Course Choice

Studying Psychology at The Open University

2006/2007
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Welcome

The Open University (OU) is Europe's largest provider of university-level education in psychology, offering a choice of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees, and a diploma in psychology for postgraduates. Psychologists working within the Faculties of Education and Language Studies, Science and Social Science all contribute to this cross-faculty programme, thus drawing on the multiple approaches which contribute to this subject.

Study psychology with the OU and you will:

• learn about the fundamental conceptual issues in psychology
• understand the different ways in which psychological knowledge can be constructed
• develop a range of research skills
• develop transferable skills that can open up many career options.

You can combine your study of psychology with other disciplines, such as philosophy, law, computer science, biology, business, education and health science.

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and the Diploma in Psychology: conversion for postgraduates are recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) which is the gateway to further training and to practising as a professional psychologist.

Our teaching in psychology, which was rated as ‘excellent’ at the last assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency, draws on our strong research culture. Particular interests include:

• discourse analysis
• psycho-social studies
• developmental psychology
• cognitive and neuropsychology
• forensic psychology.

What is psychology?

Psychology is:

• the study of how people perceive, process information, think, act, react and interact
• the empirical investigation of the brain, mind, behaviour and the self using a diverse range of methods to inform and evaluate theories.

Psychology isn’t:

• the art of mind reading
• common sense
• the same as psychoanalysis or counselling
• another word for psychiatry.

Psychology:

• enhances an understanding of human behaviour
• uses diverse forms of investigation to develop theories that relate to mind and behaviour
• has applications in every part of human and sometimes animal life
• has several sub disciplines such as social psychology, cognitive psychology and biological psychology. You’ll be able to learn about these specialist areas.

Studying psychology can help you find answers to questions like:

• Why can’t I remember things?
• What impact does divorce have on children?
• Why do some people get depressed?
• What is dyslexia?
• How did I become who I am?
• What are the causes of stress?
• How do we see?

How to use this booklet

If you’re interested in studying psychology – either as part of a broader degree or for your professional career – this booklet will help you explore the many possibilities. You’ll find useful course information and guidance whether you are:

• studying with the OU for the first time
• already studying with the OU and want to choose your next course
• working towards an OU qualification recognised by the BPS (either our BSc (Hons) Psychology or the Diploma in Psychology: conversion for postgraduates)
• looking to apply for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) from the British Psychological Society (BPS), having already gained a degree (honours, masters or doctorate)
• wanting to continue studying psychology at postgraduate level.

You can learn more about our undergraduate and postgraduate courses and professional qualifications on the University’s psychology programme website at www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology
In studying for your OU degree you'll develop and practise both generic and professional skills that will help you to move your career forward or change direction.

What will I get out of my degree?
The skills and experience that OU graduates bring to the workplace can often be more important than the particular subject of their degrees. Your studies will help you develop a broad set of graduate-level abilities that appeal to prospective employers. These transferable skills include learning how to:

- draw together, analyse and critically evaluate information
- put together reasoned arguments and question assumptions
- communicate effectively, clearly and accurately with others
- manage your time, and learn effectively and independently
- use information communications technology (ICT) to support your learning.

In addition to these generic skills, your study towards a degree in psychology will enable you to develop specific skills and knowledge useful to a number of different professions. For example, as well as developing critical and analytical skills, you will develop both essay and report writing skills and will also be able to analyse data and undertake research using a range of methods.

Working as a professional psychologist
As a professional psychologist you can practise in many interesting areas including:

- clinical psychology
- clinical neuropsychology
- counselling psychology
- educational psychology
- forensic psychology
- health psychology
- occupational psychology
- teaching and researching in psychology
- sports psychology.

You'll find outlines of these disciplines and the qualifications needed in Appendix A on page 21. You can also find out more about these professions at [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/occupations](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/occupations) or [www.bps.org.uk/careers](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers). If you live in Ireland you may also find [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com) helpful.

Becoming a professional psychologist
To become a professional psychologist in the UK, you need to complete a university course recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR). This is the first, and a necessary, step towards obtaining a place on a BPS-recognised masters and/or doctorate course leading to professional qualifications in psychology and chartered status.

Controlled by Royal Charter and with over 40,000 members, the BPS is the representative body for psychologists and psychology in the UK. Its main aims are to:

- encourage the development of psychology as a scientific discipline and an applied profession
- raise standards of training and practice in the application of psychology
- raise public awareness of psychology and increase the influence of psychological practice in society.

The Society specifies the requirements for, and recognises and approves the content of, OU psychology courses that grant eligibility for GBR. You can then go on to take recognised masters or doctorate courses leading to professional qualifications and/or, through appropriate PhD completion, you can become a Chartered Psychologist. Whilst studying BPS-approved OU psychology courses you can become a BPS student subscriber – visit [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk).

You can find out more about OU programmes that are recognised for GBR in [Recognition leaflet 3.1 available at](http://www.open.ac.uk/recognition) or from the Student Registration & Enquiry Service on +44 (0)870 333 4340.

The Psychological Society of Ireland is a similar professional body whose main aim is to advance psychology as a pure and applied science in Ireland and elsewhere. Many OU students and graduates are among the Society's 2000 active members. Learn more about the Society at [www.psihq.org](http://www.psihq.org).

Currently, graduates with BPS-recognised degrees must apply individually to the Psychological Society of Ireland for membership. However, the two bodies are considering mutual undergraduate accreditation criteria.

Please note that careers in professional psychology are highly competitive and that relevant work experience is usually a pre-requisite for entry onto postgraduate psychology courses.
Other careers for psychology graduates

Psychology is a valuable background for any job that involves dealing with people. Only a relatively small proportion of psychology graduates go on to practise as professional psychologists. Many use their degrees to pursue careers in healthcare, welfare, education, community services, local government, industry and commerce.

More than 70 per cent of graduate job vacancies in 2003 didn’t need a specific degree subject (from What Do Graduates Do 2005? Graduate Prospects). Possible options with an open degree would include human resources, marketing, management, IT or finance.

To find out more about the opportunities available with a psychology degree visit www.prospects.ac.uk/links/options

The chart below shows the results of a survey, conducted by the Learning and Teaching Support Network for Psychology, of the career direction of UK students completing an undergraduate degree in psychology.

