



Developmental Psychology MRes

■ **FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

www.kingston.ac.uk/pgdevelopmentalpsychologymres

About the course

Course overview

This course will enable you to apply your graduate skills to the study of psychology across the lifespan (in particular child and adolescent psychology), extending your knowledge of developmental psychology to an advanced level. You will also gain the expertise and skills needed to conduct research in developmental psychology.

The MRes in Developmental Psychology builds on our successful MSc in Child Psychology. For those students with specific interests in developmental psychology, it offers an alternative postgraduate programme with a greater emphasis on research experience than the MSc in Child Psychology. It makes use of the extensive links that we have established at postgraduate level with local schools, national specialist schools and other institutions (eg museums) to give you the opportunity to carry out research with children and young people in a range of settings, across the age range and from a variety of backgrounds.

What you will study

The course introduces you to key issues that are emerging in different fields of psychology (in particular, developmental psychology) and that are currently generating extensive research activity. It promotes critical appraisal in relation to psychological models, theories and methodologies.

You will cover advanced methods of data analysis and how to apply them to real research questions in developmental psychology. You will also develop practical skills, such as questionnaire design, interviewing, psychometric testing, physiological measurement, computing and neuropsychological testing. In addition, you will acquire training in the ethical and financial aspects of research, and will engage in supervised research activities.

Facilities

There is a wide range of facilities at Penrhyn Road campus, where this course is based. You will have access to a modern environment with the latest equipment. Our new state-of-the-art psychology laboratories are equipped with PCs with statistical analysis and experimental control software:

- A cognitive lab with access to Eprime, Superlab and Matlab
- A physiological lab with Biopac monitoring equipment
- A large number of generic test labs for computerised testing or interviewing
- A psychometric store with access to over 100 psychometric tests

You can also use the dedicated Graduate Centre on campus, which includes IT facilities, a seminar room and social space.

Special features

- The course is equally weighted in terms of research-related activities and taught content.
- You will have the opportunity to choose two guided research activities in areas of particular interest (in addition to your final dissertation).
- The course also provides hands-on training in the use of different kinds of specialist test equipment, software and psychometric tools.
- Eminent researchers from Kingston and other universities will present findings from the latest, cutting-edge research in the field of psychology.

Events and lectures

The range of events and lectures in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences enhances your studies and adds an extra perspective to your learning. There are always interesting activities taking place at Kingston and exciting opportunities to take advantage of. Here are some examples of activities you could take part in if you study this course.

The Psychology department invites psychologists from institutions across the UK to present their most recent research, with all students welcome to attend. Past seminars have included the following topics:

- Self-presentational processes in childhood: An interplay of social experience, cognition, motivation and emotion (Dr Robin Banerjee, University of Sussex)
- Why adult neuropsychology models don't work for understanding neurodevelopmental disorders (Professor Annette Karmiloff-Smith, Birkbeck College London)
- What we can learn from what we cannot learn about mirrors (Dr Marco Bertamini, University of Liverpool)
- Aesthetics of photography (Professor Chris McManus, University College London)
- Legal lego: a framework for evidential reasoning (Dr David Lagnado, University College London)
- Flexible workers: attitudes and labour market behaviour amongst lap dancers (Dr Kate Hardy and Dr Teela Sanders, University of Leeds)
- Underground maps: design challenges and challenging designs (Dr Max Roberts, University of Essex)
- Lifespan approaches to community mental health using an attachment framework (Professor Antonia Bifulco, Kingston University)

Kingston Psychology Research Seminars

Psychologists at Kingston conduct research on a wide variety of topics. They present the data from their most recent projects in a series of lunchtime seminars, which everyone is welcome to attend. Examples of past topics include:

- Einstellung defused – Interactivity and mental set (Professor Frédéric Vallee-Tourangeau)
- Face-processing in social contexts (Dr Fatima Felisberti)
- Face-processing and perspective-taking in autism (Dr Elisa Back)
- British Young People's Reasoning about the Rights of Asylum-Seekers (Dr Harriet Tenenbaum)
- Utility Reversals (Dr Petko Kusev)
- Parent-Child Emotion Talk, Parent-Child Touch and Children's Understanding of Emotions (Ana Aznar)
- Is it scary mummy? Vicarious acquisition and prevention of fear in children via a mother or a stranger (Guler Dunne)



