

## Programme Specification

### Award and title: BSc (Hons) Psychology with Child Development

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2024-25
<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>	British Psychological Society
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology BSc (Ord) Psychology with Child Development
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	C810
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Psychology
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	<a href="#">Undergraduate periods of study</a> <sup>1</sup> for full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes

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## Introduction and special features

Psychology is the scientific study of the human brain and behaviour. Psychological science is applied to many everyday contexts with the aim of improving outcomes for individuals and groups of people. In the BSc Psychology with Child Development, you will gain a comprehensive education in the scientific foundations of Psychology, with a specialist focus on the application of psychological principles to the understanding and support of children and young people. You will study psychological approaches to behaviour, learning and development in childhood and beyond; how children develop differently from each other; and how Psychology can inform practice in relation to children and young people. As such, the programme is ideal for those aiming to pursue careers in education, educational psychology, therapies for children and young people and social work.

The BSc Psychology with Child Development is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and confers eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC), provided the minimum standard of second-class honours and a pass in the final-year empirical project (Research Paper) is achieved. GBC is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist and is essential if you wish to pursue a career in Psychology.

Throughout the programme you will have access to, and are actively encouraged to use, two well-resourced Psychology laboratories, which are permanently staffed by our technical team. Our technicians are on hand to offer support and guidance at the point of need. There is a range of continually updated technical resources for you to use in your practical work, including portable and static eye-tracking

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<sup>1</sup> The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

equipment, surveillance rooms equipped with HD cameras and ceiling-mounted microphones, virtual reality headsets and motion sensors, an electroencephalography (EEG) lab, Biopac physiological recording equipment, specialist software for creating, recoding and analysing experimental stimuli, and a wide range of questionnaires and psychometric tests.

Throughout the programme, you are supported to grow your skills, knowledge and interests both within and outside taught academic modules. You will work closely with your personal academic tutor over three years to reflect on your personal, academic and professional development and plan for the future. In the second year of your degree, you will be supported to accrue 75 hours of work experience relevant to your career aspirations as part of the year-long Psychology in Practice module. You also have the option to apply to study abroad for a semester at one of our international partner institutions. You will graduate from the BSc Psychology with Child Development well prepared for post-graduate study in developmental psychology and related fields, and with demonstrable transferable skills relevant to a range of careers, including work with children and young people. We support our students to graduate as independent and self-aware individuals, who are socially responsible, research oriented and curious minded with effective communication and digital literacy skills.

### **Work-related Experiential Learning (WREL)**

WREL is implemented across all levels of our Psychology programmes. Students are encouraged to start thinking about employability early on through the creation of an employability focused portfolio that is built upon and developed throughout each year of the programme. Research Methods modules will provide you with the skills required for careers involving data analysis and interpretation, with the use of real-world data and contexts provided where appropriate. Specialist modules build skills needed for careers relating to mental health, counselling, forensic settings, neurodiversity and neuropsychology. These skills are measured through authentic assessments where appropriate. Many of our modules are enhanced with guest speakers from a broad range of psychology-related careers to build student knowledge of career options and create networking opportunities.

### **Admissions criteria**

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study. Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the [course webpage](#).

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

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)**

The aims of the programme are in accord with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) benchmark document for psychology (QAA, 2016) and are:

1. To produce a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience and the complex interactions between these and the environments in which they exist
2. To present multiple perspectives of psychology and child development in a way that fosters critical evaluation and reflection
3. To lead to an understanding of real-life applications of psychological theory within the full range of experience and behaviour, especially as applied to children and young people
4. To promote the application of psychological understanding to real-world questions relating to children's development
5. To develop knowledge such that it leads to an appreciation of theory and research, including relevant ethical and socio-cultural issues

6. To develop an understanding of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory and how theory guides the collection and interpretation of empirical data
7. To develop a range of research skills, methods and knowledge for investigating experience and behaviour, culminating in the ability to conduct independent research.
8. To produce critical and reflective graduates with the knowledge and skills to compete effectively in a global graduate market.