Career directions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Direction</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health, education and childcare</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, finance and IT</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social work and community work</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and management</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional psychology</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Careers information and advice

When applying for jobs you’ll need to demonstrate that you have the right mix of skills for a particular career, by drawing on examples from your studies, work experience and other areas of your life. The OU Careers Advisory Service can give you advice on how to go about it. Visit www.open.ac.uk/careers or contact the Student Registration & Enquiry Service (see page 20).

OU Careers Advisory Service staff can also help you to:

- plan, develop or change your career
- meet the needs of your continuing professional development
- choose your course to match your career aspirations
- prepare application forms or CVs
- prepare for interviews
- look for employment nationally or locally
- consider further study or professional training.

All students are entitled to a careers guidance interview at any stage of planning a career.

Career Advisory FirstClass conference

All students have access to the Career Advisory conference on FirstClass. We use this conference to post notices about events, vacancies and any other careers information that may be relevant to students. We also run topic or subject-based conferences where students can ask questions and receive replies from a careers adviser.

A conference on careers with psychology will be running in June 2006 and will be open to all students. For more information visit www.open.ac.uk/careers/conferences

Career Links

This is an OU networking scheme where an OU student who is looking to enter a specific career can register as a Career Seeker. They are then matched with a suitable Career Helper who is already working in that career and who can share their personal experiences. For more information and to register for Career Links visit www.open.ac.uk/careers/links

As our careers advice service is predominantly UK based, assistance for students in continental Europe is limited to providing:

- sources of career information and guidance, and help for gaining recognition of OU qualifications in European countries
- general information on career planning and job-seeking skills and strategies.

Professional recognition of psychology degrees in continental Europe is complex and fast moving. We recommend you contact the relevant professional body in your home country, details of which are on the BPS website www.bps.org.uk listed under ‘International Psychological Associations’.
OU psychology courses provide an integrated and stepped approach to learning, building on the knowledge and skills you’ve developed in previous courses. If you’re new to study or to the OU, we recommend you work progressively from a Level 1 course through to Level 2 courses, then to the Level 3 courses. Your first course at Level 2 should be *Exploring psychology* (DSE212).

The table below outlines some of the skills you’ll acquire and the support you’ll receive when studying for your degree.

### Levels of study and what they mean to you

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduces you to major areas such as social sciences and science, and to part-time study in our supported open learning system.</strong> Learning is not just about acquiring knowledge; you’ll also be gaining skills in organising information, communicating effectively and managing your time – key abilities that help you learn effectively and which are also highly valued by employers. You’ll receive plenty of support with course work and more guidance from your tutor than at the higher levels. Level 1 will help build confidence in your own abilities and establish a firm foundation for further study.</td>
<td><strong>Courses offer opportunities to extend and apply your knowledge and skills, and to look more critically at techniques, problems and issues in your chosen subject area e.g. psychology.</strong> Learning and assessment tasks will develop your communication skills further and introduce you to guided project work and report writing. Feedback from your course tutor will help you to develop your critical and analytical skills. Level 2 aims to help you to become a more independent learner, able to identify and select appropriate information and use ICT tools to support your learning. We recommend that your first course at Level 2 should be the OU’s foundation course for psychology, <em>Exploring psychology</em> (DSE212).</td>
<td><strong>Courses build on Level 2 knowledge and skills to take a more specialist approach to your chosen subject. Course materials will provide you with an in-depth knowledge of the subject and a critical understanding of the research methods used. In psychology the learning and assessment tasks will further develop your ability to put together reasoned arguments, analyse material and undertake project work. Although your tutor will continue to give you feedback, you’ll be expected to actively plan your study, review your progress, and improve your knowledge, understanding and skills to achieve your personal and/or career goals.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each course carries credit points. For any honours degree you’ll need 360 points, including a maximum of 120 points at Level 1; your remaining 240 points must include at least 120 points at Level 3. Most of the psychology courses offered at the OU are 60-point courses, requiring on average sixteen hours’ study a week.

### Course materials

With guidance and support you’ll be expected to complete assignments which are marked by your tutor. You’ll also have opportunities to attend residential schools where you’ll work on research projects with other students. Throughout your study you’ll use:

- specially written textbooks
- audio and visual materials such as CD-ROMs and DVDs
- information communications technology (ICT) to write up your assignments, carry out data analysis and access web-based information.

### How will I be assessed?

You’ll receive an assessment booklet for each course, detailing what you need to do and when assignments are due, and giving you tips on how to approach each one. A range of assessment methods, appropriate for particular levels of specific courses, include:

- essays on key course themes and content
- reports of research you’ve conducted on your own or with others
- short notes and answers to exercises (for example, using statistics).

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Course information and registration 0870 333 4340
It’s worth taking time to read your tutor’s comments, as they will help you to develop your skills for future assignments.

On most courses you’ll have an end-of-course examination, but your course materials provide plenty of guidance and a specimen exam paper.

Am I ready for the course?

Are You Ready leaflets prepared by the course teams can help you to decide whether you have the necessary knowledge and skills for a particular course. These provide individual course profiles, explain the demands you’re likely to face, and detail previous study that might equip you to complete the course. You can view these leaflets at www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology

Register early

It pays to register well before your course start date. You’ll have more time to familiarise yourself with the course content and materials, and to plan your studies.

For example, if you're studying our Level 2 course Exploring psychology (DSE212), several weeks before it begins you’ll receive course preparation materials, and study guidance if you’re new to the OU. You’ll also receive materials to help with the computing aspect of the course. If you register early for a residential school course, such as Exploring psychology project (DXR222) or our Level 3 course Cognitive psychology (DD303), you’ll have more choice over when and where you attend residential school. And if you’re taking DZX222 (the online version of Exploring psychology project), you’ll be able to experience the online-conferencing system before teaching starts.

Preparing to study

Once you’ve registered we may send you material that will help you to prepare for your course. Later we’ll let you have contact details for your tutor and information about where tutorials will be held. You’ll receive this in late September for courses starting in October, and in late January for courses starting in February. Your course material should then arrive about a week before your course starts.

Study support

You’ll have access to many sources of support, including:

- your course tutor who marks your assignments and leads local group tutorials
- learner support services at your OU regional centre
- study skills materials on the psychology programme website at www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology
- the StudentHome website which provides ‘toolkits’ to help you develop study skills in academic reading, note taking, ICT and maths.

You’ll also have the support of other students – both within your tutor group or self-help group and via the online FirstClass conferences run by the OU Students’ Association (OUSA). You may also find it helpful to join the OU Psychology Society (OUPS) – see Appendix B on page 24.

