Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
2013-2014

Programme Title	Psychology
UCAS/JACS Code	USLHLH030
School/Subject Area	Life & Health Sciences, Psychology
Final Award	B.Sc (Hons) in Psychology
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma in Higher Education
Mode(s) of Study	Full time with optional placement year
Normal Length of Programme	3 years 4 years with placement year
Total Credits	3 years 360 credits 4 years with placement year 480 credits
Programme Accredited By	The British Psychological Society
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Written April 2004: Dr Ros Hill Revised (Special Regulations added) June 2005: Dr Liz Moores Revised (addition to special regulations and changes to curriculum) May 2007: Dr Liz Moores Revised (new final year module) July 2007: Dr Liz Moores Revised (new modules and title changes) Oct 2008: Dr Liz Moores Revised (new module changes, programme title and qualification frameworks) July 2009: Dr Carl Senior Revised (complete new final year, assessment strategy completed, programme code change, changes in first year modules) Aug 2010: Dr Carl Senior Revised (title changes to some first year modules, inclusion of full entry criteria) Sept 2010: Dr Carl Senior Revised (inclusion of PY3427) March 2011: Dr Carl Senior Revised (removal of PY2234, inclusion of PY2210 and the splitting of PY1122 into the two smaller PY1117 and PY1120) June 2011: Dr Carl Senior Revised (PY3305, PY3132, PY3121 added) June 2011: Dr Carl Senior Revised (PY3002, PY3125 added) June 2012: Dr Carl Senior Revised (PY3314 increased from 30 credit to 40 credit module as recommended by external examiners) February 2013: Dr Richard Cooke Revised (PY3004, PY3005, PY3006, PY3008, PY3009 added) June 2013: Dr Richard Cooke

Educational Aims of the Programme	1. To produce graduates with skills and abilities in research and enquiry, information literacy, personal and intellectual autonomy, ethical, social and professional understanding. 2. To produce graduates who can bring qualities of critical judgement and reasoning to their chosen occupation and who are capable of applying and disseminating psychological knowledge. 3. To provide students with an intellectually rigorous and up-to-date education in psychology which will help them to identify and achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. 4. To provide an environment where staff research activity and involvement in the subject inspire and inform student learning. 5. To allow students to pursue individual interests through an optional placement year, module choice and project work in the final year. 6. 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. 7. 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 current External and Internal Strategies, Policies or Research used to inform programme outcomes	The British Psychological Society accreditation requirements QAA Code of Practice School of Life & Health Sciences Quality Committee UK Quality Code Part A.1 (2011) QAA Benchmark Document for Psychology Staff Research

STAGE 1

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Approaches to Psychology	10	4	PY1134	Core	Y	N
Studying Psychology in Higher Education	10	4	PY1128	Core	Y	N
Research Methods and Statistics	20	4	PY1124	Core	Y	N
Psychology Practicals	20	4	PY1125	Core	Y*	N
Cognitive Psychology Ib	10	4	PY1120	Core	Y	N
Cognitive Psychology Ia	10	4	PY1117	Core	Y	N
Developmental Psychology	10	4	PY1109	Core	Y	N
Social Psychology I	10	4	PY1118	Core	Y	N
Psychology and the Brain (HP)	10	4	PY1135	Core	Y	N
Abnormal Psychology	10	4	PY1133	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

*Practicals is condoneable if students have completed research hours.

STAGE 2

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Cognitive Psychology IIa	10	5	PY2218	Core	Y	N
Cognitive Psychology IIb	10	5	PY2219	Core	Y	N
Developmental Psychology II	10	5	PY2208	Core	Y	N
Language & Communication	10	5	PY2236	Core	Y	N
Advanced Statistics	20	5	PY2224	Core	Y	N
Psychology of Aging	10	5	PY2209	Core	Y	N
Cognitive Neuropsychology	10	5	PY2234	Core	Y	N
Individual Differences and Health	10	5	PY2231	Core	Y	N

Psychological Research Methods	10	5	PY2238	Core	Y*	N
Employability and Career Planning	10	5	PY2210	Core	Y	N
Social Psychology II	10	5	PY2229	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

*Psychological research methods is condoneable if students have completed research hours

Placement Year

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Placement	120	P	PYPL06	Option	N	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE F

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Final Year Project	40	6	PY3314	Core	N	N
Auditory Perception	10	6	PY3363	Option	Y	N
Mind & Brain	10	6	PY3112	Option	Y	N
Neuropsychiatric Disorders	10	6	PY3134	Option	Y	N
Understanding Language Impairments	10	6	PY3130	Option	Y	N
Psychosis	10	6	PY3129	Option	Y	N
Psychology of Illness	10	6	PY3128	Option	Y	N
Individual Differences in Learning	10	6	PY3127	Option	Y	N
Social Cognitive Neuroscience	10	6	PY3125	Option	Y	N
Health Behaviours	10	6	PY3124	Option	Y	N
Dyslexia	10	6	PY3123	Option	Y	N
Brain imaging	10	6	PY3111	Option	Y	N
Music and the Brain	10	6	PY3365	Option	Y	N
Affective disorders	10	6	PY3366	Option	Y	N
Human Aggression	10	6	PY3003	Option	Y	N
The Autistic Spectrum	10	6	PY3472	Option	Y	N
Motivation, Emotion and the Brain	10	6	PY3305	Option	Y	N

