UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
MSc Psychology

Final award	MSc.
Intermediate awards available	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology with Empirical Project Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (PgDip) Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology (PgCert)
Mode of delivery	UEL on campus
Details of professional body accreditation	The Programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society (for UK based programmes only)
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	N/A
Date specification last up-dated	September 2015

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
AKMI Metropolitan College, Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece	Entire programme	No	Yes	Full-time and part-time in the Greek language

The summary - Programme advertising leaflet

Programme content

Psychology is an empirical science that aims to understand how and why humans and non-human animals act in the ways they do and to apply that knowledge in a wide variety of settings. The discipline is very wide-ranging spanning from the observations of basic neural mechanisms to analyses of complex human relationships. This breadth and natural applicability to many different aspects of society have made it the largest scientific discipline for study in Higher Education in the UK and the second largest discipline overall. The Masters in Psychology is an excellent avenue for those who did not do an undergraduate degree in psychology to study the subject and to then train to become a professional psychologist, or to become a researcher in the field or to simply use the knowledge and skills gained in another career.

The programme of studies is designed to develop students' knowledge, understanding, research and practical skills in psychology. This is achieved through the following modules, each worth 30 credits:

- Research Methods
- Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology
- Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences
- CHIPS & Social Psychology (Conceptual & Historical Issues in Psychology)
- Research Thesis (60 Level M credits)

Psychology at UEL

UEL is recognised as one of the UK's leading modern universities. In REF 2014 the School of Psychology at UEL was one of only four submissions to secure 100% 4* rating for research impact. We are a School that drives innovation and excellence in research, programme development and the student experience. The School appears in the top tier of Psychology departments in the country in relation to student experience. The School runs BPS accredited undergraduate degrees, a very successful suite of Masters programmes and supports a large doctoral student community of around 250 students.

The School of Psychology at UEL has a long tradition of excellent teaching and research. Six broad research groups exist:
- Cognition and Neuroscience Research Group
- Developmental Psychology Research Group
- Drugs and Addictive Behaviours Research Group
- Health Promotion and Behaviour Research Group
- Psychology and Social Change Research Group
- Psychology of Education Research Group

Our School of Psychology offers postgraduate programmes in all main areas of professional applied psychology (it was the first department of psychology in the UK to develop a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and a Doctorate in Educational Psychology) and therefore benefits from extensive expertise across a range of related areas.

Students have an opportunity to participate in innovative research with specialists in their fields as part of their research dissertation.

Its London location and the flexibility of both modes of study (full-time or part-time) and points of entry (either Semester A in September or Semester B in February) meets the differing needs of the diverse types of students applying for postgraduate education.

- A flexible credit based programme leading towards a higher degree
- The option of interim awards at associate, certificate and diploma level for students who do not wish to, or are unable to, complete the programme
- The flexibility to pay for modules on an individual basis

Entry requirements

An undergraduate degree (or equivalent) of at least a 2:2 level (or equivalent, for example, a qualification from outside the UK but due to high demand preference is given to 2:1 or those with relevant work experience in a field related to psychology or further academic qualifications since graduation.

Previous qualifications can be in any discipline and therefore do not need to be in an area of science. (NB: Due to professional body regulations, students cannot enter the programme with AP(E)L credits). The option of taking the PG Dip '(with empirical project)' is only available to those with at least 60 prior credits in Psychology – see below.

Students of all backgrounds, irrespective of age, gender or cultural background are encouraged to apply.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required. International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education postgraduate programmes.

Entry requirements for AKMI (Greece):

- An honours or degree at the UK level of lower second or equivalent in any analytical subject.
- Evidence of ability to pursue study at Masters level e.g.sample of graduate level coursework.
- Local equivalent to a D.B.S. check, if necessary.
- Medical certificate, if necessary.

AMC will assess all students before acceptance on to a masters programme to ensure they have a level of English reading competence sufficient to utilise relevant publications. English reading support and development will be offered to any student who is found to require it.

For the AKMI based programme, in the case of applicants whose first language is not Greek, a Certificate of Attainment in Greek Language (Level D) is required (information at http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/certification/03.html)

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.

Programme structure

This is a programme that can be completed either full-time or part-time. It may be possible to move from full-time to part-time study at the beginning of terms although, depending on availability of places. In Term 1 (September-January) the modules on offer are Research Methods and Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology whilst in Term 2 (February to June), CHIPS (Conceptual & Historical Issues in Psychology) & Social Psychology and Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences are taught. Students wishing to obtain a Masters qualification (for GBC) will then be required to undertake an independent research project usually in the term following completion of the core modules; if this occurs at the end of Term 1, the project can take place during the summer period whilst if it occurs at the end of Term 2, the project can take place during the following Term 2.
The programme offers three intermediate awards. A Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology is awarded following successful completion of 60 Level 7 credits. A Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology is awarded for achieving 120 Level 7 credits for the following four modules: Research Methods, Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology, CHIPS & Social Psychology (Conceptual & Historical Issues in Psychology), and Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences. The Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (with Empirical Project) will only be available to those students who have 60 or more Psychology credits in their previous degree and do not want to undertake the final MSc research project. To obtain this qualification, in addition to the four core modules listed above, students will need to complete a Level 6 independent research project worth 20 credits. Normally, students register for the MSc, and use the exit points only if for some reason they are unable to complete their studies.