## **Programme learning outcomes**

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

### **Level 4**

Upon successful completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 4.1 Knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles relating to Psychology.
- 4.2 Evaluation and interpretation of psychological concepts and principles.
- 4.3 Accurate presentation, evaluation and interpretation of research data.
- 4.4 Structured, accurate and coherent presentation of arguments relating to Psychology.
- 4.5 Evaluation of different theoretical approaches to psychological problems.
- 4.6 Qualities and skills required for continual development and learning within structured environments.

### **Level 5**

Upon successful completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 5.1 Critical knowledge of the principles and limits of Psychology.
- 5.2 Application of psychological principles outside of the context in which they were first studied.
- 5.3 Knowledge and critical scientific evaluation of the main methods of psychological enquiry.
- 5.4 Effective communication of complex information in a variety of audience-appropriate forms.
- 5.5 Reflective practice related to the limits of their knowledge and skills relating to Psychology.
- 5.6 Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring personal responsibility and decision-making.

### **Level 6**

Upon successful completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 6.1 A systematic and relativistic understanding of key aspects of Psychological knowledge as applied to the understanding of child development, some of which is at the forefront of the discipline.
- 6.2 Accurate and appropriate application of empirical research techniques and enquiry relevant to the study of Psychology and Child Development.
- 6.3 Critical evaluation of knowledge and data in order to frame empirical questions and identify solutions.
- 6.4 Clear communication of uncertain or ambiguous knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 6.5 Reflective practice related to your specific and generic skills and knowledge in relation to graduate career opportunities.
- 6.6 Qualities and transferable skills necessary for roles requiring initiative, personal responsibility and decision making in complex or unpredictable contexts.

## Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b>	non-compensatable or compensatable <b>NC or X</b>
PSY4001M	4	1	Exploring Social Psychology	10	C	X
PSY4002M	4	1	Cognition	10	C	X
PSY4003M	4	1	Biological Bases of Behaviour	20	C	X
PSY4004M	4	1	Experimental Research Methods & Statistics	20	C	X
PSY4005M	4	2	Current Psychology	10	C	X
PSY4006M	4	2	Foundations of Human Development	10	C	X
PSY4007M	4	2	Personality & Individual Differences	20	C	X
PSY4008M	4	2	Survey Research Methods & Statistics	20	C	X
PSY4012M	4	1&2	Psychology Professional Development and Participation	0	C	X
PSY5001M	5	1	Social Psychology	20	C	X
PSY5002M	5	1	Infant & Child Development	20	C	X
PSY5003M	5	1	Qualitative Research Methods	20	C	X
PSY5004M	5	2	Assessment of Individual Differences	10	C	X
PSY5005M	5	2	Advanced Topics in Brain & Behaviour	10	C	X
PSY5006M	5	2	Investigating Cognition	20	C	X
PSY5007M	5	2	Advanced Research Methods	20	C	X
PSY5008M	5	1&2	Psychology in Practice	0	C	X
<b>Choose 2 modules in Semester 1 and 2 modules in Semester 2 from the following:</b>						
PSY6001M	6	1&2	Research Paper	40	C	NC
PSY6010M	6	1 or 2*	Neurodiversity in Development	20	C	X
PSY6020M	6	1 or 2*	Psychology in Education	20	C	X
PSY6003M	6	1 or 2*	Contemporary Issues in Quantitative Psychology	20	O	X
PSY6005M	6	1 or 2*	Memory Improvement	20	O	X
PSY6007M	6	1 or 2*	Adolescent Development & Behaviour	20	O	X
PSY6014M	6	1 or 2*	Language Development	20	O	X
PSY6019M	6	1 or 2*	Lifespan Development	20	O	X
PSY6021M	6	1 or 2*	Developmental Psychopathology & Clinical Applications	20	O	X
PSY6032M	6	1 or 2*	Mind, Mood and Tomorrow	20	O	X
PSY6033M	6	1 or 2*	Learning and Imagination	20	O	X
PSY6034M	6	1 or 2*	Origins of the Human Mind	20	O	X

\*The intention is to offer the modules in this configuration but have the flexibility to be able to change the semester of delivery for each optional module. Please note that not all options will be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability. Students will be given the opportunity to state their preferences and the School will do its best to accommodate these.

