

Psychology with Psychopharmacology

Final award	BSc (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	BSc, Cert HE, Dip HE
UCAS code	C8C1
Details of professional body accreditation	British Psychological Society
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Psychology / Biosciences
Date specification last up-dated	Feb 2015

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

Psychology with Psychopharmacology offers excellent employment opportunities. Accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring to the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (formerly known as Graduate Basis for Registration), provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For admission to the BSc Psychology with Psychopharmacology programmes candidates normally need:

280 UCAS tariff points, with at least 140 points obtained from A2 qualifications or new GNVQ equivalent, with a minimum of 100 A2 points in Biology or Chemistry

We also accept Access to Science, Advanced GNVQ in Science at merit grade, and BTEC National Diploma in Science with a minimum of 6 modules at merit grade or higher. All students should also have a minimum of grade C at GCSE, or equivalent, in English language, mathematics and double science.

The study of micro-organisms or histological samples under the microscope and making detailed drawings of what is required would make this programme unsuitable for a student with a severe visual impairment.

We also accept people with Access, NVQ, and a variety of other pre-University level qualifications including International and European Baccalaureate

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University's English Language requirements as detailed on the website at time of application must be met – see <http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements>

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) is required, with a minimum of 6.0 in writing and speaking; a minimum 5.5 in reading and listening (or recognised equivalent).

For further information or clarification, please contact the Psychology Administration Team at psychology@uel.ac.uk or telephone 020 8223 4609

At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Psychology with Psychopharmacology?

Psychology is the empirical study of behaviour; how we think, feel and make sense of ourselves and others. Pharmacology is the area of human biology concerned with drugs and the mechanisms of drug action, thus Psychopharmacology is concerned with the effects of psychoactive drugs: from the cellular level, to how these substances affect brain function and their impact on and interactions with our psychology. Studied together Psychology with Psychopharmacology provides a broad understanding of mind and behaviour and in particular focuses on the pharmacological and psychological effects of drugs.

Psychology with Psychopharmacology focuses on all the *core* material from the BSc Psychology programme (allowing for accreditation by the British Psychological Society), but with additional and specific focus (across all levels of the programme) on areas of human biology and pharmacology, which are taken from both the BSc (Hons) Psychology programme and the BSc (Hons) Human Biology programme.

Psychology with Psychopharmacology at UEL

- We have successfully run undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Psychology for over forty years.
- The BSc (Hons) Psychology with Psychopharmacology degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (formerly known as Graduate Basis for Registration), an essential pre-requisite for professional training (for those achieving a Lower Second Class Honours or above). This is an essential pre-requisite for continuing onto professional training programme. It is worth noting that many of these now require 'good' degrees (First Class or Upper second Class Honours degrees).
- We have a history and the experience of delivering programmes which cross two different subject areas and schools.
- The BSc programme has been designed to offer students an option element at level 6, with options available in both psychology and human biology subject areas.
- Human Biology modules offer laboratory training enhancing student employability.

- Over 80% of our BSc graduates have found jobs or postgraduate training places within 6 months of graduating.
- UELs School of Psychology is one of the largest providers of Psychology education and training in the UK.
- BSc students come from a wide range of ethnic & cultural backgrounds with a significant proportion of international students. Around 50% are mature students.

Programme structure

BSc (Hons) Psychology with Psychopharmacology is a three-year full-time programme or five years part-time.

There are two terms of study in each year, and a full-time student would usually study and be assessed on 4 core modules per year (running across both terms). Each core module carries a 30-credit value, with the exception at level 6.

At levels 4 and 5, there are 4 core 30-credit modules per year, 3 of which are core Psychology modules shared with other Psychology programmes and 1 core 30-credit module from the Human Biology subject area.

At level 6, there is a core 45-credit research project module and a 15-credit (studied just in one term) core psychology module, and a core 30 credit module: Neuropsychopharmacology. Students can then choose whether they take one 30-credit year long option module from Human Biology or 15 credit module options from either Psychology or Human Biology.

The core Psychology modules are shared with the BSc (Hons) Psychology programme which is also accredited by the BPS, thus allows for transfer to this programme at any stage.

Learning environment

The advantages of the BSc (Hons) Psychology with Psychopharmacology are strong and unique in that this programme offers interdisciplinary learning and allows students access to a broader pool of knowledge and expertise across two schools. In the Psychology with Psychopharmacology programme students have dedicated laboratory based practical teaching and learning opportunities.

Teaching methods vary from module to module but include lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes, laboratory-based practicals, web-based learning, demonstrations and individual supervision. Student learning is supported by lecture notes, module handbooks and suggested reading. Direct class contact is supplemented by on-line interactive programme materials, individual reading, completion of set exercises and preparation for assignments. Learning resources include IT and general and specialised psychology and biology laboratories and equipment, access to electronic databases and specialist library facilities.

