Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2012-13

Programme Title	Psychology and English Language
UCAS/JACS Code	CQ83
School/Subject Area	Life and Health Sciences, Psychology, in conjunction with Languages and Social Sciences, English
Final Award	BSc (Joint Hons) in Psychology and English
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma in Higher Education
Mode(s) of Study	Sandwich
Normal Length of Programme	4 years
Total Credits	480 credits
Programme Accredited By	The British Psychological Society
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Written July 2011: Dr Liz Moores with Dr Carol Marley and Dr Tim Grant Updated Oct2011: Dr Liz Moores Updated Nov 2011, April 2012, Dr Carl Senior

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff.
	• To produce graduates with skills and abilities in research and enquiry, information literacy, personal and intellectual autonomy, ethical, social and professional understanding.
	• To produce graduates who can bring qualities of critical judgement and reasoning to their chosen occupation and who are capable of applying and disseminating knowledge.
	• To provide students with an intellectually rigorous and up-to-date education in psychology and English which will help them to identify and achieve their personal, academic and professional goals.
	• To provide students a degree-level education in the study of the English Language, with special emphasis on its use in social contexts and the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world.
	• To provide a thorough and staged grounding in approaches to language description and situate these descriptions in historical, comparative, cultural and social contexts
	• To relate knowledge about the English language to issues in the wider world, with reference to areas of practical problem solving such as legal, educational and business practices
	• To provide opportunities for specialised and guided investigation into specific aspects of English language, particularly through work on the compulsory dissertation
	• To deliver a programme of a standard which satisfies the accreditation requirements of the British Psychological Society for eligibility for Graduate Membership and Graduate Basis for Chartership
	• To provide a programme which responds to the needs of a wide range of entrants from a variety of routes.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmarking statements • School of Life & Health Sciences Quality Committee • Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) • The British Psychological Society accreditation requirements

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits
Stage I

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Research Methods and Statistics	20	4	PY1124	Core
Cognitive Psychology Ia	10	4	PY1117	Core
Social Psychology I	10	4	PY1118	Core
Developmental Psychology	10	4	PY1109	Core
Introduction to Psychology	10	4	PY1129	Core
Introduction to English Language: across time and space	10	4	LE1004	Core
Introduction to English Language: social applications	10	4	LE1005	Core
Introduction to English Language: contexts, modes and media	10	4	LE1006	Core
Introduction to English Language: language in society	10	4	LE1012	Core
Words and Meaning	10	4	LE1007	Core
Grammar and Meaning	10	4	LE1008	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits
Stage II

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Advanced Statistics	20	5	PY2224	Core
Language & Communication	10	5	PY2236	Core
Psychological Research Methods	10	5	PY2238	Core
Social Psychology II	10	5	PY2229	Core
Cognitive Psychology IIa	10	5	PY2218	Core
Research Methods in Language and Communication	10	5	LE2019	Core
Variations of English	10	5	LE2021	Core
Working with Language Data	10	5	LE2032	Core
Language at Work	10	5	LE2007	Elective
Introduction to Intercultural Business Communication	10	5	LE2003	Elective
Computer-mediated communication	10	5	LE2031	Elective
The Language of the Law	10	5	LE2006	Elective
Introduction to the Study of Meaning	10	5	LI2202	Elective
Stylistics	10	5	LE2029	Elective
Language in the News Media	10	5	LE2022	Elective
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits Stage III				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Placement (Compulsory)	120	P	PYPL06	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits Stage IV				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Final Year Project in Psychology	30	6	PY3314	Core
Personality and Intelligence	10	6	PY3354	Core
Cognitive Neuropsychology	10	6	PY3356	Core
Child Development	10	6	PY3351	Core
Spoken Discourse Analysis	10	6	LE3004	Core
Dissertation in English	20	6	LE3006	Core*
Language as Evidence	10	6	LE3005	Elective
Language and Gender	10	6	LE3007	Elective
Learning English	10	6	LE3008	Elective
Critical Discourse Analysis	10	6	LE3011	Elective
Corpus Linguistics	10	6	LE3012	Elective
Multimodal Analysis	10	6	LE3015	Elective
Linguistics of the Individual	10	6	LE3016	Elective
TOTAL	120			

* but can be exempted by Programme Director if PY3314 topic approved as covering both Psychology and English topics

