

Programme Specification

MRes Psychology

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Psychology
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2023-24
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Psychological Research Methods
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Level 7)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

This course is ideal preparation for a PhD in Psychology, or if you want to gain a Master's qualification that allows you to specialise in a specific psychological topic while also gaining broad-based research training. The MRes is structured around a year-long 60-credit module on psychological research methods, which is benchmarked against the ESRC postgraduate training and development guidelines. Alongside this, you will undertake an extended 120-credit thesis in an area of expertise of one of our members of academic staff. Entry onto this flagship programme is competitive, with students being recruited to specific projects advertised by staff members, and a minimum of a 2:1 in your undergraduate Psychology degree (or closely-related discipline) is required. Working as part of a team in an established area of research means that opportunities for your professional development are maximised, and in particular we look to help you to develop your thesis into a publishable output.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- A 2:1 in Psychology or a closely-related discipline. Applicants whose first degree is not in psychology will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of psychology and research methods during their first degree.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

- Candidates are required to submit an outline research proposal in line with an advertised project area, and in order to be accepted onto the course this outline application must be acceptable to the proposed thesis supervisor.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (including a minimum of 6.5 in the writing component) or another acceptable English Language qualification.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

1. To develop students' advanced knowledge and understanding of a selected area of psychology.
2. To develop students' advanced knowledge and understanding of psychological research methods.
3. To develop students' abilities as autonomous learners and independent researchers, including the completion of a substantial independent research project (with supervision).
4. To develop students' awareness of key transferable skills, such as data analysis, critical thinking, presentation and written communication skills.
5. To provide students with high-quality research methods training that will enable them to move on to PhD study.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Critically evaluate key themes and recent developments in a selected area of psychology.
- 7.2 Articulate your understanding of a range of psychological research methods and epistemological positions that provide the context for theory construction and research design.
- 7.3 Discuss the wider context of psychological enquiry, including debates around ethical practice, open science, and publication practices.
- 7.4 Design a study in a selected area of psychology, demonstrating originality and the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.
- 7.5 Analyse data using recognised techniques for qualitative and quantitative analysis.
- 7.6 Conduct independent research in a way that is consistent with the principles of research ethics.
- 7.7 Write-up research in a format appropriate for academic publication.

Programme structure

Full-time structure:

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
PSY7001M	7	1&2	Psychological Research Methods	60	C	NC
PSY7005M	7	1&2& Summer	MRes Thesis	120	C	NC

Part-time structure:

Code	Level	Year	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
						compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
PSY7001M	7	1	1&2	Psychological Research Methods	60	C	NC
PSY7005M	7	2	1&2& Summer	MRes Thesis	120	C	NC

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will experience a range of learning, teaching and assessment strategies designed to equip you with core academic and transferable skills. PSY7001M is primarily seminar and workshop-based, allowing lots of time for small group work and practical data analysis training. The assessment for this module uses a portfolio to demonstrate the acquisition of a range of skills around psychological research methods, including understanding of research ethics, philosophy of science, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and research policy. This module also uses an exam component to assess core knowledge related to quantitative and qualitative analytic techniques.

PSY7005M is geared towards the production of a substantial thesis, reporting an original piece of psychological research. You will work closely with a supervisor as part of an established research project in one of our areas of expertise. In doing so, you will benefit from access to the wider research culture of the psychology team, including research seminars, research group meetings, and opportunities to be involved in wider research projects. Indeed, you will be encouraged to see yourself not simply as an individual student doing a stand-alone project, but as a junior member of a research group. This module will include assessments that develop key research skills along the way, including the ability to put understanding of ethical issues into practice through the completion of an application for ethical review, a presentation component, and the final thesis itself. The thesis will be presented in a format appropriate for publication in order to facilitate your understanding of the publication process.

On both modules, formative assessments will be used at key points in order to provide feedback that can feed forward into the final summative pieces.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [QAA Characteristics Statement – Master's Degrees](#)
- Economic & Social Research Council's [Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines](#)

Date written / revised: 04/03/19

Programme originally approved: 26/03/19