Another useful resource is the Open Library. This provides access to a range of electronic resources, including bibliographic databases, electronic journals, full text databases, statistics, reference sources and links to quality-assessed websites specially selected for OU courses. When you register on your course you’ll be given a password to access Open Library resources. The psychology section http://library.open.ac.uk/bysubject/socialscience/psychology/index.html is in the ‘your subject’ section under Social Sciences.

Choosing your degree programme

You can use the psychology courses you study for any of four degree programmes:

- BSc (Hons) Psychology (code B07). This requires you to take all of the core psychology courses outlined in the table on page 7. This is the only undergraduate degree that will entitle you to recognition for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) with the British Psychological Society. From 2006 students embarking on a programme of study that may lead on to an accredited degree in psychology the new BPS regulations mean that you’ll only qualify for GBR if you receive the minimum of a lower second-honours degree.
- BA/BSc (Hons) Social Science with Psychological Studies (code B06). This does not give you recognition for GBR but gives you greater choice about the combination of courses which make up your degree, including more from other disciplines within the Social Sciences.
- BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies (code B43). This will allow you to combine philosophy and psychology courses. It will not give you recognition for GBR.
- BA/BSc Open degree – a degree tailored to your own requirements (code BD). This degree will not give you recognition for GBR but gives you the greatest flexibility in terms of the combination of courses you can choose to make up your degree.

Choosing your degree programme

Visit our website www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology 5

1 The difference in titles between ‘Psychology’ and ‘Psychological Studies’ is intended to signal the difference between the degree route (BSc Psychology) which qualifies you for the Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) with the British Psychological Society, and those other degrees listed in this section that do not qualify you for GBR.
You can let us know you intend to study for a degree when you register on individual courses. Or you can ask us at any time to link courses that you’ve already studied towards your chosen degree. This ensures that you’re kept up-to-date about the award and any relevant developments. You can, however, change the award you link to at any point. You should, however, bear in mind OU rules governing the award of Honours degrees. If you use either or both psychology Level 3 courses (currently DD303 and DD307) towards the classification of an OU honours degree that is not the BSc Honours in Psychology (B07) then you would not be able to re-use these courses towards the BSc Hons Psychology (B07) degree should you later decide that you wish to become eligible for the award of the GBR. Many students, therefore, opt for the BSc Honours Psychology degree in order to keep their options open for the future, when eligibility for the award of the GBR may be vital or useful to them.

Credit for previous study elsewhere

If you’ve successfully completed higher-education level studies elsewhere this may count towards your OU qualification. However, we recommend you investigate this option as soon as possible, as transferred credit may affect your choice of courses. You can find out more on our Credit Transfer website at www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer

Diploma in Psychology: conversion for postgraduates

If you already have a degree but haven’t studied enough psychology for the BPS Graduate Basis for Registration you may be eligible for the OU’s Diploma in Psychology: conversion for postgraduates. For further details see page 16 and for an application pack please contact the Student Registration & Enquiry Service (see page 20).
Core undergraduate psychology degrees

BSc (Hons) Psychology (B07)

For a professionally recognised degree that qualifies you for further professional training in psychology you’ll need to take our BSc (Hons) Psychology (B07).

Career relevance

This degree is recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR). You’ll also acquire many skills and a great deal of knowledge relevant to other careers such as education, industry, commerce, healthcare, management and social services.

What you’ll learn

Studying this named psychology degree will enable you to:

- understand ideas, theories, methods and debates in psychology
- analyse and evaluate psychological concepts and theories
- assess different kinds of evidence including quantitative and qualitative data
- design and carry out psychological studies
- work with a computer-based statistical data analysis package.

To qualify for this award you must take all the Level 2 and 3 courses in the table below. You can’t substitute any of the core courses.

Core psychology courses for BSc (Hons) Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring psychology (DSE212) or the discontinued course DSE202</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring psychology project (DXR222) or online version (DZX222)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child development (ED209)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you qualify for a BSc (Hons) Psychology after 31 December 2007 you’ll need to complete Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226) or the discontinued course SD206</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive psychology (DD303) or the discontinued course D309</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) or the discontinued course D317</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The core psychology courses currently amount to 255 points but if you qualify for this award after 31 December 2007 (when Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226) becomes compulsory) they’ll total 285 points.

You can make up remaining credit points from any other OU courses that count towards the honours degree. We particularly recommend:

- Human biology (SK277)
- Signals and perception: the science of the senses (SD329)
- Crime, order and social control (D315)
- Personal lives and social policy (DD305).

Although each course can be counted for up to a maximum of ten years after we stop presenting it, to ensure that you’re eligible for Graduate Basis for Registration from the BPS you should aim to complete your degree within ten years.

Classification of your degree

Your honours degree will be classified as first-class, upper second-class, lower second-class or third-class. The class is determined by the grades you achieve in DD303 (or from the discontinued course D309) and DD307 (or the discontinued course D317), and the best grades in 120 points from ED209, DSE212, DXR222 or DZX222 and SD226. You’ll have the opportunity to collect your award certificate at a degree ceremony.

Visit our website www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology
Core undergraduate psychology degrees

Suggested routes through the degree

Our core psychology courses provide an integrated and progressive approach to your learning. The table below illustrates suggested routes through the degree.

Suggested routes through the BSc (Hons) Psychology degree

| Level 1 | An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change (DD100) or An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change Part 1 (DD121) and An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change Part 2 (DD122) or Discovering science (S103) |
| Level 2 | Exploring psychology (DSE212) (we advise you to take this as your first Level 2 course) and Exploring psychology project (DXR222) or the online version (DZX222) (followed by) Child development (ED209) and Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226) (in either order) |
| Level 3 | Cognitive psychology (DD303) and Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) (in either order) (DD303 includes a compulsory residential school, or online equivalent, that must be completed during the summer that you’re studying the course) |

Starting at Level 1

We particularly recommend that you start with one of the following options, as this will give you a firm foundation for future studies and credit points towards your degree:

- An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change (DD100). Some psychology is taught in this course.
- The equivalent two 30-point courses: An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change Part 1 (DD121) and An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change Part 2 (DD122).
- Discovering science (S103).

