1. **Awarding Institution**
   York St John University

2. **Teaching Institution**
   York St John University

3. **Delivery locations (if different to Teaching Institution)**
   As above

4. **Programme(s) Accredited by (professional/statutory body)**
   -

5. **Faculty offering the Programme(s)**
   HLS

6. **Final Award(s)**
   MSc Community & Critical Social Psychology

7. **Interim Awards**
   PG Cert. Psychology
   PG Dip. Community & Critical Social Psychology

8. **Programme Title(s)**
   MSc Community & Critical Social Psychology

9. **UCAS Code / GTTR / Other**
   -

10. **Approved Combinations (for Joint Honours programmes only)**
    -

11. **QAA Benchmark Group(s)**
    QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Level 7)

12. **Applicable to Year of Entry to the Programme(s)**
    2016

13. **Date Produced/Revised**
    23rd January 2012
    October 2013 (no change)

14. **Mode of Study**
    The programme is offered in the following modes of study:

    - **Full-time**:
      Over 1 year
    - **Part-time**:
      Over 3 years

15. **Introduction and Special Features**

15-a **Introduction**

    The Faculty wishes to offer two MSc pathways in psychology within a core framework of M-level provision which combines pathway-specific modules with modules which are shared cross-Faculty and cross-Psychology. The core elements of the MSc provision in psychology are as follows:

    Semester 1: 30 credit Research Methods module (cross-Faculty)
    Semester 2: 30 credit Psychological Science module (cross-Psychology)
    Spring/Summer: 60 credit Research Paper (Dissertation) module (cross-Faculty)

    Additionally, in each semester, one 30 credit module will be taken to provide the distinctive content related to each pathway. For the MSc Community and Critical Social Psychology (CCSP), students take a Critical Social Psychology module in semester 1 and a Community Psychology module in semester 2.
In drawing together the complementary fields of community psychology and critical social psychology, we have sought to develop an MSc that will appeal to students who value a focus on social critique and social justice in conjunction with a rigorous and scholarly approach to the discipline of psychology. The CCSP MSc will thus enable students to take a fresh approach to psychology, involving a focus on critique of accepted ways of working within the discipline and engagements with pressing ‘real-world’ concerns. The programme features advanced coverage of both core areas – community psychology and critical social psychology – together with advanced issues in psychological science and research methods. This culminates in students undertaking a major independent research project, with supervision, which draws on the principles of community and/or critical social psychology in the Research Paper module. In contrast to a traditional Master’s dissertation, the aim of the Research Paper module is to produce a report in the format of a recognised journal in the field. This does not, however, mean that publication of the report is a requirement of the programme. Transferable skills include data collection and analysis; research design; presentation skills; decision making; critical thinking; the ability to learn autonomously; an understanding of the social context of behaviour; and intervention design and evaluation.

15-b Special features of the programme.

The programme includes a community-based placement. This will involve an arrangement between a student and a partner organisation working with a community, where the student has the opportunity to explore the work of the organisation, and the way in which principles of community psychology might be applied, providing the organisation, in turn, with some form of service as negotiated with the organisation. The responsibility for these negotiations will lie with the student, with guidance and support provided by the module tutor.

16. Criteria for Admission

Applicants will normally have a 2(i) in Psychology or a related discipline, although in cases where exceptional performance on the final year project, mitigating circumstances or relevant professional experience can be demonstrated, applicants may be considered who have a 2(ii). Applicants whose first degree is not in psychology will be welcomed, and these will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of psychology, research methods and statistics during their first degree (this will be assessed by viewing the degree transcript). Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (with a score of 6.5 or above in the Writing component) or an equivalent YSJ approved English Language qualification.

17. Programme Aims

1. To develop students’ advanced knowledge and understanding of community psychology and critical social psychology.
2. To develop students’ advanced knowledge and understanding of research methods and current issues in psychological science.
3. To develop students’ abilities as autonomous learners and independent researchers, including the completion of a substantial independent research project (with supervision).
4. To develop students’ awareness of future directions (in both employment and further study) available to them, and to facilitate their progression to their next stage of employment and/or further study.

18-Ma Level M Programme Outcomes

Students who gain the award of MSc will have demonstrated:

Knowledge and understanding
1. A systematic understanding and critical awareness of key themes and recent developments in community and critical social psychology.

2. A comprehensive understanding of a range of theoretical and methodological techniques in community and critical social psychology.

3. Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create, interpret and critique knowledge in community and critical social psychology.

4. Conceptual understanding that enables the student to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in community and critical social psychology.

5. Conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new avenues of enquiry in community and critical social psychology.

6. Understanding of the significance of alternative epistemological positions that provide the context for theory construction, research design, and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques in community and critical social psychology.

Cognitive skills

7. The ability to deal with complex issues in community and critical social psychology both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and to communicate their conclusions clearly.

8. Self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems in community and critical social psychology, and the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.

9. The capacity to continue advancing their knowledge and understanding of community and critical social psychology, and to develop new skills to a high level.

Practical/professional skills

10. Comprehension of advanced principles of psychological research design and strategy, including an understanding of how to formulate researchable problems and an appreciation of alternative approaches to research.

11. Competence in undertaking and applying a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods and tools including mixed methods approaches.

12. Capabilities for managing research, including managing data, and conducting and disseminating research in a way that is consistent with both professional practice and the normal principles of research ethics.

Key transferable skills

13. The ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility

14. Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations

15. The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Interim awards can be made as follows: Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology (candidate successfully passes 60 taught credits); Postgraduate Diploma in Community & Critical Social Psychology (candidate successfully passes 120 taught credits). Programme outcomes for these interim awards are as follows:

Students who gain the award of PG Cert. will have demonstrated:

Knowledge and understanding

1. A good understanding and critical awareness of key themes of psychological science.

2. A good understanding of a range of theoretical and methodological techniques in psychological science.

3. A solid grounding in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to
4. A level of understanding that enables the student to evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in psychological science.
5. A level of understanding that enables the student to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new avenues of enquiry in psychological science.
6. Understanding of epistemological issues that provide the context for theory construction, research design, and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques in psychological science.

Cognitive skills

7. The ability to deal with problems in psychological science, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and to communicate their conclusions clearly.
8. The beginnings of self-direction in tackling and solving problems in psychological science, and the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.
9. The capacity to continue advancing their knowledge and understanding of psychological science.

Practical/professional skills

10. Comprehension of principles of psychological research design and strategy, including an understanding of how to formulate researchable problems and an appreciation of alternative approaches to research.
11. Competence in undertaking and applying a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods and tools including mixed methods approaches.
12. Capabilities for managing research, including managing data, and conducting and disseminating research in a way that is consistent with both professional practice and the normal principles of research ethics.

Key transferable skills

13. The ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility
14. Decision-making in challenging situations
15. The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Students who gain the award of PG Dip. Will have demonstrated:

Knowledge and understanding

1. A good understanding and critical awareness of key themes in community and critical social psychology.
2. A good understanding of a range of theoretical and methodological techniques in community and critical social psychology.
3. A solid grounding in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create, interpret and critique knowledge in community and critical social psychology.
4. A level of understanding that enables the student to evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in community and critical social psychology.
5. A level of understanding that enables the student to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new avenues of enquiry in community and critical social psychology.
6. Understanding of epistemological issues that provide the context for theory construction, research design, and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques in community and critical social psychology.

Cognitive skills

7. The ability to deal with problems in community and critical social psychology, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and to communicate their
conclusions clearly.

8. The beginnings of self-direction in tackling and solving problems in community and critical social psychology and the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.

9. The capacity to continue advancing their knowledge and understanding of community and critical social psychology.

**Practical/professional skills**

10. Comprehension of principles of psychological research design and strategy, including an understanding of how to formulate researchable problems and an appreciation of alternative approaches to research.

11. Competence in undertaking and applying a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods and tools including mixed methods approaches.

12. Capabilities for managing research, including managing data, and conducting and disseminating research in a way that is consistent with both professional practice and the normal principles of research ethics.

**Key transferable skills**

13. The ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility

14. Decision-making in challenging situations

15. The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

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18-Mb  **Level M Programme Structure and Content**

**Full-time:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Status of Module</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MID182</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPY021</td>
<td>Critical Social Psychology</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPY022</td>
<td>Psychological Science: Perspectives &amp; Practicalities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH170</td>
<td>Community Psychology: Principles &amp; Practice</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MID183</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Spring/ Summer</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part-time:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Status of Module</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPY021</td>
<td>Critical Social Psychology</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1 (yr1)</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPY022</td>
<td>Psychological Science: Perspectives &amp; Practicalities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2 (yr1)</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MID182</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1 (yr2)</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH170</td>
<td>Community Psychology: Principles &amp; Practice</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2 (yr2)</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MID183</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Full year (yr 3)</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Status of Module will be either:
C: Compulsory, CP: Compulsory for progression to the next level, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option or E: elective*

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18-Mc  **Level M Teaching and Learning and Assessment Strategies**

Students will experience the following learning and teaching strategies: Lectures; seminars; tutorials; use of the VLE. A particular emphasis will be placed on the use of small group discussion-based teaching methods (primarily seminars).
Students will experience the following assessment strategies: essays; brief reports; presentations; a proposal for, and report on, a community intervention; a research proposal and an independent research project. Assessments will be assessed both formatively and summatively.

Placements in the Community Psychology: Principles & Practice module will be in relevant community/voluntary/third sector organizations. Under the leadership of the module director, these will be supported by the Psychology Placement Tutor and the Faculty Placement Office.

19. Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's general regulations for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

In addition, the following specific programme regulations apply:

- Students must successfully complete all of the modules for the programme in order to gain the MSc award.

20. Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- York St John University University Mission Statement [see page two]
- York St John University ‘Structure of Awards’ document
- York St John University ‘General Regulations for Postgraduate Awards’ (2011-12).
- York St John University ‘Programme Levels’ document.
- York St John University Learning & Teaching Strategy 2007-12
- QAA Master’s degree characteristics (March 2010)
- ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines 2009

21. Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions Entry Profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Standards)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Standards)
- Student programme handbook (Faculty)
- Module handbooks (Faculty)