

Programme Specification

Award and title: MSc Psychology

<i>School:</i>	School of 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>	The British Psychological Society
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Psychology Postgraduate Diploma Psychology
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	N/A
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Psychology
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The MSc Psychology conversion programme provides a comprehensive pathway for graduates from any discipline to develop expertise in psychological science and research methods. Designed specifically for career-changers, and those with limited psychology background, this intensive programme provides you with the essential foundational qualification that opens doors to professional psychology training pathways that are currently inaccessible to you.

Furthermore, the programme provides:

- **A research-active teaching environment** where staff integrate cutting-edge findings from their own investigations into your learning experience.
- **Expert dissertation supervision** with staff whose research expertise supports diverse research interests.
- **A comprehensive assessment strategy** designed to develop both academic competencies and professional skills essential for psychology careers.

- **A personalised learning experience** through dedicated academic tutoring and tailored dissertation supervision.
- **Advanced laboratory facilities** including EEG technology, eye tracking systems, virtual reality equipment, psychophysiological measurement tools, and comprehensive psychometric testing resources.
- **Student-staff research collaboration opportunities** potentially leading to co-authored publications, conference presentations, and involvement in ongoing research projects; and
- **A supportive learning community** fostering peer collaboration and academic excellence.

Through your studies you'll engage with all British Psychological Society core curriculum areas with lectures that introduce fundamental concepts, interactive seminars to support your development, and practical workshops that develop essential research skills. Across 180 credits, you'll study biological psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, individual differences, social psychology, and advanced research methodologies. Expect approximately 12-15 contact hours per week, complemented by structured independent study and research activities. The journey culminates in your 60-credit dissertation, where everything comes together. You will integrate and apply your psychological research skills, knowledge and analytical capabilities through an independent empirical research project under expert supervision. You will also have access to our advanced laboratory facilities and contemporary research methodologies.

Every assessment serves a purpose: rigorous written examinations test your mastery across multiple psychology domains, whilst critical essays sharpen your analytical thinking, presentations build professional communication skills, and practical exercises demonstrate your competence in both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. This comprehensive strategy ensures you meet the BPS requirements for Graduate Basis for Chartered membership whilst engaging with a range of assessment types.

Your qualification will then enable you to apply for professional psychology training programmes such as doctoral research, clinical psychology training through NHS schemes, educational psychology training, and forensic psychology roles. Our programme therefore provides the essential foundation that will transform your eligibility for careers that were previously accessible only to those who have successfully completed psychology undergraduate courses. The psychological knowledge and transferable skills you develop, including critical analysis, research design, statistical reasoning, and professional communication, are also invaluable across many different sectors.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

- A minimum of a 2:1 classification in any undergraduate degree
- Grade C/4 GCSE in both English Language and Maths, or equivalent qualification.

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.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

1. To provide an intensive conversion pathway specifically designed for graduates without a psychology background to gain comprehensive foundational knowledge and understanding of psychology as an empirical science, meeting British Psychological Society requirements for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC).
2. To develop students' research competencies through training in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, culminating in an independent research project, preparing graduates for careers in psychology or further postgraduate study.
3. To foster ethically-aware psychology graduates who can apply psychological knowledge to real-world contexts, equipped with the critical thinking abilities and professional skills necessary for progression to postgraduate training in psychology.

Programme learning outcomes

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

- 7.1 Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding of the core areas of psychology (biological, cognitive, developmental, social psychology, and individual differences) and their theoretical foundations, as required for BPS accreditation.
- 7.2 Show comprehensive understanding of research techniques and methodologies applicable to psychological research, including knowledge of a range of statistical and qualitative techniques and the ability to make appropriate choices in selecting and using statistical and qualitative analyses.
- 7.3 Critically evaluate psychological theories, research findings and quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches, demonstrating the ability to synthesise information from multiple sources.
- 7.4 Deal with complex issues in psychology systematically, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist audiences.
- 7.5 Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in psychology.
- 7.6 Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development, including the capacity to act autonomously in planning and implementing research at a professional level.
- 7.7 Complete an empirical research project that demonstrates the ability to design, conduct, analyse and report original psychological research following ethical guidelines.
- 7.8 Apply psychological knowledge ethically and professionally, demonstrating awareness of the British Psychological Society's Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PSY7007M	7	1	Foundational Research Methods in Psychology	20	C	X
PSY7009M	7	1	Biological Bases of Behaviour	20	C	X
PSY7010M	7	1	Differential Psychology	20	C	X
PSY7008M	7	2	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	20	C	X
PSY7011M	7	2	Cognition and Development	20	C	X
PSY7012M	7	2	Social Psychology	20	C	X
PSY7013M	7	2/ 3	Dissertation	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The MSc Psychology (Conversion) employs a blend of teaching methods designed to provide intensive coverage of psychological theory and practice within one year. You will experience interactive lectures that introduce core psychological concepts, complemented by smaller seminar groups where critical discussion and debate are encouraged. The programme emphasises research-informed teaching delivered by research-active staff who share their expertise. Teaching is supported by comprehensive online resources through the virtual learning environment (Moodle), including recorded lectures, additional readings, and interactive activities. You will undertake approximately 35 hours of independent study per week, supported by extensive library resources and dedicated academic skills teams.

Assessment is varied and strategically scheduled across the academic year to manage workload effectively. You will complete essays that demonstrate critical analysis, examinations testing knowledge across core areas, presentations developing professional communication skills, and portfolios. The dissertation (60 credits) forms the culmination of the programme, where you will complete an empirical research project under supervision. Throughout the programme, you will receive support from personal academic tutors who provide guidance on academic progress and professional development. All assessments undergo rigorous marking and moderation processes, with external examiner oversight ensuring standards align with BPS requirements. Ethics training is embedded throughout; you will complete a formal ethics applications for your research projects, developing crucial skills for professional practice.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) taught postgraduate 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.

Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC) eligibility

Students must pass 180 credits to be eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC). Intermediate exit awards are available (PG Certificate after 60 credits, PG Diploma after 120 credits), though these do not confer GBC.

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](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: