

## FINAL YEAR MODULE GUIDE

---

### For modules to be taken in the academic year of 2024/25

This module guide has been put together to help give you an overview of the final year of your Psychology degree.

While in the first two years of the BSc Psychology, all modules are compulsory, the final year consists entirely of electives. More specifically, the third year of the Psychology programme comprises one Project in Psychology (either a research project or an extended essay project) and six or seven 15-credit elective modules.

To help you make your choices, we have put the following information together for you:

- This **module guide**, giving you an overview of the elective modules that will be available to take next academic year;
- **Short video introductions** from the module organisers of the elective modules, available on the [Module Fair QMplus page](#);
- An on-campus Module Fair event, taking place **Thursday, March 14 from 11am – 1pm in Geography 1.26**

Before attending the module fair, we strongly recommend that you read through the information in this guide and watch the videos online so that you make the most of your time and staff availability at the fair.

If after the Module Fair, you still have questions about specific modules, you can ask them on the [Final Year Q&A Forum](#) on QMplus.

Good luck making your choices!

Dr Stephanie Echols, Director of Teaching and Learning in Psychology

## FINAL YEAR PROJECTS

In your final year of your Psychology BSc, you will take either PSY600 Research Project in Psychology (30 credits), or PSY606 Extended Essay in Psychology (15 credits).

### **PSY600 Research Project in Psychology**

PSY600 is a year-long module worth 30 credits that will comprise your **dissertation research project**. *You need to pass this PSY600 Research Project to graduate with a BPS-accredited degree in Psychology.* This is the option that most students choose because it gives them the opportunity to conduct their own research and earn a BPS-accredited research degree.

Note: If you take PSY600, you will take another six 15-credit electives in your final year to earn 120 credits overall.

### **PSY606 Extended Essay In Psychology**

PSY606 is a 15-credit module that involves a significant piece of writing in Psychology (a similar length as a dissertation). If you choose to take PSY606, you will not complete an independent dissertation research project in your final year. However, *your Psychology BSc degree will NOT be accredited by BPS* if you choose to take PSY606.

Note: If you take PSY606, you will take another seven 15-credit electives in your final year to earn 120 credits overall.

## FINAL YEAR ELECTIVES

Apart from your final year project, your programme diet is made up exclusively of **electives**. You will need to take **three Level 6 modules per semester**, in addition to PSY600 for the entire year.

If you choose PSY606 (Extended Essay) instead of the dissertation research project (PSY600), you will need to select four electives in Semester A and three in Semester B. *Please note that you must complete the dissertation/PSY600 to receive the BPS-accredited degree.*

*You need to pass a total of 90 credits at Level 6 to graduate.*

Below is a description of each elective to help you make your decision.

**\*Please note the details of a module may change based on the lecturers' prerogative, assessments may change, and who teaches a module may change based on staff availability.** What follows is a snapshot of what may be available next year.

### Semester A

#### **PSY314 Criminal & Forensic Psychology**

Taught by Dr Pettit

This module introduces students to the fundamental concepts in the psychological study of crime. The areas introduced include: the forensic psychologist, the study of crime, psychological explanations of crime, psychological explanations of the criminal mind, psychological explanations of specific crime types (for example, crimes of a sexual nature), the role of criminal and forensic psychologists in detection and investigation, and psychology in prison.

100% Coursework (presentation, in-class test)\*

#### **PSY324 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy: An Introduction**

Taught by Dr Cristina Cioffi

This module introduces cognitive behavioural therapies (CBT) and their use across healthcare settings. CBT is the most-researched form of psychotherapy, and the recommended psychological intervention for most mental health symptoms.

Students will learn how CBT is applied in understanding psychological problems by examining cognitive behavioural models for different mental health conditions, such as mood disorders, anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive and trauma disorders. Students will be introduced to the theory and the practice of CBT, critically examining a broad range of therapeutic skills and treatment protocols for addressing specific disorders. Case studies will be used throughout to promote the translation of theoretical knowledge into practical applications and vice versa, and to achieve in-depth understanding of CBT.

75% Exam, 25% Coursework (written coursework)\*

*\*Please note that this module may be taught in-person, online-only, or a combination of online and in-person for 24/25 (i.e., with lecturer teaching remotely).*

### **PSY326 Working with Vulnerable Groups**

Taught by Dr. Paraskevi Argyriou and Dr. Sevasti Foka

In this module, we will address the concept of vulnerability within three contexts: (1) Humanitarian, focusing on war affected children/youth groups and forcibly displaced families, (2) Educational, focusing on students with mental health risks and their families, (3) Workplace, focusing on minority employees. We will discuss theoretical perspectives around vulnerability, case studies outlining the factors shaping vulnerability and the needs of vulnerable groups, and the current trends in psychological practice and policies to support those groups.

100% Coursework (in class activities & written coursework, including lay magazine article)\*

### **PSY333 Nature, Nurture & Mental Health**

Taught by Dr Margherita Malanchini

This module provides an in-depth analysis of a new, rapidly evolving, and often controversial area, of psychology and psychiatry. We will build on several key areas of psychology introduced in previous modules including social, biological and abnormal psychology to explore how genetic and environmental factors come together to cause mental illnesses such as major depression, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Drawing on the most recent research from quantitative and molecular genetics we will explore the evidence behind several key controversies in the field including the continuum between traits and disorders, the nature vs nurture debate, genetic determinism and the ethical implications of genetic research of mental illness.

