

Programme Specification

Award and title: MSc Child Psychology and Development

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Psychology
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2027-28
<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>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Child Psychology and Development Postgraduate Diploma Child Psychology and Development
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	N/A
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2024); QAA Subject Benchmark Statement, Psychology (2023)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full time / part 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 Child Psychology and Development provides advanced education in psychological theory and research, exploring key areas of human development. The programme examines children's social, emotional and cognitive development, starting with key processes in young children's learning and broadening to cutting-edge topics in developmental psychology across childhood and adolescence. Through engagement with current research and advanced methodological approaches, you will develop specialised knowledge in selected areas of developmental psychology and their practical applications.

Specialist Facilities

The programme is supported by extensive specialist facilities including a child-friendly lab space, eye-tracking equipment, surveillance rooms with HD cameras and ceiling-mounted microphones, virtual reality headsets, Biopac physiological recording equipment, and specialist software for experimental work. These

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated; please refer to the Regulations for Undergraduate/Taught Postgraduate/Professional Doctorate Awards <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/> for information on standard periods of study

resources, combined with dedicated technical support staff, enable you to conduct sophisticated research projects that can lead to publication in recognised journals.

Research-Led Teaching

You will be taught by active researchers who share their specialist knowledge, current research, and methodological expertise. The programme provides focused coverage of topics in development, alongside research methods training and an introduction to the uses of laboratory-based technologies in developmental research. This research-focused approach culminates in your independent Research Paper, where you will produce work in a format suitable for publication in recognised journals.

Professional Development

The programme integrates career development throughout your studies. You will be allocated an academic tutor in your first week, providing continuous support via our Personal, Academic and Professional Development (PAPD) scheme. This includes access to careers workshops and events, ensuring you develop both academic excellence and professional capabilities.

Career Progression

The programme prepares you with knowledge and skills that have relevance for careers across a range of sectors including education, healthcare, and research. Our graduates have secured roles working with children and young people in educational and healthcare settings, undertaken research positions in both academic and healthcare contexts, and progressed to further professional training and to doctoral study.

Admissions criteria

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

- A 2.1 honours degree in Psychology or a closely related scientific subject.

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/>).

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)

The programme aims to:

1. Provide advanced understanding of the psychology of children's development through engagement with contemporary research and theory, enabling students to develop specialised knowledge in selected areas of human development.
2. Develop sophisticated research capabilities through hands-on experience with advanced methodological approaches and specialist research facilities, cultivating skills for both academic publication and professional practice.
3. Foster the development of professional competencies and career readiness through structured support and engagement with real-world applications of developmental psychology.

Programme learning outcomes

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

- 7.1 Demonstrate systematic understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at the forefront of developmental psychology.

- 7.2 Show comprehensive understanding of research techniques and methodologies applicable to developmental psychology research.
- 7.3 Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in developmental psychology.
- 7.4 Deal with complex issues in developmental psychology systematically, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-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 developmental psychology.
- 7.6 Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development, including the capacity to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.

Programme structure

Full-time (1 year)

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PSY7014M	7	1	Learning and Development	30	C	X
PSY7015M	7	1	Foundational Research Methods in Psychology	30	C	X
PSY7016M	7	2	Current Topics in Developmental Psychology	30	C	X
PSY7017M	7	2	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	30	C	X
PSY7018M	7	2, 3	Research Paper	60	C	NC

Part-time (2 years)

Code	Level	Year	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PSY7014M	7	1	1	Learning and Development	30	C	X
PSY7016M	7	1	2	Current Topics in Developmental Psychology	30	C	X
PSY7015M	7	2	1	Foundational Research Methods in Psychology	30	C	X
PSY7017M	7	2	2	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	30	C	X
PSY7018M	7	2	2,3	Research Paper	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 Child Psychology and Development makes use of varied teaching methods and assessment approaches designed to develop both subject expertise and transferable skills. Teaching is seminar-based, and combines formal material delivering theoretical content and current research with interactive activities enabling deeper exploration of key topics. You will engage in practical workshops to develop essential research skills, supported by structured learning activities and independent study. The virtual learning environment, Moodle, provides additional resources and support for student learning. Independent student research on the programme benefits from dedicated psychology laboratories equipped with specialist research facilities, including eye-tracking equipment, electroencephalography (EEG) facilities, video observation suites, and comprehensive psychometric test libraries.

Assessment is designed to be both rigorous and diverse, incorporating portfolios, funding proposals, critical reviews, exams and oral presentations. The programme culminates in a substantial independent research paper (60 credits). Each module provides clear assessment criteria provided through detailed module guides. You will undertake comprehensive research methods training aligned with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) guidelines, gaining practical experience in both qualitative and quantitative techniques.

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.

Late result modules

This programme contains the following modules, where the result of the first attempt is not known in time for the June School Assessment Boards (or equivalent level progression point for non-standard entry points). This may delay progression to the next level of study.

- *PSY7018M Research Paper*

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: 17 April 2026

Programme originally approved: 5 June 2026