



**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**
Faculty of Health

School of Psychology

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Psychology with Integrated Foundation Year

2020/21

Date of Approval: 4th August 2020

1. **BSc (Hons) Psychology with Integrated Foundation Year**

Final award title

Final Awards are at Honours level.

BSc (Hons) Psychology
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Certificate of Industrial/Professional Experience
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Sociology
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies with
Certificate of Industrial/Professional Experience
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Sociology with Certificate of
Industrial/Professional Experience

Students exiting the foundation year will not receive an award unless they progress and achieve appropriate credits on the progression programme.

Integrated Foundation Year

Students may undertake a Foundation Year prior to entry to Level 4 of this award before progressing to the above final award routes. The approved content of the Foundation year is described in this Programme Specification. The Foundation year is an integral part of the final award route and is not therefore reflected in the final award title.

Level 4 Intermediate award title(s)

Certificate of Higher Education (on achieving 120 credits at level 4)

Level 5 Intermediate award title(s)

Diploma in Higher Education (on achieving 120 credits at level 5)

Level 6 Intermediate award title(s)

Non-honours degree (on achieving 80 credits in non-project modules at level 6)

UCAS code C800

HECOS code 100497

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies) None

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

This is a four-year BSc (Hons) degree programme starting at the integrated foundation year, or level 0. This is designed to provide a route of entry for students with non-standard qualifications, are returning to education after a long break, or are not currently appropriately qualified for entry to level 4 of the BSc (Hons) Psychology programmes.

The integrated foundation year is designed to build confidence and develop academic and study skills while bringing students up to speed on the foundations of psychology. This will provide a solid base for students to progress and succeed on the standard BSc (Hons) Psychology programmes that covers levels 4-6.

Distinctive features of this programme are that it:

- is suitable for non-standard entrants, including mature returners to study who do not meet the requirements for entry to Level 4.
- welcomes applications from those who have studied other disciplines.
- provides you with a high proportion of experiential work, and intensive and early assessment, with rapid feedback designed to support learning
- A blended learning approach integrates asynchronous learning with online lectures, with scheduled online and face-to-face activities, workshops and support sessions
- provides personal support for learning through enhanced contact with personal tutors and input from specialist staff
- focusses on problem-based learning around applied psychology issues and on active learning by students
- integrates employability
- innovative and imaginative curriculum that's continually shaped by the latest developments in psychological research.
- is underpinned by research activity of staff in Psychology

The integrated foundation year consists of four 30-credit modules. Students have to achieve 120 credits at the end of this stage.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The integrated foundation year is devised with reference to the subject benchmarks of the discipline to which you will progress to complete your degree: The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) 'Benchmark statement: Psychology' (2007)

6. Integrated Foundation Year (Level 0) Structure

<i>Semester 1 modules</i>	
PSYC001 Foundations of Psychology (30 credits)	PSYC002 The Psychology of Everyday Experience (30 credits)
<i>Semester 2 modules</i>	
PSYC003 Psychological Influences on Health and Behaviour (30 credits)	PSYC004 Career Directions and Applications in Psychology (30 credits)

Module overviews

The information below provides a synopsis of the aims and scope of the modules you will take in the foundation year. Please refer to the individual module records for further detailed information on content, learning outcomes and assessment strategy.

PSYC001: Foundations of Psychology: An introduction to the foundational theories and approaches to psychology as a discipline. Psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive, humanistic, and systemic approaches are discussed, alongside their associated methodologies. Consideration is also given to how an understanding of these theories and approaches can contribute to other modules studied by the students enrolled in this programme year.

PSYC002: The Psychology of Everyday Experience: This module introduces students to psychological research into various aspects of everyday experience. Students gain an appreciation of how everyday phenomena are related to psychological knowledge and research. The module enables students to understand how to apply psychological theory to general life experiences and world events. Lectures are supported by workshops and tutorials.

PSYC003: Psychological Influences on Health and Behaviour: Introducing the psychology of choices and behaviour, this module has an emphasis on health. Here we examine health behaviours, choices, and risks with a particular consideration of how these are influenced by biological and social factors. Students will have the opportunity to design and conduct a small research project in groups, with presentation of this project forming the assessment for the module.

PSYC004: Career Directions and Applications in Psychology: This module introduces common career directions and applications in psychology. Students engage with these career directions and applications from different perspectives, including self-reflection, self-development, discussions, feedback, and inputs by experts. Lectures are supported by workshops and tutorials.