People and health care	10	6	PY3004	Option	Y	N
Basics of joint attention	10	6	PY3005	Option	Y	N
Psychology of allergic conditions	10	6	PY3006	Option	Y	N
Eating behaviour during childhood	10	6	PY3008	Option	Y	N
Models and outcome in Psychotherapy	10	6	PY3009	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

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.	Seen and unseen exams, class tests, essays, on-line quizzes, practical reports, projects, portfolios, posters and presentations.
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	The main theories of cognitive development and early social development.		
5	The cognitive experimental tradition of social psychology and the critical social perspective.		
6	A wide range of issues in and theories of cognitive psychology, including thinking, learning, memory, language, perception and problem –solving.		
7	The role of the brain in behaviour, theories of abnormal behaviour and neuropsychology.		
8	Theory and application of research into individual differences.		

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	Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence.	Intellectual skills are developed through the lecture programme and linked seminars and practical classes, independent study and coursework. Students are exposed to relevant modes of enquiry and analyses; they are encouraged through class	Seen and unseen exams, class tests, essay, practical reports, projects, portfolios, posters and presentations.
2	Think critically and question received wisdom.		
3	Show competence in research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis.		
4	Show competence in execution of empirical methodology.		

5	Assess the merits of competing explanation s in understanding the complexity of human behaviour.	discussion and their individual written work to identify key issues, to summarise and reflect upon key points from their reading, to assess evidence and its relevance. Guidance on the location and use of library and web sources, on referencing, on the preparation of written and oral work is provided through handbooks, workshops and skills classes. Research skills are further developed and individual supervision.	
6	Identify, synthesise and evaluate relevant primary and secondary materials.		
7	Present arguments that are clear, structured and sustained.		
8	Carry out a sustained piece of independent research.		
9	Demonstrate the development of intellectual integrity and maturity, and the ability to reflect on an integrate what has been learned.		
10	Undertake and present work in accordance with the conventions of scholarship.		

	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	Identify a research question and from this design, execute and report an empirically-based research project	These are achieved through lectures, practicals and individual supervision	Essays, exams, project, research proposals.
2	Understand the ethical context of psychology as a discipline.		

	D. Transferable 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	Good written communication skills.	Communication skills are developed through seminars, study skills essay feedback, poster presentations and oral presentations. Effective use of information sources, analytical ability, independent and group work are all developed through study skills classes, problem-base tasks and independent supervision. Self-reflection is developed through the placement log book (placement students only) and through the use of self-assessment forms. Work experience is gained through the placement year (placement students only).	Coursework, exams group and individual projects, practical reports, oral presentations, poster presentations.
2	Competence in the use of information technology for work processing, data handling, communication and information gathering.		
3	The ability to undertake self-directed study and project management.		
4	The ability to work effectively in teams, reacting appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors.		
5	The ability to reflect upon own learning and development.		
6	Knowledge of the responsibilities, tasks and relationships involved in work (placement students only).		
7	Good oral communication skills.		

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	**REQUIRMENTS FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE** 1. ORDINARY DEGREE: Placement Stage: On the four year programme, Stage Three will be assessed by the Board of Examiners as one module, PYP100, worth 120 credits at Level P. 2. ORDINARY DEGREE: Final Stage: Final stage assessment will comprise one compulsory module, PY3314 Final Year Project (40 credits) and eight optional modules (to a total of 120 credits). The optional modules offered may vary from year to year according to staff availability. **FAILURE IN MODULES** 3. Normally, condonement of modules may be applied only when the overall mark is within 5% of the normal pass mark for the module and when the candidate's overall weighted mark for the stage is 45% or above. Condonement normally may only be applied when a student has passed all modules other than those for which condonement is considered. 4. Normally, where a module requires the completion of a portfolio of assessments or completion of research credits students must pass both portfolio and research hours components of the module.
General Regulations (http://www1.aston.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/regsandpolicies/general-regulations/) and the Regulations for the programme (above) take precedence over other information sources such as student handbooks if there is a conflict. If there is a conflict between General Regulations and Programme Regulations then General Regulations take precedence unless an exemption has been approved.	

Further Information	In order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society (GBC) students must gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree or equivalent thereof in addition to passing the empirical psychology project (PY3314).

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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those listed in this programme specification as our programmes are continuously reviewed.** 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 specifications and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.