Course content

Core modules

Research Design and Analysis

This module provides an advanced coverage of the design and analysis of psychological research. Theoretical and practical aspects of research design are discussed, including ethical issues and literature searches. Building on a revision of basic descriptive and inferential statistics, the module moves quickly towards a consideration of advanced quantitative methods and their applications, eg multivariate statistics, ANCOVA, factor analysis and advanced regression techniques. The course introduces principles of questionnaire design, evaluation and data analysis, along with advanced qualitative research methods. The laboratory workshops combine formal teaching with hands-on activities. The material provides an important foundation for the development and execution of the masters level research dissertation.

Current Issues in Psychology

In this module you will learn to critically appraise significant recent publications in various fields of psychology, eg cognitive, social, biological, developmental, health and clinical. This module also looks at the history and contemporary structure of psychology as a discipline; the professional organisation of psychology; how aspects of psychology are subject to pressures from factors within and outside the discipline; and how psychology research is funded, where it is conducted and how it is disseminated.

Theories of Developmental Psychology

This module covers some of the key theories of developmental psychology, and how these theories relate to everyday issues in child development. It may include theoretical approaches such as constructivism; information processing; and sociocultural theories. Throughout the module, we encourage you to engage with original sources, including the writings of Piaget, Vygotsky and Darwin.

Practical Research Skills in Psychology

This module will introduce you to a number of practical skills and techniques used in psychological research. It also looks at how different research techniques can be applied to address different research questions. Skills addressed may include (subject to expert staff availability) psychometric testing, questionnaire design, interviewing, meta-analysis, physiological recording and programming psychological tests. You will also look at specific ethical concerns that may be important when working with different kinds of population.

Guided Research Activity A*

This module will provide you with practical research-related experience within a particular research area of psychology. You will select a research activity from a series of options and will work under the guidance of a specialist supervisor to achieve a set of learning outcomes that are related to the activity and agreed with the supervisor and course director at the outset.

Individual Research Dissertation

You will select and undertake a major research project under the supervision of a member of staff. The dissertation project will be based on a thorough literature review and will usually require the collection and analysis of empirical data. Through independent study and individual tutorials with a project supervisor, you will further develop your research skills and critical thinking abilities. You will utilise experimental and/or survey methods of the kinds used by academic psychologists.

Option modules (choose 1)

Option modules are to be selected from a range of options (subject to availability and timetabling restrictions), including the following:

- Applied Social Development
- Applied Cognitive Development
- Social Cognition: Understanding Others
- Guided Research Activity B*
- Volunteering with Children

See the course webpage for further information about the modules offered.

**At least one guided research activity must be in the area of developmental psychology.*

Teaching staff

- **Dr Claudia Uller** is director of studies in psychology. Her research interests include infant cognitive and social development and comparative cognition.
- **Dr Chris Askew** is a lecturer in psychology. He is interested in clinical psychology, learning of anxiety-related cognitions and beliefs and behaviour.
- **Dr Elisa Back** is a senior lecturer in psychology. Her research interests include cognitive development, social cognition, autism, theory of mind and face processing.
- **Christopher Barker** is director of student affairs. He is interested in phobia and subliminal perception.
- **Dr Fiona Barlow-Brown** is a principal lecturer in psychology. She is interested in reading development and disgust in children.
- **Dr Georgia Butler** is a senior lecturer in psychology. Georgia's specialist area of interest is impulsivity and risk taking, drug use and eating behaviours. Georgia is also co-editor of the BPS Psychobiology Section newsletter.
- **Dr Anthony Esgate** is a senior lecturer in psychology. Anthony's main teaching interests include quantitative research methods and applied psychology, particularly ergonomics and sports psychology. Anthony has research interests in sports psychology, ergonomics and applied cognitive and organisational psychology.
- **Dr Fatima Felisberti** is a senior lecturer in psychology. Fatima is a cognitive neuroscientist with interests in visual memory, face and emotion perception, self-face perception, visual art and daydreaming.
- **Dr Chris Hewer** is a senior lecturer in psychology. He is interested in social psychology and social representations – social and collective memory.
- **Dr Petko Kusev** is senior lecturer in psychology. His research interests include cognitive psychology, judgment and decision-making, memory and categorisation.
- **Dr Sabira Mannan** is a lecturer in psychology. Her research includes visual attention, perception, motor control and neuropsychology.
- **Dr Ana Nikcevic** is a senior lecturer in psychology. She is interested in clinical and health psychology.
- **Dr Louisa Pavvey** is a lecturer in psychology. She is interested in social psychology – social and health behaviour change.
- **Dr Jess Prior** is a senior lecturer in psychology. She is interested in facial disfigurement and visible differences in childhood and adolescence.
- **Dr Ron Roberts** is a senior lecturer in psychology. He is interested in student health issues, sex work, critical psychology, psychology and history, and social representations.
- **Dr Muthanna Samara** is a lecturer in psychology. His research interests include bullying, premature children, ADHD, crying, feeding problems and developmental psychopathology.
- **Dr Harriet Tenenbaum** is a reader in psychology. Harriet's specialist areas of interest include children's cognitive, social and emotional development in the context of relationships.
- **Professor Philip Terry** is a professor of psychology. Philip's specialist area of research interest is drugs, alcohol and behaviour and biological psychology. Philip is also assistant editor for the journal *Addiction*.
- **Professor Fred Vallee-Tourangeau** is a cognitive psychologist. Fred's specialist area of interest includes cognitive psychology, thinking and reasoning.
- **Dr Jo Van Herwegen** is a lecturer in psychology. Her research interests include psycholinguistics and developmental disorders.
- **Dr Gaëlle Villejoubert** is a senior lecturer in psychology. She is interested in risk, uncertainty and decision-making, mathematical intuitions and distributed cognition.

Developmental Psychology MRes

Entry requirements

- Applicants would normally be expected to have at least a second-class honours degree (or equivalent) in psychology or a closely related discipline.
- Applicants must also be able to demonstrate mathematical competency equivalent to grade C or above at GCSE level.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier 4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on the course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Duration

One year full time and two years part time

Attendance/delivery

Full-time students will be expected to attend classes or conduct practical work five days per week, while part-time students will need to attend three days per week. The study commitment varies depending on which course you take, but may include evening, weekend or day-release sessions, and can vary from semester to semester. Timetables are subject to change. Please contact the postgraduate admissions office for further details.

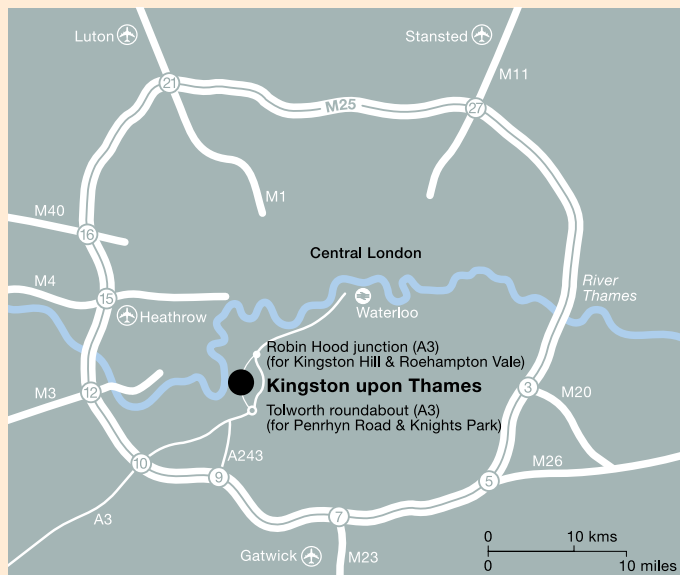
Assessment

There is a variety of methods used to assess your progress on this course, including essays, in-class tests, presentations, unseen examinations, laboratory reports and a dissertation.



Location

Located beside the River Thames, Kingston University is within the London travel-pass zone. Easily accessible from surrounding areas such as Surrey and Middlesex, its local train stations (Kingston; Surbiton) are also only 25 minutes from London Waterloo.



Further information

Contact details

Please contact the Faculty's Admissions Office with any further queries.

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