With the help of tutors you’ll learn how to:

- study, read and take in information about a variety of topics related to scientific study, including the relevant methods, theories and concepts related to the specific area of study
- pick out the important facts from information
- develop your own ideas about information
- answer questions based on information given
- write essays and complete other assignments about the information you’ve read, drawing on evidence from theories or research presented in the course.

An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change (DD100)

The social sciences are about people - how they act individually and collectively. This 60-point Level 1 course tackles everyday issues in an approachable and accessible way, so that you can build on what you already know and draw on your own experience. It will help you to understand some of today’s big issues, such as changes in family, work and identity, risk and the environment and the impact of globalisation.

Discovering science (S103)

This course provides a grounding in the scientific approaches, which play a fundamental part within psychology. This is developed at Levels 2 and 3 where you not only learn about the results of scientific research, but also gain experience of conducting experimental research projects. This 60-point course develops important concepts and themes in scientific research, as well as relevant skills. The course introduces a range of topics from global warming to the origin of life, ecology and genetics to earthquakes and volcanoes, chemical reactions and the structure of atoms to the origin of the universe. You need no knowledge of science before you begin, and only a basic knowledge of maths.

For more information about DD100, the equivalent two 30-point courses DD121 and DD122 or S103, visit [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses). Alternatively, you can email general-enquiries@open.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)870 333 4340 to request the Course Choice prospectus which contains details of all undergraduate courses.
Continuing at Level 2

At Level 2 we strongly recommend that you begin with Exploring psychology (DSE212) and Exploring psychology project (DXR222) or the online version (DZX222). DSE212 will introduce you to methods and major perspectives in psychology, which you’ll study in more detail in the other psychology courses. In the associated project courses you’ll extend your learning with some psychological research based on the content of DSE212.

Successful completion of DSE212 and DXR222/DZX222 will provide you with the basic psychological knowledge and skills required for studying the ED209 and SD226 courses, including:

- the different theories, theorists and methods that are used within and across the different psychological perspectives
- conducting qualitative and quantitative research
- statistical analysis including using a computer-based statistics package (SPSS) to analyse research findings
- writing essays on psychological subjects, writing research reports (both qualitative and quantitative) and critically reviewing a psychological research article.

You should then follow this with the other two Level 2 courses (in either order):

- Child development (ED209)
- Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226)

Although SD226 is a 30-point course it includes complex biological concepts so we recommend you don’t combine this with a 60-point course.

1 As DXR222 and DZR222 are associated with DSE212, you cannot take either of these courses before DSE212.

Finishing at Level 3

Leaving the Level 3 studies until the end of your degree programme means you can take full advantage of what you’ve learned across Level 2 core courses.

Level 3 courses provide for an in-depth examination of issues, concepts and theories in cognitive and social psychology.

You’ll need to be able to:

- use sophisticated analytical techniques to analyse complex data collected on your research-based assignments.
- in cognitive psychology you’ll attend a residential school, or participate in an electronic conference giving you the opportunity to carry out some of your own independent research to investigate theories and concepts presented in DD303
- understand and critically appraise the theories, methods and perspectives included in the courses
- review literature from different sources and use it as evidence to underpin your assignments
- write concise psychological essays and research reports that examine, critically appraise and introduce new ideas that could extend the thinking on particular areas of study.

You can choose to do the courses in either order:

- Cognitive psychology (DD303)
- Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307)

To decide the best order for you it may be helpful to read more about the courses at www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology and talk to other students who have completed these courses.
Core undergraduate psychology degrees

BA/BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Psychological Studies (B06)

Our BA/BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Psychological Studies (B06) will provide you with greater breadth and equip you for a career in the social sciences where some psychological knowledge and practice is an essential element.

Career relevance

Social science graduates work in just about every field including commerce, the media, education, caring professions, central and local government, the public and private sectors, voluntary organisations, and environmental and urban regeneration programmes. This degree may help you to gain recognition from a professional body but will not grant you eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) from The British Psychological Society.

What you need to do to qualify

You must take at least 120 points from the courses listed in the table below, at least 60 of which must be at Level 3. If you want to specialise as much as possible in a single subject you should do all the courses listed.

Core psychology courses for BA/BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Psychological Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring psychology (DSE212) or the discontinued course DSE202</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one of: Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) or the discontinued course D317</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive psychology (DD303) or the discontinued course D309</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: we recommend that you take the Level 2 course before doing the Level 3 courses which you can do in any order.

The table on page 11 outlines the courses available to make up this degree. You’ll acquire the knowledge and understanding, and cognitive, practical and professional skills related to psychology, as well as to one or more of the following disciplines: economics, geography, politics, social policy and sociology. Please note that if you want a degree in two subjects, for example BA/BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Psychological Studies and Sociology, you must include at least 60 points at Level 2 and 60 points at Level 3 from each of two sets of courses.

Visit [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/signposts](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/signposts) to explore some of the careers that relate to these different disciplines. If you live in Ireland you may also find [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com) helpful.

For a detailed description of this award go to [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses)

Classification of your degree

Your honours degree will be classified as first-class, upper second-class, lower second-class or third-class. The class of degree is determined by the best grades you achieve in 240 points from courses above Level 1. At least 120 of these points must come from courses at Level 3. You’ll have the opportunity to collect your award certificate at a degree ceremony.
### BA/BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Psychological Studies: core and optional courses

#### Level 1

- **An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change** *(DD100) (60)*
  - *(or discontinued courses D102, D103 or DD121/DD122)*

#### Level 2

- **Exploring psychology** *(DSE212) (60)* or the discontinued course DSE202
- **Plus other courses:**
  - **Exploring psychology project** *(DXR222)* or online version **DZX222** *(15)*
  - **Biological psychology: exploring the brain** *(SD226)* *(30)*
  - **Child development** *(ED209)* *(60)*
  - **Childhood** *(U212)* *(60)*
  - **Economics and economic change** *(DD202)* *(60)*
  - **Environment** *(U216)* *(60)*
  - **Governing Europe** *(DD200)* or online version **DDZX200** *(60)*
  - **Health and disease** *(U205)* *(60)*
  - **International development: challenges for a world in transition** *(U213)* *(60)*
  - **Living in a globalised world** *(DD205)* *(60)*
  - **Power, dissent, equality: understanding contemporary politics** *(DD203)* *(60)*

