

Programme specification

BSc (Hons) Psychology



School: School of Psychological and Social Sciences
Entry from: 2018/19 *in:* September

Awarding institution: York St John University
Teaching institution: York St John University
Delivery location: York St John University
Programme/s accredited by: British Psychological Society
Exit awards: BSc (Ord) Psychology
Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology
Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology

UCAS code / GTTR / other: C800
Joint Honours combinations: Not applicable
QAA benchmark group(s): Psychology
Mode/s of study: Full-time for 3 academic years

Language of study: English
Study abroad opportunities: Yes

Introduction and special features

Psychology is a wide-ranging and popular scientific subject, principally dealing with the study of people, their thoughts and behaviours, as individuals or as groups. York St John University's programme provides you with a comprehensive education in the scientific foundations of psychology and an introduction to applied practice across multiple domains. The programme also provides you with the opportunity to become an independent and self-aware individual who is socially responsible, global in outlook; confident, adaptable and effective in communicating, research oriented, curious minded and digitally literate – all attributes which are highly sought after by many employers in the general graduate job market.

The programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and confers eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC), provided the minimum standard of qualification of second class honours is achieved. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist, and essential if you are wishing to pursue a career in psychology.

Student Support

Throughout the duration of the programme you will be well supported to grow and develop your skills, knowledge and interests. You will be allocated an academic tutor in your first week of study and be able to develop that supportive relationship throughout the duration of your degree whilst working on a set programme of Personal, Academic and Professional Development (PAPD). Through PADP you will have access to careers workshops and activities and an opportunity to participate in a number of careers related events which can be combined to contribute to a York St John University Employability award.

Student Opportunity

Throughout the programme you will have access to, and are actively encouraged to use, two well-resourced psychology laboratories permanently staffed by our technical staff who are on hand to

offer support and guidance at the point of need. There is a range of continually updated technical resources for you to engage with in your practical work, including (but not limited to) portable and static eye-tracking equipment, surveillance rooms equipped with HD cameras and ceiling mounted microphones, virtual reality headsets and motion sensors, Biopac physiological recording equipment, specialist software for creating, recording and analysing experimental stimuli and a range of questionnaires and psychometric tests.

The programme is designed to encourage you to become involved in psychological research as a researcher, participant and disseminator, both through your academic modules and a formal Psychology Research Participation Scheme (PReP) which is supported by specialist SONA software. The PReP is administered through two year-long modules during the first and second years of your degree; in order to pass these modules you can choose to participate in research studies, accruing a target number of research participation points set on an annual basis, or complete an alternative assessment (an online research skills portfolio).

Participation in the scheme will help prepare you for conducting your own research projects, and provide you with an insight into the experience of being a participant in research in psychological science. The research projects that you can partake in are a combination of final year student research projects, postgraduate student research projects and staff research projects which can act as a catalyst for your own research ideas. As a final year student you will also have the opportunity to advertise your own project in the PReP system if required.

Additionally, at all levels of the degree you will be encouraged to apply to the Students as Researchers scheme giving the opportunity to work alongside psychology staff as a research assistant on current research programmes; this could involve collecting and analysing data and possibly co-authoring a published research paper or presenting it at a national conference. In your final year you'll engage in a year-long research project which culminates in presenting your findings as a research poster in a Psychology Research Conference, which is open to all psychology students.

In the second year of your degree, you will be supported to arrange 75 hours of work experience relevant to your career aspirations through the Psychology Work Placement. You can choose to complete these hours in a block of full-time work during the university holidays or through regular part-time work. Engaging in learning in the workplace alongside your academic studies will help prepare you for the next steps after completing your degree.

Student Choice

Whilst the first two years of the programme contain a compulsory set of modules providing an excellent understanding of a broad range of psychological theory and practice, the final year provides you with a range of optional choices so that you can create your own final year programme of study. You can create your own final year research project under the supervision of one member of staff and are given a free choice of modules from a range of topical and professionally-related options; optional modules reflect staff research expertise and as such are subject to change each year). Final year module sizes are capped to ensure that class sizes are relatively small allowing for greater interaction with, and support from, staff. In this way you can create your own final year of study in smaller class groups, which can be tailored to your own interests and / or career goals.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

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 [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

The aims of the programme are in accord with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) benchmark document for psychology (QAA, 2016) and are to:

1. Produce a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience and the complex interactions between these and the environments in which they exist
2. Present multiple perspectives of psychology in a way that fosters critical evaluation and reflection
3. Lead to an understanding of real-life applications of psychological theory within the full range of experience and behaviour
4. Promote the application of psychological understanding to real world questions
5. Develop knowledge such that it leads to an appreciation of theory and research, including relevant ethical and socio-cultural issues
6. Develop an understanding of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory and how theory guides the collection and interpretation of empirical data
7. Develop a range of research skills, methods and knowledge for investigating experience and behaviour, culminating in the ability to conduct independent research.
8. Produce critical and reflective graduates with the knowledge and skills to compete effectively in a global graduate market.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 4

Upon successful completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 4.1 Knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles relating to Psychology.
- 4.2 Evaluation and interpretation of psychological concepts and principles.
- 4.3 Accurate presentation, evaluation and interpretation of research data.
- 4.4 Structured, accurate and coherent presentation of arguments relating to Psychology.
- 4.5 Evaluation of different theoretical approaches to psychological problems.
- 4.6 Qualities and skills required for continual development and learning within structured environments.

Level 5

Upon successful completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 5.1 Critical knowledge of the principles and limits of Psychology.
- 5.2 Application of psychological principles outside of the context in which they were first studied.
- 5.3 Knowledge and critical scientific evaluation of the main methods of psychological enquiry.
- 5.4 Effective communication of complex information in a variety of audience-appropriate forms.
- 5.5 Reflective practice related to the limits of your knowledge and skills relating to Psychology.
- 5.6 Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring personal responsibility and decision-making.

Level 6

Upon successful completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 6.1 A systematic and relativistic understanding of key aspects of Psychological knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of the discipline.

- 6.2 Accurate and appropriate application of empirical research techniques and enquiry.
- 6.3 Critical evaluation of knowledge and data in order to frame empirical questions and identify solutions.
- 6.4 Clear communication of uncertain or ambiguous knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 6.5 Reflective practice related to your specific and generic skills and knowledge in relation to graduate career opportunities.
- 6.6 Qualities and transferable skills necessary for roles requiring initiative, personal responsibility and decision making in complex or unpredictable contexts.

Programme Structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1PY400	4	1	Exploring Social Psychology	10	C
1PY401	4	1	Cognition	10	C
1PY402	4	1	Biological Bases of Behaviour	20	C
1PY403	4	1	Experimental Research Methods and Statistics	20	C
1PY404	4	2	Current Psychology	10	C
1PY405	4	2	Foundations of Human Development	10	C
1PY406	4	2	Personality & Individual Differences	20	C
1PY407	4	2	Survey Research Methods and Statistics	20	C
1PY408	4	1&2	Psychology Research Participation Scheme (PReP)	0	C
2PY400	5	1	Social Psychology	20	C
2PY401	5	1	Infant & Child Development	20	C
2PY402	5	1	Qualitative Research Methods	20	C
2PY403	5	2	Assessment of Individual Differences	10	C
2PY404	5	2	Advanced Topics in Brain & Behaviour	10	C
2PY405	5	2	Investigating Cognition	20	C
2PY406	5	2	Advanced Research Methods	20	C
2PY408	5	1&2	Psychology in Practice	0	C
3PY400	6	1&2	Research Paper	40	C
Choose 2 modules in Semester 1 and 2 modules in Semester 2 from the following:					
3PY401	6	1 or 2**	Clinical Psychology	20	O
3PY402	6	1 or 2	Contemporary Issues in Quantitative Psychology	20	O
3PY403	6	1 or 2	Counselling Approaches in Psychology	20	O
3PY404	6	1 or 2	Memory Improvement	20	O
3PY405	6	1 or 2	Political Psychology	20	O
3PY406	6	1 or 2	Adolescent Development & Behaviour	20	O
3PY407	6	1 or 2	Investigative Psychology	20	O
3PY408	6	1 or 2	Psychology of Religion	20	O
3PY409	6	1 or 2	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	20	O
3PY410	6	1 or 2	Animal Behaviour & Comparative Psychology	20	O
3PY411	6	1 or 2	Concepts & Perspectives in Sport & Exercise Psychology	20	O
3PY412	6	1 or 2	Critical Social Psychology	20	O
3PY413	6	1 or 2	Language Development	20	O
3PY414	6	1 or 2	Neuropsychology	20	O
3PY415	6	1 or 2	Theoretical Perspectives on Offending Behaviour	20	O
3PY416	6	1 or 2	Psychology in the Light of Evolution	20	O
3PY417	6	1 or 2	Dark personalities and clinical disorders	20	O

3PY418	6	1 or 2	Lifespan development	20	O
3PY419	6	1 or 2	Psychology in education	20	O
3PY420	6	1 or 2	Developmental psychopathology & clinical applications	20	O
3PY421	6	1 or 2	Social influence and social interaction	20	O
3PY422	6	1 or 2	Health psychology	20	O
3PY423	6	1 or 2	Critical approaches in mental health	20	O

***C**: Compulsory, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

**The intention is to offer the modules in this configuration but have the flexibility to be able to change the semester of delivery for each module without having to change the documentation.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The programme is structured such that your knowledge and skills continually develop across the different levels of the programme, and assumes no prior knowledge of psychology.

Level 4 is designed to introduce key concepts of psychology and psychological investigation so that you can begin to develop your generic and psychology-specific skills and knowledge. Alongside this you'll be invited to become part of the welcoming Psychology community at York St John by getting involved in research and discovering staff research interests in the Current Psychology module.

Level 5 builds on the solid foundation of the previous level to provide more challenging content and skills, expanding many of the core concepts delivered in level 4 by encouraging further intellectual challenge and curiosity. There are additional study abroad opportunities at level 5 which you can take part in for a semester – usually at partner institutions in the United States. In order to keep BPS accreditation whilst studying abroad you must take comparable modules at the partner institution, if these are not available then you may still choose to study abroad but with the loss of BPS accreditation; Psychology staff will be on hand to provide guidance and support for this decision.

Level 6 will provide you with an opportunity to identify and pursue specific interests in psychology through the self-directed research of the Research Paper module whilst also choosing from modules which reflect both postgraduate training routes and the individual research expertise within the staff team. This approach enables you to identify and follow your own interests and to prepare for life as a York St John Psychology graduate.

Alongside the formal content of the programme at all levels are two parallel development programmes; the Personal and Professional Development programme contained within timetabled academic tutorial sessions and the Research Participation Scheme which encourages you to become involved in student and staff research as a participant.

More specifically, each module provides structured learning utilising a variety of assessment techniques. Module-based learning activities will include formal lectures, seminars, supported open learning, independent study, and the use of virtual learning environments (i.e. Moodle). Assessment activities are designed to enable you to receive relevant feedback about your learning before submitting assessments for marking.

In creating assessments for the modules, great thought has been given to providing a range of assessment types to meet the differing strengths, weaknesses and preferences of all our students in order to help them reach their full potential, whilst also being challenging in order to help develop important skills expected of all graduates.

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.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement for Psychology](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [British Psychological Society's Standards for Accreditation of Undergraduate Programmes](#)

Date written / revised: 27/02/18

Programme originally approved: 15/03/18

QSC 27.3.19 approved 7 new modules 3PY417 to 3PY423. 2PY407 was replaced with 2PY408.

Programme Structure Diagram.

Level 4

Semester 1	Semester 2
1PY408 Research Participation Scheme (0 pass / fail)	
1PY400 Exploring Social Psychology (10)	1PY404 Current Psychology (10)
1PY401 Cognition (10)	1PY405 Foundations of Human Development (10)
1PY402 Biological Bases of Behaviour (20)	1PY406 Personality & Individual Differences (20)
1PY403 Experimental Research Methods & Statistics (20)	1PY407 Survey Research Methods & Statistics (20)

(Brackets indicate the credit value of each module)

Level 5

Semester 1	Semester 2
2PY408 Psychology in Practice (0 pass / fail)	
2PY400 Social Psychology (20)	2PY403 Assessment of Individual Differences (10)
2PY401 Infant & Child Development (20)	2PY404 Advanced Topics in Brain & Behaviour (10)
2PY402 Qualitative Research Methods (20)	2PY405 Investigating Cognition (20)
	2PY406 Advanced Research Methods (20)

(Brackets indicate the credit value of each module)

Level 6

Semester 1	Semester 2
3PY400 Research Paper (40)	
Choose 2 from*: 3PY401 Clinical Psychology (20)	Choose 2 from*: 3PY409 Neurodevelopmental Disorders (20)
3PY402	3PY410 Animal Behaviour & Comparative Psychology (20)

Contemporary Issues in Quantitative Psychology (20)	
3PY403 Counselling Approaches in Psychology (20)	3PY411 Concepts & Perspectives in Sport & Exercise Psychology (20)
3PY404 Memory Improvement (20)	3PY412 Critical Social Psychology (20)
3PY405 Political Psychology (20)	3PY413 Language Development (20)
3PY406 Adolescent Development & Behaviour (20)	3PY414 Neuropsychology (20)
3PY407 Investigative Psychology (20)	3PY415 Theoretical Perspectives on Offending Behaviour (20)
3PY408 Psychology of Religion (20)	3PY416 Psychology in the Light of Evolution (20)
3PY417 Dark personalities and clinical disorders (20)	3PY418 Lifespan development (20)
3PY430 Developmental psychopathology (20)	3PY419 Psychology in education (20)
3PY422 Health psychology (20)	3PY421 Social influence and social interaction (20)
	3PY422 Non-medical approaches in mental health (20)

(Brackets indicate the credit value of each module)

**Level 6 optional modules in each semester are indicative; presentation of modules in Semester 1 or 2 may change*