75% Exam, 25% Coursework (1200-word report)\*

### **PSY337 Psychology of Play and Games**

Taught by Dr Emery

The study of play encompasses many areas of psychology, and games are an important part of our culture, enriching our lives, health and well-being. However, there are also negative aspects to games, such as game addiction, gambling and the proposed link between playing violent video games and aggressive behaviour. This makes the study of play and games an important one with societal and moral implications and one in which psychology has a significant role. Whilst the overall topic of this proposed module is quite specific, it requires students to build upon and apply their previous knowledge and skills from different areas of psychology (biological, cognitive, social, developmental and comparative). Students will relate key psychological processes to different game mechanisms and use them to design their own game (50% of the final grade).

This module takes a novel approach in that it is presented as a game itself. Students will play through a story in a unique world, encountering different locations and a cast of diverse characters, completing 10 play- and game-related tasks throughout the module. They get to choose 4 of the tasks to be marked based on a self-assessment of their performance. This contributes the other 50% of their final grade.

100% Coursework (activities & game design project)

### **(NEW) PSY338 Child & Adolescent Mental Health**

Taught by Dr. Bosiljka Milosavljevic & Dr. Katarzyna Kostyrka-Allchorne

This module will provide you with a broad overview of the major childhood and adolescent neurodevelopmental and mental health conditions, including epidemiology and development, risk and protective factors and interventions. You will learn about the current research in childhood and adolescent psychopathology and how to critically appraise the evidence base for interventions. The module will also explore the role of societal changes (e.g., digitalisation, family structure), and broader context (e.g., loneliness, bullying, academic pressure) on adolescent psychological wellbeing and mental health. Finally, you will explore the role of broader psychosocial factors and culture in our understanding of childhood and adolescent psychopathology.

50% Exam, 50% Coursework\*

## **Semester B**

### **PSY318 Business Psychology**

Taught by Dr Argyriou

The workplace is a dynamic place, constantly changing, evolving and adapting in the face of global changes in new technologies, new ways of working and changing social, economic and political norms. In order to keep a workplace running like a fine tuned machine, it often takes the efforts of many individuals. In many ways, this is where organizational psychology comes in place, which is the branch of psychology studying the workplace environment in all its liveness by promoting effective practices to maximize the benefits for both the organizations and their employees. In this module, you will be introduced in key issues in organizational psychology and how they apply in the workplace. Topics will include employee selection and training, team-work, leadership, fairness and well-being in the workplace, and organizational change and development.

75% Exam, 25% Coursework\*

### **PSY323 Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience**

Taught by Dr. Laura Crucianelli

This course will cover advanced cognitive neuropsychology and affective neuropsychology. Lectures for cognitive neuropsychology will include an introductory lecture followed by lectures on disorders of perception (object recognition) disorders of attention (the neglect syndrome), disorders of memory (amnesias) and basal ganglia disorders (Parkinson's disease). The second half of the course will cover affective neuroscience with lectures on attentional and interpretative biases in emotion processing, obsessive compulsive disorder, disgust, neuroscience of empathy, and neuroscience of music and emotions.

75% Exam, 25% Coursework\*

### **PSY329 Counselling Psychology**

Taught by Dr Foka

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the field of counselling psychology. Broadly, topics addressed at the beginning of the course will include the history of the discipline, professions within it, and how counselling psychology distinguishes itself from other specialties in the broader fields of psychology and mental health. The bulk of the course will focus on the theories and psychological intervention that practising counselling psychologists and

researchers use to inform their work (i.e., formulating case conceptualisations or hypotheses). Additionally, we will integrate a variety of topics of special relevance to counselling psychology throughout the course including ethics, formal assessment, working with cultural diversity, empirical support for treatments, and ongoing research in the field regarding the processes underlying client change and outcomes.

75% Exam, 25% Coursework\*

### **PSY336 Sports and Exercise Psychology**

Taught by Dr. Frederike Beyer and Dr Sophie Pettit

This module will introduce you to the professional field of Sport and Exercise Psychology. It will address the psychological techniques used for improving athletic performance, team cohesion, athlete wellbeing, etc., and the psychological benefits and risks associated with exercise. The content builds on your previous knowledge about cognitive, clinical and health psychology, and applies this knowledge to real-life problems in the form of case studies.

Throughout the module, you will build a portfolio of case studies, covering various types of problems and intervention techniques. You will learn how theoretical concepts of cognition, emotion, motivation, attachment and psychological interventions can be applied to real-life problems relating to individual and team sports.

100% Coursework (portfolio activities and written case study)

### **PSY339 Social Development**

Taught by Dr Stephanie Echols

This is an advanced, interactive seminar on social development from infancy to early adulthood. We will explore this topic from an interdisciplinary perspective and discuss empirical research and theoretical perspectives on social development from neuroscience and developmental, cognitive, social, and evolutionary psychology. We will explore topics such as the emergence of personality and the self-concept, the development of empathy and moral reasoning, the importance of parental, peer, and group influences, and atypical social development.

100% Coursework (presentation and written coursework, incl. a grant proposal)\*

**(NEW) PSY340 The Science of Consciousness**

Taught by Dr. Daniel Bor & Dr. Valdas Noreika

Consciousness is one of the greatest remaining mysteries in all of biology: the ability to experience the world is one of the key considerations of what makes us human. This module will delve into the psychology and neuroscience of consciousness, reflecting the most recent progress in the field. It will explore ethical considerations in the study of consciousness, and consider the implications of diminished consciousness in psychiatric and neurological conditions, such as depression and dementia.

50% Exam, 50% Coursework\*