

Psychology MSc

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/pgpsychologymsc

About the course

Course overview

Kingston's MSc in Psychology covers the range of subdisciplines that comprise contemporary psychology. It will appeal both to UK graduates and to International students who would like to study a masters-level psychology course that is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as conferring Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC is the first step towards becoming a chartered psychologist). For UK graduates, the course is primarily directed towards students whose degree provided insufficient credit in Psychology to meet BPS accreditation criteria.

What you will study

The course covers all of the key subdisciplines of psychology and provides extensive training in research skills related to psychology. In addition to providing a broad (yet detailed) overview of the subject, it promotes the critical appraisal of psychological models, theories and methodologies.

You will conduct practical research exercises and produce a substantial research-based dissertation in an area of psychology of interest to you (subject to availability).

Assessment

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

Professional recognition

The programme confers eligibility for graduate membership of the British Psychological Society with the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC). This is the first step towards becoming a chartered psychologist.



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 that provide a wide range of software for statistical analysis and experimental control (eg E-Prime and Superlab). They include:

- specialised laboratories for participant observation – with video monitoring and recording apparatus;
- a biopsychology laboratory, with a range of physiological monitoring equipment; and
- cognition laboratories, including eye-tracking equipment and neuropsychological test apparatus (CANTAB).

The Psychology Research Unit (PRU) is also equipped with a wide range of specialist software (eg for image-processing, questionnaire design, meta-analysis) and psychometric tools. It has extensive links with local schools and external organisations for conducting applied research. The PRU also runs a series of seminars in which eminent researchers from across the UK present findings from cutting-edge research in psychology.

The University's on-site Learning Resources Centre offers:

- subject libraries, plus a free inter-library loan scheme to other libraries in the Greater London area;
- online database subscriptions; and
- a growing selection of resource materials.

You will also have access to the Computer Resource Centre, which provides:

- a reliable network;
- a set of core and specific software;
- a variety of labs, for generic and specialised use; and
- academic and administrative technical support.

In addition, the Graduate Centre on campus is available for use, and includes:

- IT facilities;
- seminar room; and
- social space

Research areas

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

Special features

- Students on this course enjoy extensive small-group, seminar-based teaching.
- You will benefit from modern purpose-built research laboratories and offices, as well as excellent computer facilities.
- The Psychology team is a young, friendly and dynamic group of researchers, experienced in teaching their specialist areas.
- The team has research links with universities in Australia, the US and Europe.
- Eminent psychologists from across the UK present findings from the latest research in psychology, keeping your learning at the cutting edge.
- Psychology graduates are numerate and literate, which makes them attractive to employers. During your studies you will acquire skills in data analysis, statistical methods, project design, teamwork and report writing.

Course content

Modules

Core modules

Psychological Methods and Statistics (30 credits)

This module considers the nature of the experimental method and the role of ethical evaluation in developing research projects. It covers a range of statistical procedures and their theoretical bases, from descriptive statistics through to advanced-level quantitative and qualitative methodologies. It also covers approaches to the design and running of psychological experiments and how to write up the results in report form.

Social and Cultural Psychology (15 credits)

This module identifies the major approaches, theories, methods and debates in social psychology, and examines a range of findings and their explanations. It also looks at key philosophical and methodological differences between European social psychology and North American social psychology, and encourages an understanding of the critical perspectives that are emerging from within the discipline.

Perception and Cognition (15 credits)

This module examines current understanding of cognitive and perceptual processes, and addresses the relationship between cognitive science and neuropsychology. It adopts an information processing approach to cognitive function. Topics include selective and divided attention, visual perception (including colour perception and depth perception), auditory perception, memory, and the applications of research in cognition and perception.

Biological Bases of Behaviour (15 credits)

This module explores some of the ways in which behaviour can be related to biological processes. Topics typically include brain neuroanatomy and function; sensory systems; the split brain and lateralisation; the biology of motivation (hunger, sex); the influences of hormones on behaviour; the physiology of emotional experiences; the biopsychology of memory; how drugs affect the brain and behaviour; and how brain damage can cause behavioural and mental health problems.

Individual Differences (15 credits)

This module will engage you with various theories of personality and individual differences, and shows how such theories are applied in therapeutic and occupational settings. Topics include trait models and humanistic/existential approaches to personality, learning and social cognitive approaches, motivation, emotion and psychometric testing.

Theories of Developmental Psychology (15 credits)

This module covers key theories of developmental psychology and how they relate to everyday issues in child development. It includes theoretical approaches such as constructivism, information-processing approaches and sociocultural theories. You will be encouraged to engage with original sources, including the writings of Piaget, Vygotsky and Darwin.

Dissertation (60 credits)

You will select and carry out a major research project under staff supervision. The dissertation gives you an opportunity to reflect on methodological issues and apply your research skills to define, design and execute a publishable piece of research.

Option modules

Choose one 15-credit option module from a selection of modules in psychology (M-level or Level 6) with the agreement of the course director (and subject to timetabling constraints); for example, Health Psychology or Thinking. Please see the course webpage for further details.

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 Pavay** 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 MSc

Entry requirements

Applicants will need:

- either a second-class honours degree (or equivalent) in psychology (not accredited by the BPS);
- or a degree in which psychology comprises only part of the programme of study (at least 60 credits);
- or (exceptionally) a degree in a science or social science discipline.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate mathematical competence equivalent to grade C or above at GCSE level.

In addition, international students are required to have an IELTS score of 6.5 or an equivalent qualification.

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 or two years part time.

Attendance/delivery

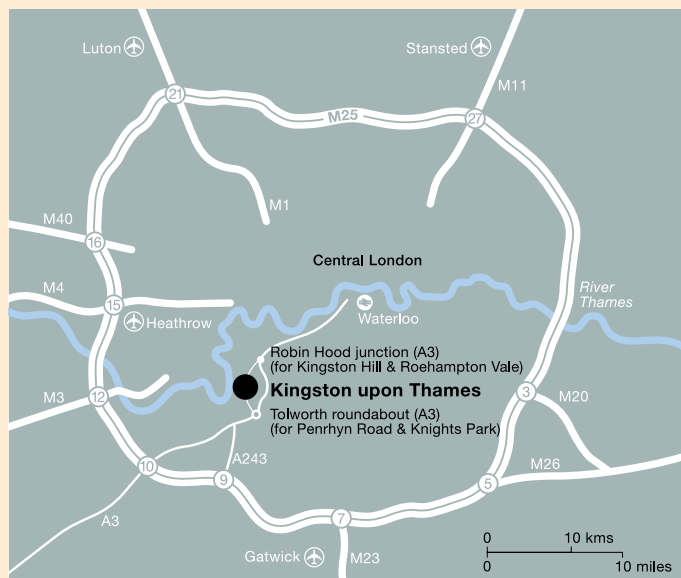
The study commitment varies depending on which course you take, but may include evening, weekend or day-release sessions and can vary from semester to semester.

Tuition fees

Please see the course webpage for information. You can apply online at www.kingston.ac.uk/pgpsychologymsc

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.

Admissions Office (Postgraduate Courses)
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Kingston University
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2EE

T: +44 (0)20 8417 2361/2378

F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292

E: fasspostgrad-info@kingston.ac.uk

www.kingston.ac.uk/pgpsychologymsc