#### Level 3

- **At least 120 points from**
- **At least one of the two courses:**
  - **Cognitive psychology** *(DD303)* *(60)* or the discontinued course **D309**
  - **Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others** *(DD307)* or the discontinued course **D317**
- **Plus other courses:**
  - **A world of whose making?** *(DU301)* *(60)*
  - **Making the international** *(DU321)* *(30)*
  - **Crime, order and social control** *(D315)* *(60)*
  - **Critical practice in health and social care** *(K302)* *(60)*
  - **Culture, media and identities** *(D318)* *(60)*
  - **Film and television history** *(AA310)* *(60)*
  - **Managing care** *(K303)* *(60)*
  - **Personal lives and social policy** *(DD305)* *(60)*
  - **Religion today: tradition, modernity and change** *(AD317)* *(60)*
  - **Research with children and young people** *(EK310)* *(60)*
  - **The art of English** *(E301)* *(60)*
  - **The environmental web** *(U316)* *(60)*
  - **Understanding cities** *(DD304)* *(60)*
  - **Understanding economic behaviour: households, firms and markets** *(D319)* *(60)*

Any remaining points (maximum 60) can be from any OU courses that count towards a bachelors degree. Visit [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses) for more information on excluded combinations and discontinued courses.
Core undergraduate psychology degrees

BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies (B43)

Our BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies (B43) allows you to study a rewarding combination of philosophy and psychology courses. Successful completion of this degree will give you an in-depth understanding of the key concepts, theories, methods and debates in selected areas of philosophy and psychology. Both subjects help to develop your capacity to analyse and solve problems, to critically evaluate texts and to communicate complex ideas. You'll examine the psychology topics from a variety of perspectives using statistics and data coding and analysis, helping to develop both numerical and IT skills. Studying philosophy will enable you to make critical judgements about the understanding and interpretation of philosophical texts and arguments.

Career relevance

By combining these subjects you'll develop skills that are relevant to a broad range of careers, including advertising and marketing, social services, administration and management.

You'll learn to:

- read and understand complex texts
- construct and analyse arguments
- understand and analyse statistical information
- express your ideas clearly and logically
- study independently.

Employers recognise these skills and value people who can communicate clearly, analyse complex information, and show initiative in formulating and investigating questions of their own.

This degree is not recognised by the BPS for Graduate Basis for Registration.

What you need to do to qualify

You must take at least 120 points from the courses listed on the table opposite. These comprise 60 points from DSE212 (or the discontinued course DSE202) and at least one of the 60-point Level 3 courses.

You must include at least 120 points from OU courses that have not been counted in any other OU qualification. If you've graduated with an OU BA or BSc degree without honours the requirement is reduced to 60 points.

The following table outlines the courses that make up the BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies. This degree allows you to choose from a variety of courses so you can acquire knowledge and understanding, and cognitive, practical and professional skills related to both psychology and philosophy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring psychology (DSE212)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or discontinued course DSE202.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one of:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) or the discontinued course D317</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive psychology (DD303)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or the discontinued course D309</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: we recommend that you take the Level 2 course before doing the Level 3 courses which you can do in any order.

Course information and registration 0870 333 4340
BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies: core and optional structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>At least 60 points from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An introduction to the humanities (A103) or the online version AZX103 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change (DD100) (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change Part 1 (DD121) (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An introduction to the social sciences: understanding social change Part 2 (DD122) (30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>At least 120 points from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exploring psychology (DSE212) or the discontinued course DSE202 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophy and the human situation (A211) (60)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>At least 120 points from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thought and experience: themes in the philosophy of mind (AA308) (60), and either Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) or the discontinued course D307/D317 (60), or Cognitive psychology (DD303) or the discontinued course D309 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(AA308 will be presented in alternate years from 2006, and you should take account of this in planning your degree)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can make up the remaining 60 points from any other OU undergraduate programme. However, we strongly recommend you include the residential school course Doing philosophy (AXR271). Other recommended courses, including those listed above, are:

- Reading political philosophy: Machiavelli to Mill (AA311)
- Child development (ED209)
- Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226)
- Exploring psychology online project (DZX222) or Exploring psychology project (DXR222)
- Sociology and society (DD201)
- Religion today: tradition, modernity and change (AD317).

**Classification of your degree**

Your honours degree will be classified as first-class, upper second-class, lower second-class or third-class. The class of degree is determined by the best grades you achieve in A211, DSE212 (or DSE202), AA308 and in either DD303 (or D309) or DD307 (the discontinued D317 or D307). You’ll have the opportunity to collect your award certificate at a degree ceremony.
Using psychology courses within an Open degree

We’re one of the world leaders in providing degrees that can be tailored to your own requirements. A BA or BSc Open degree (code BD) offers the opportunity to study across the widest range of subjects. You can pursue specific career needs or follow your personal interests, which may develop and change as your studies continue. For example, you might want to develop both your technical and language skills, or combine psychology with management. The other great advantage of an Open degree is that you don’t need to specify a particular pathway at the beginning of your studies. Successful completion of an Open degree means you’ll be awarded a general BA or BSc, with or without honours, rather than a degree in a named subject. You’ll be entitled to use the letters BA (Open), BSc (Open), BA (Hons) (Open) or BSc (Hons) (Open) after your name.

More than 70 per cent of graduate job vacancies in 2003 didn’t need a specific degree subject (from What Do Graduates Do 2005? Graduate Prospects). Possible options with an open degree would include human resources, marketing, management, IT or finance.

The skills and knowledge you acquire within the core psychology courses are relevant to any combination of undergraduate courses. They develop your capacity to examine the psychological topics from a variety of perspectives using statistics and data coding and analysis. Your studies will help you to develop numerical and ICT skills, to analyse and solve problems, to critically evaluate texts and to communicate complex ideas.

The core psychology courses are relevant to life sciences, natural sciences, health and social welfare, business studies, law, early years, childhood and youth studies, computer science and computer studies. If you’re studying art, for example, a psychology course can help you investigate and understand an artist’s behaviour, their emotions, cognition and how they perceive and construct their worlds through their art.

Apart from the two research-based courses Exploring psychology project (DXR222 or DZX222), which are associated with Exploring psychology (DSE212) and cannot be taken alone, you can use any of the core psychology courses as part of your degree. However, we strongly recommend that you do not study either of the Level 3 psychology courses without first studying DSE212 Exploring psychology.