7. Programme Aims

The aims shown below are those for the integrated foundation year of this programme. They should be read in conjunction with the aims of the BSc (Hons)

programmes available to you in the School of Psychology (see [links](#) here) to show the full scope of our ambitions for you.

The aims of the integrated foundation year (level 0) are to:

- 1) produce students who have a broad yet comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of psychology that are necessary for successful progression to and in an honours degree programme in psychology
- 2) develop the ability to apply scientific knowledge and skills appropriately and successfully in undergraduate studies in psychology
- 3) equip students with the study skills necessary to successfully progress to and in an honours degree programme in psychology
- 4) enable students to become confident, critically self-aware independent learners
- 5) begin to develop in students a range of key and transferable skills of value in the world of employment, including skills in the areas of communication, problem-solving, team-working, information-handling and processing
- 6) prepare students for and initiate students into the culture of University-level study, both in terms of the academic standards and the study patterns required

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

The intended learning outcomes shown in sections 8.1 to 8.4 are specific to the Level 0 of the programme, designed to provide a foundation for continuation of the Level 4-6 learning outcomes described in sections 8.5 to 8.9 (associated with the BSc (Hons) Psychology programme).

8.1 Knowledge and understanding (Level 0)

On successful completion you should be able to.

- 1) Demonstrate a broad understanding of the fundamental knowledge base and the terminology relating to psychology
- 2) Develop an awareness of current areas of debate and discovery in psychology and how scientific knowledge and methods can be applied to investigate them

8.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills (Level 0)

On successful completion you should be able to.

- 1) Understand how empirical evidence underpins concepts and principles and underlying theoretical frameworks in psychology and begin to identify strengths and limitations of such models.
- 2) Develop a basic understanding of data and information reliability.

8.3 Key, transferable and employment-related skills (Level 0)

On successful completion you should be able to demonstrate:

- 1) Written and oral communication skills and be able to use these in a variety of contexts
- 2) Problem-solving and basic data manipulation skills, relating to qualitative and quantitative information

- 3) Information-retrieval skills, in relation to primary and secondary information sources and the proper citation of this information
- 4) An awareness of your own capabilities in key areas and engage in development activity through guided self-direction
- 5) An understanding of how to work effectively and give/receive effective feedback independently and as part of a team/group

8.4 Practical skills (Level 0)

On successful completion you should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an awareness of how psychology can inform practice and policy in society and the workplace
- 2) Demonstrate a broad understanding of the criteria for using basic assessment instruments

8.5 Knowledge and understanding (Level 4-6)

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Outline and explain the main features of the scientific approach to and philosophical foundations of psychology.
- 2) Describe and evaluate relevant research methods, theories and concepts in major topic areas of psychology, including ways in which theories and approaches can complement one another.
- 3) Identify and evaluate the contribution of psychological theory, research and professional practice to real-world problems.

8.6 Cognitive and intellectual skills (Level 4-6)

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Organise, synthesise and critically evaluate information from a range of different sources to draw appropriate conclusions about theoretical questions and practical problems.
- 2) Assess the soundness of research questions and translate these into practical strategies of investigation
- 3) Evaluate and analyse quantitative and qualitative data sets and draw sound conclusions from them.

8.7 Key and transferable skills (Level 4-6)

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Analyse quantitative and qualitative data sets including the appropriate use of statistical procedures, and be able to present information and data in different formats to a range of audiences.
- 2) Access and manage systematically information from a variety of learning and information technology resources.
- 3) Interact effectively with others to set goals, integrate information and achieve sound decisions.
- 4) Critically appraise the contribution of psychology to the work of a public or commercial organisation.

8.8 Employment related skills (Level 4-6)

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Reflect upon their own strengths and weaknesses and take responsibility for personal development in relation to their career opportunities as a graduate in Psychology, including development of a tailored CV.
- 2) Understand the diverse range of skills needed for effective work, including understanding team working, managing workload to appropriate standards within a suitable timeframe, and understanding the ethical and professional issues appropriate to a working environment.
- 3) Demonstrate familiarity with a range of technology for different purposes.