Assessment

Assessment is by a mix of formative and summative work. Formative assessment will allow students to monitor their own understanding and teaching staff to monitor understanding and engagement at that point in the student's learning.' Assessment includes both coursework and examination. Coursework includes essays, research reports, group and seminar presentations, practical work and an independent empirical research project. The majority of assessment at Level 4 is by coursework, to provide maximum formative feedback to students. At Level 6 45-credits is given to an empirical research coursework project, the remaining balance of coursework and examination will depend on option choice.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

Work experience/placement opportunities

Students are encouraged to undertake relevant voluntary work. The School of Psychology work closely with a number of organisations which you can gain work experience, including schools, rehabilitation units, charities and the NHS, any voluntary opportunities that are made available are publicised to students.

Project work

Project work is an essential component of an Honours degree programme and one that most students enjoy. Small projects and group exercises feature throughout the programme. The level 6 independent empirical research project is a compulsory module. Project work encourages students to show initiative in their individual work under supervision, using appropriate analytical techniques to generate and interpret new data. Students conduct a literature review of an area of their choice, and design, carry out, analyse and interpret an original empirical investigation in this area. The student is supported on a one-to-one basis by regular meetings with an academic supervisor with research and/or theoretical expertise in the area. Postgraduate professional training staff are also available to act as supervisors to undergraduate students if appropriate.

Added value

- For those achieving a lower second class honours degree or above, the degree confers eligibility for further graduate professional training (Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (formerly known as Graduate Basis for Registration) with the British Psychological Society), which is the first step towards being a Chartered Psychologist.
- Extensive personal support throughout the programme.
- Staff with extensive experience of teaching students from a wide range of backgrounds.
- Belong to a student body and taught by staff with expertise from two different subject areas.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

- the causes of and factors that influence people's behaviour, including the biological underpinnings of this behaviour
- developing your knowledge and understanding of pharmacology
- learning and developing your practical skills in biological techniques
- working with people in a range of professional settings
- improving your scientific skills of logical argument and analysis
- gaining good, flexible employment related skills

If you enjoy...

- thinking about why people behave the way they do
- designing and carrying out studies that explore the factors influencing behaviour
- learning how psychologists can use their knowledge to help people
- conducting scientific procedures and experiments in laboratories and IT labs

If you want...

- a professionally accredited degree in Psychology
- the opportunity to study two different but complementary subject areas
- knowledge and skills that can be used in a large range of career settings
- to study in a friendly and informal School

Your future career

A degree in Psychology with Psychopharmacology is the first step towards becoming a professional psychologist, whether it be in the field of clinical, educational, occupational, counselling, health or forensic psychology. Those wishing to specialise in these areas undertake further postgraduate training at Masters or Doctorate level.

Specialising Psychology with Psychopharmacology will also give you the advantage in pursuing careers related to Psychopharmacology, in the National Health Service, Academic Research and in the Pharmaceutical Industries.

In addition to covering specific areas, a degree in Psychology and Psychopharmacology provides training in data collection and analysis, communication skills and report writing, IT skills and interpersonal awareness. It therefore provides an excellent opportunity to develop skills to meet current employer demands not necessarily related to psychology and human biology.

How we support you

Students joining the programme are offered an induction programme in the week before classes begin. Returning students also receive induction to the next level or year of their programme.

All students are allocated a personal and academic tutor. Additional help is available from the programme leader and leaders of individual modules. The School of Psychology has a well-established mentoring scheme in which volunteers from the second and third years of the programme act as mentors to the first year students.

The level 6 research project supervisors also provide personal support and help with career choice, job applications and preparation of CVs.

Specialist support (for example, for financial advice, careers advice, counselling and learning support) is also available from central University services.

Bonus factors

- students have the chance to participate in and help with real-life research
- the best student projects have been accepted for publication in professional journals.
- provides an opportunity to belong to a student community from two different schools
- access to specialised equipment, psychology labs and psychology IT technical support.
- located at the Stratford campus which is in close proximity to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Westfield Stratford City shopping complex
- Central London only 20 minutes away by underground and extensive transport links with all parts of London

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- gain an understanding of the causes of, and factors that influence people's behaviour, as well as develop and understand the biological underpinnings of this behaviour
- develop a comprehensive and critical understanding of the core principles of psychology and how they are applied to real-world problems
- progress to postgraduate study/professional training, by providing the necessary specialised knowledge and skills to gain you the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (formerly known as Graduate Basis for Registration) of the British Psychological Society
- equip you with the skills that will enable you to pursue successful, responsible and useful careers in a number of areas of employment

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- good knowledge of the influences on and factors involved in human functioning in all the core areas of Psychology (Biological foundations; Cognitive Psychology; Social Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Individual Differences, Emotion & Motivation; Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology; Research Methods)

- good knowledge of the human anatomy, physiology and pharmacology
- detailed knowledge of several specialised areas within Psychology and Psychopharmacology through option choices
- knowledge of a range of research paradigms, scientific methods & measurement techniques and, laboratory procedures
- knowledge of real life applications of theory and scientific research to behaviour, experience and society as a whole

Thinking skills

- analysis & interpretation of evidence
- scientific reasoning
- critical thinking
- appreciation of multiple perspectives & approaches

Subject-Based Practical skills

- ability to design & conduct research
- ability to analyse & interpret quantitative & qualitative data
- awareness of ethical issues & principles in research on human behaviour
- ability to effectively communicate your work to peers, scientists and the general public

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- communication, both oral & written
- computer literacy (word-processing, electronic communication, electronic databases, statistical software, internet searching)
- interpersonal & group skills
- numeracy & statistical competence
- self-knowledge and reflexivity
- planning & Time management

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

- 4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years full-time or 4 years part-time.

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 90 credits in any academic year.

What you will study when

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per year. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15, 45 or 60 credits modules. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Distance learning Y/N	Credits	Status*
4	PY4103	Introduction to Cognitive & Developmental Psychology	N	30	Core
4	PY4102	Perspectives on Behaviour: Biological, Social and Differential	N	30	Core
4	PY4101	Researching Psychological Worlds 1	N	30	Core

4	BS4004	Human Anatomy and Physiology	N	30	Core
5	PY5203	Topics in Cognitive & Developmental Psychology	N	30	Core
5	PY5102	Applications of psychobiology, individual differences and Social Psychology	N	30	Core
5	PY5101	Researching Psychological Worlds 2	N	30	Core
5	BS5004	Fundamental and Experimental Pharmacology	N	30	Core
6	PY6326	Psychological Research Project: Human Biology	N	45	Core
6	PY6302	Employability & Developing Your Graduate Career Pathway	N	15	Core
6	BS6008	Neuropsychopharmacology	N	30	Core
6	BS6011	Systems Pharmacology and Advanced Therapeutics	N	30	Option
6	BS6012	Toxicology	N	15	Option
6	BS6014	Biochemical and Cellular Toxicology	N	15	Option
6	BS6015	Systems Toxicology	N	15	Option
6	PY6303	Research Conference	N	15	Option
6	PY6305	Occupational Psychology	N	15	Option
6	PY6306	Health Psychology	N	15	Option
6	PY6308	Psychology of Choice: Decision Making and risk Perception	N	15	Option
6	PY6309	Applied Child psychology	N	30	Option
6	PY6310	Applied Child Psychology with placement	N	30	Option
6	PY6311	Drugs and Addictive Behaviours	N	30	Option
6	PY6312	Psychoneuroimmunology	N	15	Option
6	PY6313	Psychology of Emotions	N	15	Option
6	PY6314	Mental Distress in Context	N	30	Option
6	PY6315	Evolutionary Psychology	N	15	Option
6	PY6316	Frontiers in Cognitive Science:Issues in the study of mind, embodiment and consciousness	N	15	Option
6	PY6317	Psychology, Identity and Society	N	15	Option
6	PY6318	Wellbeing and Resilience in the face of conflict disaster	N	15	Option
6	PY6319	Psychology of Belief	N	30	Option

***Please Note – A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.*

*** Please Note – a selection of the level 6 Psychology option modules will be run year on year*

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level four or higher

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of module to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating;

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6	x0.8	+	The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6	x0.2
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and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

- 70% - 100% First Class Honours
- 60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
- 50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
- 40% - 49% Third Class Honours
- 0% - 39% Not passed

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- lectures
- seminars
- tutorials
- workshops
- guided reading

- Moodle and Computer Aided Learning

Thinking skills are developed through

- lectures
- seminars
- tutorials
- practical classes
- computer Aided Learning
- independent reading

Practical skills are developed through

- laboratory Practical classes
- IT workshops & exercises
- project supervision

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- IT workshops & exercises
- course work assignments & feedback
- project work
- group/ team work
- Time management

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by:

- Coursework
- Examinations

Thinking skills are assessed by:

- Coursework
- Examinations
- Project work

Practical skills are assessed by:

- practical reports
- laboratory practical work
- IT exercises
- statistical examinations
- project work

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by:

- meeting assessment deadlines
- project work
- IT exercises

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by our Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports and Responses'. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Mid module student feedback
- End of module student feedback
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting 2 times year)
- Direct contact via Personal tutor, module leader and programme leader

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- feedback from student representatives
- notices on the Psychology Help Desk Notice Board
- Postings on the Moodle Psychology

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Feedback from External Examiners
- Links with professional training programmes
- Links with British Psychological Society

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/manual/>)
- UEL Quality Manual (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/qualitymanual/>)
- School of Psychology (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/psychology/>)
- School of Health, Sport and Biosciences (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/hsb/>)
- British Psychological Society (www.bps.org.uk)