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies		
A. Knowledge and Understanding		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	The scope and nature of psychology as an academic discipline, conceptual, ethical and historical issues and the contributions of different perspectives	These are developed through lectures and seminars, associated handouts and visual presentations, together with individual supervision in preparation of the student's final year project. • lectures (A1-9) • tutorials (A1,5, 6) • seminars (A4, 5, 6) ▪ group work (A2,6, 8) ▪ individual work (A1-9) ▪ guided reading (A1-5, 6-7) ▪ individual supervision (A1-2) ▪ placement work (A3)	Seen and unseen exams, class tests, essays, on-line quizzes, practical reports, projects, portfolios, posters and presentations. • assignments (A1-9) • end of teaching period examination (A2,4,5,7) • in-class test (A5) • essay (A6,7) • individual project (A2,4,8, 9) • group project (A6, 8, 9) • presentation (A2, 6, 8, 9) • advanced research dissertation (A1,2,4,6, 8, 9) • placement reflective log (A3)
2	The scientific method, a wide range of research designs and quantitative and qualitative methodology, descriptive and inferential statistics, including parametric, non-parametric and meta-analyses.		
3	The practical applications of psychology and the links between theory and practice.		
4	A wide range of issues in and theories of cognitive, developmental, biological and social psychology and in individual differences		
5	concepts, terminology and principles for the description of English grammar, vocabulary and discourse		
6	the role of language and linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social action and decision making		
7	the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry, with specific reference to English		
8	theories and methods used in researching English language in use		

9	the relevance of applied English language study to communication in the workplace		

B. Intellectual Skills		
On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1 gather, organise, deploy and analyse evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources	• lectures (B1-5) • tutorials (B1, 3, 6, 7) • seminars (B1, 2, 3, 4) ▪ group work (B1, 8) ▪ individual work (B1-9) ▪ guided reading (B1-9) ▪ individual supervision (B1-5, 8)	• assignments (B1-5) • end of teaching period examination (B2,3,5,6) • in-class test (B1) • essay (B1, 2, 3, 5, 6) • individual project (B1-8) • group project (B1-8) • presentation (B1, 3, 5, 7) • advanced research dissertation (B1-8)
2 Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence.		
3 Think critically and question received wisdom.		
4 Show competence in research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis.		
5 Present arguments that are clear, structured and sustained.		
6 evaluate contrasting academic arguments and claims about English and its use		
7 identify, investigate, analyse and formulate solutions to problems		
8 Carry out a sustained piece of independent research.		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Specialise in areas of particular interest and relevance to their chosen career path	• tutorials (C5) • group work (C5) • guided reading (C5) • Placement experience (C1-2) • Individual supervision (C3, 4) • Lectures (C1, 4)	• Placement essay, log book and report: (C1,2) • Final year project report (C3, 4) • Advanced research dissertation (C5)
2	Apply their key skills and competencies within a real work-based situation (via placement experience)		
3	Identify a research question and from this design, execute and report an empirically-based research project		
4	Understand the ethical context of psychology as a discipline.		
5	identify practical language problems and discriminate between possible solutions in the light of concepts learned		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Good written and oral communication skills.	Communication skills are developed through seminars, poster presentations and oral	• written work (D1-3)

2	Competence in the use of information technology for word processing, data handling, communication and information gathering.	presentations.	• presentations (D1,2,3,6)
		Effective use of information sources, analytical ability, independent and group work are all developed through study skills classes, problem-based tasks and independent supervision.	• individual project (D1,2,3)
3	The ability to undertake self-directed study and project management.		• group project (D1,2,3,4,6)
			• advanced research dissertation (D1,2,3,5,6)
4	The ability to work effectively in teams, reacting appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors.	Self-reflection is developed through the placement log book (placement students only) and through the use of self-assessment forms.	
5	The ability to reflect upon own learning and development.	Work experience is gained through the placement year	
		• tutorials (D1,6) • seminars (D1, 4, 6) • group work (D1-4, 6) • individual work (D1,2,3,5) • Virtual Learning • Environment (Blackboard) (D4)	
6	Ability to engage in informed discussion, to accept constructive criticism and to criticise constructively		

Entry Requirements	*In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must also satisfy the entry requirements determined by the School Board and approved by Senate*
Programme Regulations	This programme is governed by the University's current General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes (reference REG/12/376 and subsequent editions), except where they are modified by the following Programme Regulations. Normally, students are required to undertake an integrated programme of professional training of at least 30 weeks duration, not including any periods of vacation. The placement shall be undertaken at times approved by the Associate Dean Taught programmes. **FAILURE IN MODULES** 1. PY3314, the final year project module cannot be condoned. 2. Normally, where a module requires the completion of a portfolio of assessments or completion of research credits students must pass both portfolio and/or research hours components of the module. 3. All modules in the Psychology programme require an element of reflective practice. To this end students in the first and second years are required to complete two feedback surveys by the end of each term. Final year students will be required to complete these surveys at the end of each module. Failure to complete these surveys may result in students receiving no marks for that module.

Further Information	In order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC), students must gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree or equivalent thereof.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.