8.9 Practical skills (Level 4-6)

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of how psychology informs practice in a specific area, and knowledge of the theory which underpins that practice.
- 2) Be able to develop basic assessment instruments (e.g. for measurement of attitudes or psychological attributes/traits) and understand the criteria for the use of these.
- 3) Input data to and use statistical software packages.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

International applicants must also satisfy the University's English language requirements as specified at <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/international-students-entry-requirements>

Entry Requirements for the integrated foundation year in Psychology	
A-level/AS-level	For level 0 entry the tariff points entry level will normally be 32-48 points from A level or equivalent.
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subjects with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor
Scottish Qualifications Authority	32-48 points at Advanced Highers
Irish Leaving Certificate	Irish Highers, H5 in five subjects equivalent to 32-48 points
International Baccalaureate	Normal minimum entry requirements are 24 points overall - refer to admissions tutor. If overseas and not studying English within IB, must have IELTS 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all other elements.

Candidates without formal qualifications awarded in the last three years:

This course is open to candidates returning to study, who can offer work or other related experience in lieu of formal qualifications. Therefore, candidates without formal qualifications or with non-standard qualifications are assessed on an individual basis, usually by interview from the Admissions Tutor and Programme Lead. Applicants that are unsure of the suitability of their qualifications or experience should contact Admissions in the first instance, who will then liaise with the Admissions Tutor and Programme Lead.

Where the prior level of qualifications falls significantly below our normal offer above, applicants will be invited to an interview to assess whether their prior experience may replace the more formal qualifications.

Level 0 of this programme will only run with a minimum of ten student enrolments.

Students with Disabilities:

The University is committed to promoting and providing a positive study environment for all students and has a dedicated department to help students with disabilities, the Disability Services team <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/services/learning-gateway/disability-and-dyslexia>

Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability of an individual to carry out normal day-to-day activities and can mean different things to different people.

The University has a duty to make anticipatory 'reasonable adjustments' to make sure students with disabilities are not discriminated against. Where a person with a disability is at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with a person without a disability, the University has a duty to take reasonable steps to remove that disadvantage by:- changing provisions, criteria or practices, altering, removing or providing a reasonable alternative means of avoiding physical features and providing auxiliary aids.

Please contact us for further details.

10. Progression criteria for Integrated Foundation Year

Students are required to pass all modules of the Integrated Foundation Year (level 0) to progress to Level 4 of the BSc (Hons) Psychology programme or BSc (Hons) Psychology major programme with approved minor subjects. Requests to change programmes at the end of the Integrated Foundation Year will be considered only within the normal University regulations.

- Students must achieve 120 credits at Level 0 to progress to Level 4.
- The overall pass mark for a module is 40%.
- There is no exit award for those leaving after the Integrated Foundation Year only.

The coursework element of a module comprises the aggregate of all the individual pieces of coursework. The marks for individual pieces of coursework are aggregated together in the proportions specified in the module outline or handbook in order to arrive at a mark for each element and for the module overall. Some modules have a

pass/fail requirement in addition to coursework. Where a pass/fail requirement is part of a module's assessment package, then the student needs to pass this requirement in addition to any coursework components.

There is no guarantee of progression to programmes other than the following approved programmes:

- BSc (Hons) Psychology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies
- BSc (Hons) Psychology with Sociology

If you are intending to progress to other programmes at University of Plymouth you should contact the admissions teams of the programme to which they wish to progress prior to enrolling on the foundation year, progression however would not be guaranteed and would be subject to but not limited to availability of places and a student's academic and personal profile.

10.1 Progression routes for Final and Intermediate Awards

BSc (Hons) Psychology programmes are full time, three year programmes (four years when taken with a placement year). The maximum registration period for full time registrant is six years.

Except where University regulations permit alternative outcomes, students must normally achieve 120 credits at Stages 1 and 2 of the programme in order to progress to the next stage, must successfully pass Stage 3 in order to receive a degree with a Certificate of Industrial Placement, and must pass 120 credits at Stage 4 in order to be awarded a BSc (Hons) in Psychology.

The programmes offer exit awards of a Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4), and a Diploma in Higher Education (Level 5). A student completing 80 credits at Level 6 may be offered an Ordinary Degree. These exit awards do not confer Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the British Psychological Society. Students who are awarded BSc (Hons) Psychology degrees are only eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the British Psychological Society if they achieve a lower second-class degree or higher award.

11. Non Standard Regulations

Not applicable.

12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

Not applicable.

