



## About the course

### Course overview

The course is ideal if you have an honours degree in psychology, or a related discipline, and would like to extend your practical expertise and theoretical understanding of psychology, develop transferable research skills that will enhance your employability in a range of sectors, acquire advanced research experience that will serve to support applications for professional training (eg in clinical psychology), and/or pursue further research or a PhD in a related discipline. It provides a balance of taught and research-based modules, giving you considerable scope to focus on those aspects of psychology that interest you most.

### What you will study

The course will introduce you to key issues that are emerging in different fields of psychology and that are currently generating extensive research activity. It will promote critical appraisal in relation to psychological models, theories and methodologies.

You will learn advanced methods of data analysis and how to apply them to real research questions. You will also develop practical skills; for example, in 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.

### 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.

### Facilities

There is a wide range of facilities at our 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. They include:

- 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; and
- a psychometric store with access to over 100 psychometric tests.

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



### 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 (Prof. 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 (Prof. 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 (Prof. 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 (Prof. 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)

### Research areas

Areas of research available for students studying psychology include health psychology, biopsychology, developmental psychology, perception, cognition, emotion, psychopharmacology, social psychology, critical psychology and clinical psychology.

## 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.
- Purpose-built laboratories are available for postgraduate students studying Psychology.

## Course content

### Core modules

#### 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.

#### 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&B

You will participate in two research-related activities under the guidance of supervisors from two different research groupings within the subject. You will agree learning contracts that set clear objectives and outcomes from the activities, such as:

- pilot studies for experiments;
- the design of questionnaires and/or their validation;
- short surveys;
- reviews of research literature or databases;
- meta-analyses;
- programming tasks; or
- the development of materials for experiments.

#### 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.

#### 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 during this module. You will also utilise experimental and/or survey methods of the kind used by academic psychologists.

### Option modules (choose two)

You will select two option modules from a range of subjects\*, including:

- Applied Cognitive Development
- Applied Social Development
- Children's Relationships
- Cognitive Neuropsychology
- Critical Issues in Mental Health
- Drugs and Behaviour
- Health Psychology
- Psychology of Art
- Social and Cultural Psychology
- Social Cognition: Understanding Others
- Social Memory: The Psychology of History
- Theories of Developmental Psychology
- Thinking

*\*Modules are subject to availability and timetabling restrictions.*

For further information on modules offered, please visit the course webpage.



## 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 Pavey** 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.

## Psychology MRes

### Entry requirements (see webpage for full details)

- Applicants would normally be expected to have at least a second-class honours degree (or equivalent) in psychology or a closely related discipline, with a good understanding of basic statistical methods.
- Applicants must also be able to demonstrate mathematical competency equivalent to grade C or above at GCSE level.
- International students must have an overall IELTS score of at least 6.5 or equivalent, with special conditions for those who require a Tier-4 student visa.

### Duration

This course runs over 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 attend three days per week. The study commitment varies, 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.

## 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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