

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(2013-14)**

Programme Title	MSc Health Psychology
UCAS/JACS Code	
School/Subject Area	LHS, Psychology
Final Award	MSc Health Psychology
Interim Award(s)	Certificate (60 credits) Diploma (120 credits)
Mode(s) of Study	FT
Normal Length of Programme	1 year
Total Credits	180
Programme Accredited By	British Psychological Society (BPS)
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	July 2003 Revised July 2006 Revised July 2008 Revised Sept 09 Revised July 2010 Revised July 2012 Revised July 2013

<p>Educational Aims of the Programme</p>	<p>The principal aim of the programme is to provide students with Stage 1 of postgraduate training in Health Psychology, according to the requirements of the BPS. In doing so, it aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide students with an in depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of health psychology; 2. develop students' understanding of advanced research methodology and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to enable them to carry out independent work of publishable standard; 3. develop awareness of the contribution and application of health psychology within multicultural and multidisciplinary settings; and 4. develop professional and transferable skills in preparation for becoming a health psychologist.
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<p>Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other current External and Internal Strategies, Policies or Research used to inform programme outcomes</p>	<p>UK Quality Code Part A.1 (2011) BPS Stage 1 Training in Health Psychology</p>
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TAUGHT STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Qualitative Research Methodology	20	7	PYM701	Core	Y	N
Quantitative Methods & Advanced Statistics	20	7	PYM702	Core	Y	N
Health Behaviour	20	7	PYM703	Core	Y	N
Health Inequalities across the Lifespan	20	7	PYM704	Core	Y	N
Illness Processes and Behaviour	20	7	PYM705	Core	Y	N
Applications and Professional Issues	20	7	PYM706	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

DISSERTATION STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Research Project	60	7	PYM707	Core	N	Y
TOTAL	60					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. <u>Knowledge and Understanding</u>			
	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	Health psychology theory and the influence of context in applying such theories to interventions (aim 1)	Lectures, interactive sessions, practicals, group work, seminars, engaging with online materials, independent study and engaging with relevant practice initiatives.	A1 is assessed through a report (PYM703) a systematic review (PYM704), and an extended essay (PYM705).
2	Advanced research methodology (aim 2)		A2 is assessed through a critical appraisal, mini project and an exam (PYM701 and PYM702).
3	Advanced qualitative and quantitative techniques and analyses (aim 2)		A3 is assessed through the mini projects and exam (PYM701 and PYM702). A4 is assessed through a systematic review (PYM704)
4	Working within a multicultural society with sensitivity to equal opportunities legislation and their relationship to practice (aim 3)		A5 is assessed through a research protocol and report which should address ethical issues and implications of the results (PYM707).
5	Ethical issues facing research and practice in health psychology (aims 2, 3 & 4)		A6 is assessed as part of coursework (PYM706).
6	The potential multidisciplinary approach of health psychology (aim 4)		

B. <u>Intellectual Skills</u>			
	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	Critically evaluate and analyse theory and research in health psychology (aim 1)	Lectures, interactive sessions, practicals, group work, seminars, engaging with online materials, independent study and engaging with relevant practice initiatives.	B1 is assessed through a behaviour change intervention report (PYM703) a systematic review (PYM704) and an extended essay (PYM705).
2	Use reflective practice (aim 4)		B2 is assessed in the report in (PYM706) and the reflective log in PYM705.
3	Demonstrate advanced skills in research methodology and statistical analysis (aim 2)		B3 is assessed through the mini projects in PYM701 and PYM702.
4	Be competent in writing research proposals and dissemination of research (aim 2)		B4 is assessed through the research protocol and assessment of the thesis in (PYM707).



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	Be aware of ethical and professional issues and conduct (aims 3 & 4)	Lectures, interactive sessions, practicals, group work, seminars, engaging with online materials, independent study and engaging with relevant practice initiatives.	<p>C1 is assessed through a poster and report reflecting professional codes of conduct (PYM706) and the research proposal and thesis (PYM707).</p> <p>C2 is assessed through a report that specifies how theory is translated into practice (PYM703) and through a poster and report on the application of theory in a specific area (PYM706).</p> <p>C3 is assessed in the mini project in PYM701 and PYM702).</p> <p>For C4 students are required to produce a continuing professional development plan in conjunction with their personal tutor (in Personal & Professional Development tutorials and in PYM706).</p> <p>C5 is assessed in coursework (PYM704 & PYM705).</p>
2	Be competent in translating theory into practice (aims 1, 3 and 4)		
3	Demonstrate the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level (aim 2)		
4	Be sensitive to their own training needs and develop a continuing professional development plan (aim 4).		
5	Ability to recognise health inequalities in multidisciplinary and multicultural contexts (aim 3).		

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	Effective communication via a range of media (aim 4)	Lectures, interactive sessions, practicals, group work, seminars, engaging with online materials, independent study and engaging with relevant practice initiatives.	<p>For D1, written communication is assessed through a report (PYM703) and Oral communication is assessed via an oral presentation (PYM703) and the poster presentation (PYM706).</p> <p>D2 is not separately assessed, but forms part of the assessment criteria of all written work.</p> <p>D3 is by coursework and exam (PYM702).</p> <p>D4 is assessed in all submitted coursework.</p>
2	Excellent library and database skills (aim 2 & 4)		
3	Demonstrate advanced numeracy skills (aim 2)		
4	Independent study, including good time management (all aims)		

Entry Requirements	<p>Applicants with a good honours degree of 2.1 or above (applicants with a high 2.2 and good references may be invited for interview) that confers eligibility for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the BPS will be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS. Minimum requirement - 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each area. • TOEFL IBT. Minimum requirement - 100 overall, (21 in listening and writing, 22 in reading and 23 in speaking). • Pearson Academic. Minimum requirement - 61 overall, 59 in each area.
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Programme Regulations	<p>The programme is governed by the General Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes; in addition the following Regulations apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condonement for modules other than the research project (PYM707) shall be considered for module marks with a threshold at 45% as long as the overall stage average is 55% or above. • The dissertation module begins in term 1 but work on the project will not start until pre-requisites have been met (as specified above): that the proposal has been passed; there has been a favourable opinion from the ethics committee; and 30 credits from term 1 have been passed.
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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	
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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.