Appendices

- 1. Programme Specification Mapping (Level 0) – core/elective modules**
- 2. Assessment (Level 0, Foundation year)**

- 3. Programme Specification Mapping (Level 4-6) – core/elective modules**
- 4. Appendix 4: Operational Specification (Level 0): mapping of Award Learning Outcomes**
- 5. Appendix 5: Operational Specification (UG): mapping of Award Learning Outcomes**

Appendix 2: Assessments (Level 0)

	E1- exam	E2 – clinical exam	T1- test	C1- coursework	A1 – generic assessment	P1 - practical
PSYC001				Coursework Submission 1 50% Coursework Submission 2 50%	Portfolio of activities Pass/fail	
PSYC002			Take-home exam 50%	Coursework Essay 50%	Portfolio of activities Pass/fail	
PSYC003			Multiple choice tests 40%		Portfolio of activities Pass/fail	Individual poster presentation 60%
PSYC004				(E)Portfolio 100% (broken down into three assessments with individual marks each)	Portfolio of activities Pass/fail	

Appendix 3: Programme Specification Mapping Levels 4-6: module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

Single Honours and Majors		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings E1- exam E2 - clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding			Cognitive & intellectual skills			Key & transferable skills				Employment related skills			Practical skills				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3		
Level 4	PSYC411	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X			Y	C1 100%
	PSYC412	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	Y	C1 30% E1 70%
	PSYC414	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	Y	C1 100%
	PSYC415	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	Y	C1 30% E1 70%
	PSYC413	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X	Y	C1 30% E1 70%
	PSYC416	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	Y	C1 30% E1 70%
Level 4 LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Level 5	PSYC519	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Y	C1 100%
	PSYC520	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Y	C1 100%
	PSYC513	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	Y	E1 100%
	PSYC514	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	Y	E1 100%
	PSYC515		X	X	X			X	X		X	X			X			Y	C1 100%
	PSYC516		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X			Y	C1 100%
CPIE501			X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X			Y	A1 100%	
Level 5 LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Level 6	PSYC601	X	X	X	X			X	X			X			X			Y	C1 30% E1 70%
	PSYC602	X	X	X	X			X	X				X		X			Y	C1 30% E1 70%
	PSYC603	X	X	X	X			X	X				X		X			Y	C1 30% E1 70%

Appendix 4: Operational Specification (Level 0): mapping of Award Learning Outcomes

Core Modules		Credits	Award Learning Outcomes (for more information see Section 8 of the Programme Specification) Please map where a module does one or more of the following: I – ALO is introduced P – ALO is practised (e.g. formative assessment and feedback; basis of tutorial or workshop) A – ALO is assessed										
			Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills		Key, transferable and employment-related skills					Practical skills	
			1	2	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	1	2
Level 3	PSYC001	30	A	A	A	A	A	I	A	A	I	A	A
	PSYC002	30	A	A	A	A	A	I	A	A	P	A	
	PSYC003	30	A	P	I	A	A	A	A		P		A
	PSYC004	30	A				A		A	A	A	A	

Appendix 5: Operational Specification (UG): BSc (Hons) Psychology Levels 4-6 - mapping of Award Learning Outcomes.

Module Code	Level	Credits	C - core E - elective	Award Learning Outcomes (for more information see Section 8 of the Programme Specification) Please map where a module does one or more of the following: I – ALO is introduced P – ALO is practised (e.g. formative assessment and feedback; basis of tutorial or workshop) A – ALO is assessed															
				8.1 Knowledge & understanding			8.2 Cognitive & intellectual skills			8.3 Key & transferable skills				8.4 Employment related skills			8.5 Practical skills		
				1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
PSYC411	4	20	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			A	I	A	A	I	
PSYC412	4	20	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	P	IP	A		A	A		A
PSYC413	4	20	E	A	A	A	A	A		A	A			A		A	A	A	A
PSYC414	4	20	C	A	A	A	A	A	I	A	A	A		A			A	A	A
PSYC415	4	20	C	A	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A		A			A	A	A
PSYC416	4	20	E	A	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A	I	A	P	P	A	A	A
PSYC519	5	20	C	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A	A
PSYC520	5	20	C	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A	A
PSYC513	5	20	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A
PSYC514	5	20	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A
PSYC515	5	20	E		A	A	A		P	A	A	P	A	A	P		P		
PSYC516	5	20	E		A	A	A	P		A	A	A	A	A	P		A	P	
PSYC601	6	20	C	A	A	A	A			A	A			A			A		
PSYC602	6	20	E	A	A	A	A			A	A				A		A		
PSYC603	6	20	C	A	A	A	A			A	A				A		A		
PSYC604	6	20	E	A	A	A	A			A	A				A		A		
PSYC605	6	40	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A				A