

Award and title: Master of Research in Psychology

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Psychology
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<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
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods in Psychology
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time (1 year)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English

Introduction and special features

The MRes in Psychology is a research-based programme that provides students from a Psychology, cognate discipline, or relevant training background to develop their knowledge and skills for studying Psychology at an advanced level. The programme involves the necessary training, skills, and experience to enable students to evaluate and produce original research. The MRes in Psychology prepares students to either pursue a PhD and a research career, or develop research skills to contribute to professional development.

The programme gives students a rich understanding of the research process while also developing an advanced ability to understand, critique, and apply contemporary research in psychology.

A strong emphasis is placed on rigorous research practices and careful consideration of the key dilemmas researchers face when planning and conducting high-quality research.

This includes topics such as the importance of understanding varied epistemological approaches, sound research design, open science practices, and an appreciation of ethical issues and processes.

A key component is the necessity for the student to conduct their own original research. Support and guidance will be provided by academic research supervisors with subject and methodological expertise that spans different areas of psychology (e.g., cognitive, developmental, social). As a research postgraduate, all MRes in Psychology students will be invited into the psychology research community, including access to all Research Groups, the Research Seminar series and University research events.

Working as part of a research community with associated research groups ensures that opportunities for students' professional development are increased. In the MRes in Psychology programme, our ambition is to assist students in developing their thesis into a published article.

Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate study](#). In addition, you must have:

A 2:1 in Psychology or a closely-related discipline. Applicants whose first degree is not in Psychology will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of Psychology and research methods during their first degree.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (including a minimum of 6.5 in the writing component) or another acceptable English Language qualification.

Candidates are required to submit an outline research proposal in line with a research theme that they are interested in pursuing as part of the course (maximum length 1500 words).

Candidates are required to pass an invited interview with a panel of academic/s from the discipline.

Programme Aim(s)

- To foster the development of advanced research literacy skills and the ability to critique and appraise psychological research.
- To equip students with advanced research training and skills in contemporary psychological research methods.
- To develop students' abilities as autonomous learners and independent researchers, including conducting a substantial original research project (with supervision).
- To develop students' awareness of key transferable skills, such as data analysis, critical thinking, presentation and written communication skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

- 7.1 Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and skills in a wide range of contemporary psychology research methods.
- 7.2 Demonstrate understanding across a range of current research areas and key themes in contemporary psychological research that enables the student to critically evaluate and appraise research in psychology.
- 7.3 Plan, manage, and complete novel research by deploying appropriate designs and methods, applying principles of open research practices, consider research ethics, and adhering to high quality standards of rigour.
- 7.4 Report original research findings effectively by demonstrating proficiency in structuring, writing, and presenting complex ideas, analyses, and results, while meeting contemporary standards for open, transparent, high-quality research.

Programme structure

Full Time Programme Structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
EDR7004M	7	1	Foundational Research Methods in Psychological Research	30	C	NC
EDR7005M	7	1	Contemporary Culture in Psychological Research	30	C	NC
EDR7006R	7	2+3	Thesis in Psychology	120	C	NC

Please note that both 30-credit modules must be passed at the relevant level in order to progress to the Thesis module.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The Psychology MRes programme is designed to equip students with advanced research skills and knowledge with taught sessions, supervisory meetings and research-based assessments.

The course content will be delivered with small group workshops and seminars, as well as opportunities to engage in research seminars, research groups and broader research activity. The course will be delivered by experienced academic staff with expertise in relevant methodologies and advanced topics in psychology. Students will experience a range of assessment strategies designed to equip them with core academic and transferable skills such as understanding of contemporary issues in psychology, research ethics, open science, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The two core taught modules in semester one will provide a solid basis for students to understand methods, analyses and current trends in psychology. Both 30-credit modules must be passed in order to progress to the Thesis module.

On the thesis module students will design and write a report on an original piece of research in an area aligned with the research strengths within psychology at York St John University. Students will be assessed by a research report conducted independently under the supervision of a member of academic staff who has expertise in the thesis topic and/or methodology. This one-on-one approach ensures tailored support and fosters confidence and independent research skills.

The approach to assessment is designed to provide students with the knowledge to appraise research in terms of its theoretical bases and rigour whilst ensuring students are well-prepared for the varied challenges associated with conducting contemporary psychological research. The final assessment culminates in the production of a thesis that reports the findings of novel research and showcases their new research abilities.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for taught postgraduate and research degree awards apply to this programme.

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

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: November 2024

Programme originally approved: 12/12/2024