The table opposite gives some illustrations of areas where particular psychology courses might be beneficial within this degree.
Incorporating psychology courses in a BA or BSc Open degree

| Education | Child development (ED209), Exploring psychology (DSE212), Cognitive psychology (DD303) and Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) have a direct relevance to educational, development and learning theory. |
| Early years and youth work | Child development (ED209) specifically links with the Foundation Degree in Early Years and the childhood and youth studies courses. |
| Natural and life sciences | The methods and perspectives used within the core psychology courses make them very relevant as part of a tailored degree that spans psychology and science. Particularly relevant to the sciences are: Exploring psychology (DSE212); Exploring psychology project (DXR222) or online version (DZX222); Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226) and Cognitive psychology (DD303). |
| Health and welfare | Particularly relevant to the health and welfare sector are: Exploring psychology (DSE212); Biological psychology: exploring the brain (SD226) and Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307). |
| Business and management | The methods and perspectives you learn about in the core psychology courses have direct relevance to leadership, management, human resource development and personnel. Of particular relevance to business are: Exploring psychology (DSE212) (this will equip you with the tools to process qualitative and quantitative data); Cognitive psychology (DD303) and Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307). |
| Social work | Psychology is core to social work. Most of the core courses are relevant to social work and many students go on to complete postgraduate social work programmes. |
| Computer science and computer studies | All of the psychology courses will equip you with ICT skills and knowledge and how to apply it to psychology for analysing statistical data, emulating cognitive processes and studying different types of behaviour. Particularly relevant are the advanced computing skills and knowledge you’ll learn in Cognitive psychology (DD303). |

What you need to do to qualify

To qualify for a BA or BSc Open degree awarded without honours you need 300 points of which at least 180 must be above Level 1 and, of these, at least 60 must be at Level 3. For an honours degree you need 360 points of which at least 240 must be above Level 1 and, of these, at least 120 must be at Level 3. The degree you get (BA or BSc) will depend upon the balance of courses you’ve chosen. If at least 180 of the points you need for a 360-point degree come from courses that the OU judges suitable for a BA, that is the degree you’ll be awarded. If at least 180 points come from courses the OU judges suitable for a BSc, you’ll be awarded a BSc.

Career relevance

A degree can in itself be a passport to a graduate-level job. In fact, about 70 per cent of the graduate jobs advertised are open to graduates of any discipline.

A degree that incorporates one or two psychology courses will demonstrate to prospective employers that you’ve successfully studied behaviour and cognition in a variety of ways that are relevant to the working environment, the use of interpersonal skills, and working with other people.
Postgraduate psychology qualifications

Diploma in Psychology: conversion for postgraduates

The OU Diploma in Psychology (D15) is one of the largest-recruiting and longest-established psychology conversion diplomas for graduates in the UK. We receive around 1000 applications a year from candidates with a diverse range of first degrees, higher degrees and other qualifications.

Career relevance

The OU Diploma in Psychology: conversion for postgraduates provides a flexible, part-time supported open learning route to Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS). GBR is a necessary step towards obtaining a place on a BPS-recognised masters degree or doctoral study leading to professional qualifications in psychology and chartered status.

This diploma functions as a conversion diploma for those who already have a first degree and want to obtain a recognised qualification in psychology. Many of our applicants have a university degree that includes some psychology, but which is not sufficient to satisfy BPS requirements for GBR.

Entry requirements for the Diploma in Psychology

Entry requirements are based on criteria determined by the BPS. The Psychology Diploma Board assesses applicants’ eligibility for the programme. To be accepted you must have a first degree (honours, ordinary, or overseas equivalent). A pass degree (or the overseas equivalent of such a degree) is not sufficient. If you don’t have a first degree and want to work towards GBR you may take our BSc (Hons) Psychology degree (B07) instead (see page 7).

What you need to do to qualify

The BPS approves awards in psychology that cover the core areas of psychology equivalent to the BPS Qualifying Examination. The aim of the Diploma in Psychology is to ensure that students cover each of these major areas: cognitive psychology; psychobiology; social psychology; developmental psychology; individual differences; conceptual and historical issues; research design and quantitative methods; practical component.

If you’ve already studied introductory psychology at bachelors level for a period of at least six months you may not have to take DSE212 and one of its associated project courses (DXR222, DZX222), provided your studies were undertaken within ten years of registering on the OU’s Diploma in Psychology and meet the Diploma Board’s criteria for exemption. The Board decides whether you’ve covered sufficient psychology at introductory level to exempt you from the requirement to study psychology at Level 2.

For a diploma application pack please contact the Student Registration & Enquiry Service (see page 20). You need to submit your completed application between 1 April and 30 September.

Psychology courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exploring psychology (DSE212) or the discontinued course DSE202</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exploring psychology project (DXR222) or online version (DZX222)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child development (ED209)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cognitive psychology (DD303) or the discontinued course D309</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social psychology: critical perspectives on self and others (DD307) or the discontinued course D317</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For a diploma application pack please contact the Student Registration & Enquiry Service (see page 20). You need to submit your completed application between 1 April and 30 September.

Postgraduate programmes at masters and PhD level

Once you’ve finished your psychology degree or conversion diploma, you might be interested in studying for a masters degree or PhD at the OU, either as a full-time, campus-based student or as a part-time, distance-taught student.

Postgraduate study at masters level

At masters level we offer a range of 30-point and 60-point taught courses which can be taken towards a postgraduate diploma, postgraduate certificate or masters degree.

You need a total of:

- 180 credit points for a masters degree
- 120 points for a postgraduate diploma (other than the postgraduate conversion diploma in psychology, D15)
- 60 points for a postgraduate certificate.

With our postgraduate awards you’re not allowed to count credit for study you’ve completed elsewhere.
For part-time study there is a time limit of eight years for the completion of a degree, six years for a postgraduate diploma and four years for a postgraduate certificate.

We offer two main masters programmes:
- MSc in Psychology is suitable if you wish to pursue general interests in psychology
- MSc in Psychological Research Methods is strongly recommended if you need training in psychology research methods, and/or wish to pursue a PhD in psychology.

Postgraduate diplomas and certificates comprise subsets of the courses within these two awards.

To help you decide whether postgraduate study is right for you, go to www.open.ac.uk/careers or visit www.prospects.ac.uk/links/PGstudy

The table below outlines the psychology courses and requirements for our two MSc awards.

Structures for postgraduate MSc awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specified honours degree leading to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MSc in Psychology (F15)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory 30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The challenge of the social sciences</em> (D820)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group A optional courses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 points from:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Advanced experimental design and analysis</em> (D841) (30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Psychometrics: selection and assessment</em> (D842) (30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Discourse analysis</em> (D843) (30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ethnography</em> (D844) (or discontinued version DZY844, 30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Introduction to research: basic skills and survey methods</em> (DT840) (or discontinued version DTZY840, 60 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group B optional courses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 90 points from:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Identity in question</em> (D853) (30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Exploring cognition: damaged brains and neural networks</em> (DS871) (30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Child development in families, schools and society</em> (ED840) (60 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Issues in brain and behaviour</em> (SD805) (60 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **MSc in Psychological Research Methods (F20)** |
| Compulsory courses - all to be taken  |
| *Advanced experimental design and analysis* (D841) (30 points) |
| *Research methods dissertation in social sciences* (D845) (60 points or the discontinued course D848) |
| *Introduction to research: basic skills and survey methods* (DT840) (or the discontinued courses D840 or version DTZY840, 60 points) |
| **Optional courses** |
| 30 points from: |
| *The challenge of the social sciences* (D820) (30 points) |
| *Psychometrics: selection and assessment* (D842) (30 points) |
| *Discourse analysis* (D843) (30 points) |
| *Ethnography* (D844) (or discontinued version DZY844, 30 points) |
| *Exploring cognition: damaged brains and neural networks* (DS871) (30 points) |

You need 180 points for a masters degree. Please see the descriptions of these awards at www.open.ac.uk/courses for detailed information.

Visit our website www.openuniversity.co.uk/programme/psychology
Postgraduate psychology qualifications

MSc in Psychology

Our MSc in Psychology allows you to follow up your general interests in psychology with a set of postgraduate courses focusing on particular topics and research methods. However, if your eventual aim is to study for a PhD you should take our MSc in Psychological Research Methods instead.

For our MSc in Psychology you'll need an honours degree in psychology as a minimum. We advise you start your MSc studies with the foundation course, The challenge of the social sciences (D820). You can take courses worth a maximum of 240 points from the postgraduate programme, though only 180 points will count towards the degree. You must include at least 60 credit points from OU courses that have not been counted in any other OU qualification you've been awarded.

After successfully completing 60 points (including D820) you'll qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate in the Social Sciences (C24), and after gaining 120 points (again including D820) you can gain a Postgraduate Diploma in the Social Sciences (D41).

MSc in Psychological Research Methods

If you're interested in research methods or are intending to apply for a PhD in Psychology, you should take our MSc in Psychological Research Methods. This is accredited by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and is recognised for research training. You'll normally be expected to have completed this programme, or its equivalent, if you want to study with us for a PhD in Psychology. You'll also find this qualification extremely useful if you're applying for a PhD at another university.

You'll need an honours degree (ideally in psychology) as a minimum to undertake this programme. We recommend that you start your studies with the Introduction to research, basic skills and survey methods (DT840).

You can take courses worth a maximum of 240 points from the programme, though only 180 points will count towards your degree. If you're studying part-time we recommend that you take only one course at a time, particularly in your first year. The dissertation must be your last course.

You must include at least 60 credit points from OU courses that have not been counted in any other OU qualification you've been awarded.

After successfully completing 60 points (including DT840) you'll qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate in Social Research Methods (C52) and after gaining 120 points (including DT840) you'll gain a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Research Methods (E11).

How to register for an MSc

To register for either of these MSc programmes go to the relevant courses and qualifications pages at www.open.ac.uk/courses or request the Postgraduate Studies in Social Sciences prospectus by emailing general-enquiries@open.ac.uk or telephoning +44 (0)870 333 4340.
You can study for a PhD in Psychology with the OU on either a full-time or part-time basis. Part-time students pay their own fees, though some additional financial support may be available for those who experience financial hardship. Full-time students are usually supported by a grant.

Entry to both part-time and full-time study is selective, and competition for grants (whether from the OU or an outside funding agency such as the ESRC) is strong. All applications are judged on qualifications and research promise, and we take into account the availability of places, funding and supervision. We’re particularly interested in those projects that fall within our existing research strengths.

To get a place on our Research Degrees Programme, you’ll usually need an MSc in either Psychological Research Methods or Social Research Methods. However, completing one of these OU degrees will not guarantee acceptance. Equivalent experience or qualifications may sometimes be taken into account.

For more information about PhD study please see the Research Degrees Prospectus, available online at www.open.ac.uk/research-school/prospectus
Alternatively, you can request a copy by emailing general-enquiries@open.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)870 333 4340. Information about entrance criteria and research areas is also available via psych-res-apps@open.ac.uk

**Full-time study**
You’ll find a supportive culture of research at our Walton Hall campus. This includes several societies dedicated to research students and specialised training courses in your first year of PhD study. You’ll usually be supported by a three-year studentship grant. You’ll also be given office space, computing facilities and funds to visit national and international conferences.

The University conducts an annual recruitment exercise for research studentships. Areas relating to departmental research strengths are usually specified. You can check out available studentships on our Current Vacancies website www.open.ac.uk/research-school

**Part-time study**
Our part-time, distance-taught Research Degree Programme typically operates by forming a supervision team. Students wanting to combine study with work or other activities, or who cannot move to the Milton Keynes area, find this a very effective route to a PhD.
Contact points for advice and registration

- Use our website at www.open.ac.uk/courses
- or
- Phone one or our hotlines:
  United Kingdom: 0870 333 4340
  Republic of Ireland: +44 28 9032 3722 or (01) 6785399
  Other EU countries and Switzerland: +44 (0) 191 284 1611
  Elsewhere: +44 (0) 870 333 4340
  (If you already have an OU personal identifier, please quote it when you call.)

  Our lines are open:
  Monday to Friday 8.30 to 21.00 (UK time)
  Saturday 09.00 to 17.00
  Calls are charged at the national rate.
  We receive no income from 0870 numbers.

For information on issues to consider when thinking about further study and on opportunities at other institutions visit the OU Careers Advisory Service website at www.open.ac.uk/careers and look in the A–Z for Further Study.
Appendix A

Professional psychology career choices

Professional psychology is a highly competitive field. Here we outline some of the specialist areas that may interest you, but recommend that you consider all the options before making your career choice. A visit to www.prospects.ac.uk/links/occupations or www.bps.org.uk/careers or www.gradireland.com will give you more detailed career and job profiles.

We advise you to thoroughly research your career choices as early as possible particularly in relation to required experience, differences depending on where you live or where choice of courses may affect future opportunities.

For ideas on volunteering opportunities you may find the national volunteering database useful at www.do-it.org

Clinical psychology
Clinical psychologists work with people of all ages with a range of psychological, neurological and emotional problems.

They work in private practice, in NHS trusts, hospitals, clinics, general practice and community settings, as well as in forensic contexts such as prisons and youth offender institutes.

To practise professionally you need an undergraduate degree in psychology, relevant work experience ideally as an assistant psychologist and a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Clinical neuropsychology
Clinical neuropsychologists are specialists trained in the assessment, management, treatment and service needs of people with neurological disorders.

They work in universities, private practice, NHS trusts, hospitals, clinics, general practice and community settings.

To practise professionally you need an undergraduate degree in psychology, a doctorate in clinical psychology and post-doctoral training in neuropsychology.

Counselling psychology
Counselling psychologists work with a diverse range of human problems, helping people to manage or to come to terms with difficult life events.

They work privately, in NHS trusts, or in educational, academic, statutory, voluntary, industrial and commercial organisations.

To practise professionally you need an undergraduate degree in psychology, evidence of work experience either paid or unpaid (e.g. Relate, Samaritans, Mind, youth advisory work or bereavement counselling) then a diploma, MSc or doctorate in Counselling Psychology and to have undertaken a period of supervised practice.

Educational psychology
Educational psychologists carry out assessments, interventions, evaluation and research with children and young people with learning and development problems, working with their families, teachers, school governors and authorities.

They work in local authorities, private consultancies and charities.
Appendix A
Professional psychology career choices

To practise professionally, you currently need an undergraduate degree in psychology recognised by the BPS for Graduate Basis for Registration, as well as a three-year full-time professional training course leading to a Doctorate in Educational Psychology. This is a recent change and the doctorates will be accredited from September 2005 entry. Qualified teachers may be granted some exemptions on the three-year doctorates, but this needs to be checked with the individual training providers.

You'll need to gain relevant experience with children in an education or community setting. We recommend that you check with providers about their individual requirements.

In Scotland the situation is slightly different. As well as the undergraduate degree in psychology you need an MSc in Educational Psychology (two years full time) and one year of supervised practice.

Forensic psychology
Forensic psychologists provide expert advice on criminal and civil matters, undertake research and carry out assessments and interventions e.g. offender profiling and crime analysis.
They work in universities, prisons, secure units, secure hospitals and probation services.
To practise professionally you need an undergraduate degree in psychology, relevant work experience paid or unpaid e.g. prison or probation services, as a psychology assistant or as a probation service officer or voluntary experience with offenders/victims from other settings, such as the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO), an MSc in Forensic Psychology and a period of supervised practice (with two years’ supervision once employed).

Health psychology
Health psychology relates to the influence of psychological processes on the health and wellbeing of both patients and the 'normal' population.
Health psychologists carry out research, teach and provide consultancy for the promotion and maintenance of health. They work as private consultants, or in hospitals, health centres, universities, as well as commercial and research organisations.
To practise professionally you need an undergraduate degree in psychology, an MSc in Health Psychology and two years’ supervised experience.

Occupational psychology
Occupational psychologists study the performance of people at work and in training, how organisations function and how individuals and small groups behave at work.
They work in private and public organisations, government departments, training consultancies, test publishers and distributors, and universities.
To practise professionally you need an undergraduate degree in psychology, an MSc in Occupational or Organisational Psychology and a period of supervised practice. Relevant experience in the personnel/human resources field and in business/management is a strong advantage.

Teachers and researchers in psychology
Teachers and researchers in psychology teach psychology and other related subjects, and carry out psychological-based research, individually and within multidisciplinary teams.
They work in schools, colleges and universities, research units, in the civil service, local government and other bodies, and in private practice.
To be a teacher or researcher in psychology you need at least an undergraduate degree in psychology. Briefly the requirements for the different levels are:
- For teaching in higher education most would have a masters or PhD degree and some would also have professional psychology training and experience of practice especially when teaching in the professional areas.
- Teaching in further education increasingly requires a teaching qualification prior to entry. A postgraduate psychology qualification is not crucial but would increase your chances.
- Teaching at primary or secondary level in schools requires a teaching qualification. There are a variety of routes and it’s important to check that your subject combinations are acceptable. Work experience in a school is also crucial whether paid or voluntary. Visit the Training and Development Agency for schools for more information at www.tda.gov.uk
There are variations in the requirements for teaching in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The OU publication Becoming a Teacher outlines the routes for primary and secondary teaching, and provides sources of further information. It’s available at www.open.ac.uk/becoming-a-teacher

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Sports psychology

Sports psychologists offer a service to people involved with sport.

They work in private practice, in universities, with professional sports people, and conduct research, for example on individual differences and strategies that impact on sport successes and on the effects of exercise.

Currently, no specific training programmes or courses in sports psychology have been approved by the BPS but this may change. The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences at www.bases.org.uk runs an accreditation scheme for both sports psychologists and sports scientists, and keeps a list of members who can offer these services.

The most likely route to such work is therefore through dual involvement in sport and relevant postgraduate research; evidence of sporting achievement is advantageous in terms of credibility.
Appendix B

The OU Psychology Society (OUPS)

OUPS is now one of the largest of the student societies affiliated to the Open University Students’ Association (OUSA), with over 1700 members (including graduate members). The £15 annual membership fee is quickly recovered through discounts on events, and members also receive a quarterly newsletter.

OUPS is completely independent of the OU. The Society’s primary purpose is to advance education in psychology amongst members of the OU (however, the OU has no input or control over OUPS events or activities). This is achieved through a variety of events, such as overview and revision days and weekend summer schools which complement the OU psychology courses. Many students have benefited from these weekends and return year after year.

Conferences, held in conjunction with the summer schools and attracting many famous speakers, broaden students’ understanding of psychology as a discipline or profession.

As OU students typically work independently, OUPS events provide a sense of community and social opportunities to discuss course problems with other students, OU graduates, tutors, and famous and not-so famous psychologists.

OUPS is looking to grow regional representation and develop a forum on its website. The forum is adjudicated by an OUPS representative and anyone who is interested in forming or helping to form a regional area can make enquiries at www.oups.org.uk

If you want to know more or are interested in forthcoming events and conferences visit the website, or contact the OUPS Administrator on +44 (0)20 8315 0049, or email info@oups.org.uk
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