## Learning, teaching and assessment

The programme assumes no prior knowledge of Psychology and is structured such that your knowledge and skills are continually scaffolded across the three levels of study.

At Levels 4 and 5, modules are delivered through a combination of large-group lectures, small-group seminars and laboratory workshops, and supported open learning activities via the virtual learning environment. The first year of the programme introduces you to key concepts of Psychology and psychological investigation and encourages you to get involved in staff and student research through the Current Psychology module and Psychology Research Participation Scheme. At second year, you will deepen your critical understanding of the core areas of Psychology with an increased emphasis on the practical skills underpinning psychological research. The second-year Psychology in Practice module focuses on your professional and academic development through a work experience component and further engagement with research participation.

You can opt to study abroad at one of our international partner institutions during the first semester of your second year; in order to maintain British Psychological Society accreditation, we will work with you to ensure that you take comparable modules at the partner institution. You also have the option to apply for a placement year between the second and third years of study, which allows you to develop employment-relevant skills and experience, while getting a first-hand insight of the sectors and job roles most relevant to your career aspirations.

At Level 6, you will study core and optional modules relevant to the study of developmental psychology and aligned to the individual research expertise of the academic team. Class sizes are capped for third-year modules allowing for a more discursive teaching approach, which provides a bridge to post-graduate level study. You will also engage in a substantial piece of self-directed research, working under the supervision of a member of the academic team, within the Research Paper module. This empirical project allows you to bring together and demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have gained throughout your degree. As a Psychology with Child Development student, you are guaranteed a developmental psychologist as your supervisor for the Research Paper project, but you have the freedom to choose to undertake your empirical project in another area of Psychology if you choose. The final year of your undergraduate programme therefore allows you scope to tailor your studies to your own particular interests and to prepare for life as a York St John Psychology graduate.

You will be assigned a personal academic tutor from among the academic team on arrival at university. Through the three years of your undergraduate degree, you will meet regularly with your academic tutor to discuss your progress and to work through the Personal, Academic, and Professional Development programme. This programme aims to help you to reflect on your strengths, weaknesses and preferences, identify strategies to further develop weaker skills, and consider the next steps in your academic and/or professional career after graduation.

A range of assessment types is utilised across the degree programme to allow you to demonstrate knowledge and skills across multiple domains and to excel in areas of particular strength. At level 4, assessments are designed to appraise the breadth of your understanding of core areas of Psychology (e.g., multiple-choice examination, portfolio) and to allow you to practise the foundational academic skills that you will need throughout your degree (e.g., essay, lab report, group presentation). At level 5, you have the opportunity to demonstrate critical depth in your psychological knowledge (e.g., essay-based exam, critical essay) and build a range of key empirical research skills in preparation for your final-year empirical project (e.g., research proposal, research report, data skills portfolio). At level 6, many modules incorporate 'authentic assessments', which allow you to practise work-relevant skills (e.g., clinical report, information sheet for practitioners, individual presentation). In addition, in the final-year Research Paper you can evidence the range of skills you have developed in your degree through a write-up of your empirical project in the format of a peer-reviewed journal article.

## **Progression and graduation requirements**

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate 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.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- PSY6001M Research Paper must be passed in order to achieve an honours degree and to be eligible for the graduate basis for chartership with the British Psychological Society.

## **Internal and external reference points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- British Psychological Society Undergraduate Accreditation Handbook

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*Date written / revised: 08/11/2019*

*Programme originally approved: 28/11/2019*