal content of the programme, you will have the opportunity to learn more about psychological research by acting as a participant for undergraduate, postgraduate and staff research studies through the Psychology Research Participation Scheme, and focus on your own personal, professional and academic development in regular meetings with your academic tutor.

A range of assessment methods are used to consolidate and appraise your learning. Multiple-choice examinations assess the breadth of your knowledge, while written coursework allows you to explore specific topics in depth. For skills modules, timed tests and portfolio assessments, in which you can demonstrate the range of your developing academic and research skills, are utilised. Oral presentation assessments allow you to practise and develop your verbal communication skills. The extended project report enables you to bring together your learning from across the Foundation modules in a substantial piece of written work. The variety of assessment techniques embedded in the programme is designed to meet the needs of students with a range of individual strengths and preferences, while also effectively preparing all students for the demands of undergraduate study in Psychology.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- (Compensated) pass on all Foundation Year modules allows progression to the BSc (Hons) Psychology, BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling, or BSc (Hons) Psychology with Child Development programmes.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: