

## Course record information

<b>Name and level of final award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master of Science - Psychology</li> </ul> <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
<b>Name and level of intermediate awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Psychology</li> <li>• Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Psychology</li> </ul>
<b>Awarding body/institution</b>	University of Westminster
<b>Teaching institution</b>	University of Westminster
<b>Status of awarding body/institution</b>	Recognised Body
<b>Location of delivery</b>	Primary: Central London
<b>Language of delivery and assessment</b>	English
<b>QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Professional statutory or regulatory body</b>	British Psychological Society
<b>Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSc Psychology FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length</li> <li>• MSc Psychology PT, Part-time day, September start - 2 years standard length</li> </ul>
<b>Valid for cohorts</b>	From 2025/6

## Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

## Aims of the programme

The course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the theoretical and applied bases of psychology and health, illness and disease. Specifically it aims to provide:

- An accessible route for graduates to gain eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).
- A high quality Masters-level course which enables students with little or no psychological background to gain advanced skills and knowledge in core areas of contemporary psychology.
- A set of advanced modules which together provide coverage and critique of the core elements of the discipline of psychology as specified by the British Psychological Society.
- Advanced understanding of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods deployed in contemporary psychology.
- Advanced understanding of the social, cultural and historical contexts of psychological research.

## Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

This Master's programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC), provided the minimum standard of an overall pass mark of at least 50% is achieved. Students must also pass the empirical project element to be eligible for GBC. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. Gaining GBC through the MSc Psychology will enable you to progress towards a career in psychology. For example successful completion of the MSc will enable you to apply for BPS accredited training as a psychology practitioner (e.g. Clinical, Counselling, Occupational, Health, Forensic or Educational Psychology) or to become involved in academic/research psychology. The course also offers enhanced employability as a postgraduate qualification for other career paths. The theoretical rigor and practical application of psychology, along with its emphasis on qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, are widely acknowledged as a sound platform for a wide variety of careers.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

### Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

**Level 7 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- 001 Describe, discuss and critically evaluate psychological theory and research in core areas of contemporary psychology. ( KU )
- 002 Achieve the breadth and depth of coverage of core areas of psychology as required by the BPS for GBC. ( KU )
- 003 Demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of psychological issues, concepts and approaches, including historical, theoretical and philosophical issues relevant to psychological research. ( KU )
- 004 Utilise advanced skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods employed in psychology and plan, conduct and write up, under supervision, an independent research study. ( KU )
- 005 Writing clearly in appropriate academic formats about theory and research evidence in psychology. ( SS )
- 006 Advanced discipline-specific skills in literature searching, formulation of research questions, and evaluating research findings. ( SS )
- 007 Planning, execution and production of an empirically based psychology research project, under supervision. ( SS )
- 008 Analytic appraisal of the theoretical bases of different approaches and core conceptual frameworks within psychology. ( SS )

- 009 Identification of appropriate psychological research methods for particular research questions. ( SS )
- 010 Information search, retrieval and organisation. ( KTS )
- 011 Planning and managing an independent research project. ( KTS )
- 012 Ability to work in a group of peers. ( KTS )
- 013 Other interpersonal skills, through working with participants in research studies. ( KTS )
- 014 Application of appropriate ethical concerns to existing and own research. ( KTS )
- 015 Oral and written communication skills. ( KTS )
- 016 Producing presentations and written reports, for a range of audiences. ( KTS )
- 017 Use of ICT at an appropriate level for a Masters course. ( KTS )
- 018 Ability to assess current strengths and weaknesses and motivate self. (opportunity to practise at high level) ( KTS )
- 019 Critical analysis of their own work. (opportunity to practise at high level) ( KTS )
- 020 Using and responding to feedback received from experts and peers. (opportunity to practise at high level) ( KTS )
- 021 Taking responsibility for, and managing, their own learning and development, within time constraints. (opportunity to practise at high level) ( KTS )
- 022 Assessing and presenting their skills and achievements, and managing their career needs. (opportunity to practise at high level) ( KTS )
- 023 Recognising, outlining and executing steps required for their own development. (opportunity to practise at high level) ( KTS )

## How will you learn?

### Teaching methods

Teaching and learning methods include the following: traditional lectures and seminars; small group work; demonstrations of equipment and techniques, and training in their use where appropriate; practical sessions, both for collecting and for analysing data; attendance at Department research seminars; student presentations; computer-based work; independent student-directed study (including research for the research project and small scale studies in the methods modules).

### Assessment methods

Assessment methods are intended to develop professional level skills. The majority of assessments are various types of coursework, drawn from: practical reports; report in style of specific publication; essays; conference-style presentations; time-restricted closed and open book tests or exams; literature searching, retrieval, and organisation; reviewing papers; critiquing methods; study design suitable for grant proposals; data analysis, including in module computer-based tests; reflective practitioner log book.

### Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

## Modules

### Level 7

Part time students will normally complete the 180 credits in two academic years. The course consists of six core taught modules, a core project module, and one option taught module. Each taught module will have 30 to 36 contact hours, and may also have a formal examination in the summer term.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PSYC019W	Biological and Cognitive Psychology	Core	20	10
7PSYC006W	Developmental and Differential Psychology	Core	20	10
7PSYC008W	Fundamental conceptual issues in Psychology	Core	20	10
7PSYC018W	Project for MSc Psychology	Core	40	20
7PSYC020W	Qualitative Research Methods for Psychology	Core	20	10
7PSYC021W	Quantitative Research Methods for Psychology	Core	20	10
7PSYC003W	Social Psychology and Applied Psychology	Core	20	10
7HPSY004W	Individual Differences: Health Stress and Disease	Option	20	10
7PSYC022W	Psychology Literature Review	Option	20	10
7PSYC029W	Work Experience in a Psychological Setting for MSc Students	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

### Professional body accreditation or other external references

Please refer to Employment and further study opportunities section.

### Course management

- Dr Mark Gardner, Course Leader, responsible for day to day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum;
- Dr Alison Eardley, Admissions Tutor;
- Professor Damien Ridge, Head of Department, holds overall responsibility for the course, and for the other courses run by the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Science and Technology,
- Professor Mark Baldwin, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, holds overall responsibility for the course and for other courses run by the Faculty.

### Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

### Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

## How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

## How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©

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