Learning environment

The programme uses a variety of teaching and learning methods designed to enable participants to develop active learning techniques, reflect on practice and attain the learning outcomes for each module. Teaching methods vary from module to module and include lectures, seminars, tutorials, group exercises, peer study groups and individual supervision. Direct class contact is supplemented by on-line interactive web environment materials, individual reading, completion of exercises and preparation for assignments.
Learning resources include IT and general psychology laboratories (which includes specialist research hardware and software), access to electronic journals and databases, and specialist library facilities.

Assessment

A wide range of assessment procedures are employed in line with UEL's Assessment Policy to ensure a high standard of academic and professional competence. Exams and coursework are moderated, whilst dissertations are double marked, using a range of criteria explicitly outlined in the programme handbooks and known to students in advance. Assessments will include coursework, written unseen exams, seen exams, and a written research dissertation.

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.

Relevance to work/profession

Our postgraduate programmes in Psychology are designed to enhance employability and students' career prospects. There is no formal placement system on the programme, but students are encouraged to undertake relevant voluntary work within the field.

Dissertation/project work

Students will have an opportunity to design and conduct an independent piece of research on the topic of their choice, using quantitative or/and qualitative methods of analysis. Dissertations can take the form of an empirical project.
A Dissertation is undertaken by students on an individual basis. Every student is allocated a personal supervisor. Supervisory meetings are flexible and student-driven. They take place on a one-to-one basis and are to be organised between the supervisor and student; on average, meetings should occur every fortnight.

Your future career

The Masters in Psychology can be used in a variety of ways. For some careers (e.g. clinical psychology, educational psychology or counselling psychology), an accredited qualification in Psychology is a prerequisite for entry onto professional training programmes. For others (e.g. occupational psychology) the qualification can be used towards eventual Chartership in the field.
Those students who find the academic side of psychology more appealing will be ideally placed to apply for research positions following completion of their comprehensive empirical project. This can therefore be used as a stepping stone to a research doctorate.
Finally, the skills gained through studying psychology are transferable to a wide range of professional careers.

How we support you

On joining the programme you will take part in a relevant and comprehensive Induction programme to help you settle in.
Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide support to address learning queries and discuss any issues affecting progress.
The programme operates a genuine open door policy, which means that members of staff, including module tutors, programme leader and dissertation supervisor are accessible to students and can be contacted through UELPlus and email.
There are substantial learning, library and research resources accessible on and off campus.
Lectures and seminars are accompanied by comprehensive lecture notes, hand-outs and on-line materials, accessible from your home or work place.
The campus provides computer and experimental labs.
You will receive training in appropriate research methods, enabling you to develop your research skills and apply these in a variety of settings.
You will have a dedicated dissertation supervisor who is familiar with the topic area and is there to guide and support you during the specialist research stage.

Specialist support (e.g. financial advice, careers advice, counselling and learning support) is available from Student Services. The University also has disability and dyslexia advisors.

Bonus factors

- You will study the programme in an institution that is very research active, with ongoing projects that range from critical social psychology to fundamental neuroscience.
- The strong applied nature of the school means that you will be coming into contact with professionals who are working actively in their field.
- Many of your fellow students will come from a variety of backgrounds, which means your learning experience will be enhanced by a multidisciplinary perspective.
- The programme offers experiential opportunities for students to become more reflective, self-aware, and to practise and develop new skills.
- Programme management is structured to be very responsive to students needs, actively seeking students' suggestions (through both informal means as well as formal committee meetings every semester) and integrating these into the programme.
- Teaching staff are committed to delivering their modules flexibly and innovatively.
- The programme venue is accessible by ample and convenient public transport.

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?
This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop depth of knowledge and critical understanding of the theory, research and intellectual history of psychology;
- Teach you to look at a range of contemporary issues in society to understand possible causes of behaviour as well as possible interventions that may change behaviour (where appropriate);
- Gain a thorough knowledge of research methods and data analysis.

What will you learn?

Knowledge
- A comprehensive and systematic knowledge of concepts, theories and research in the field of psychology;
- Awareness of the pertinent social, historical, scientific and philosophical issues and the wider context of psychology;
- Critical awareness of current issues, debates and new insights within psychology

Thinking skills
- Ability to critically evaluate current research and literature within the psychology discipline;
- Abstraction, analysis and synthesis: evaluation of concepts at a meta-level, the capability to identify assumptions, evaluation of statements with regard to evidence, detecting false logic or reasoning, identification of implicit values, appropriate generalisation, meaningful integration of facts and inferences;
- Creativity and originality in the interpretation, application and development of knowledge and practice;
- Applying effective problem solving and effective decision-making to real life and research situations, taking into account the complexity and intricacies of the context.

Subject-Based Practical skills
- Proficiency in using various psychology questionnaires and measures;
- An awareness of and understanding of ethical constraints associated with conducting research in diverse areas of psychology;
- Knowledge, understanding, skills and experience needed to carry out research into areas of psychology.

Skills for life and work (general skills)
- Critical reflection on one's own practice, learning and experience;
- Enhanced ability to work both individually and collaboratively;
- Management & consultancy skills;
- Transferable skills of oral and written communication at a level appropriate for a professional readership/audience.

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 Master's degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is **180 for Masters, 60 for PGCert, 120 for PGDip**.

Typical duration

The duration of this programme is one calendar year (for Term 1 start) or 16 months (for Term 2 start); this difference is simply due to the timing of the research project. It is also possible to study part-time and this can vary depending on individual circumstances; for example, studying one module per semester will require a minimum of 2.5years to complete the programme (equivalent to 5 semesters).

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year is divided into two semesters of roughly equal length. For those who complete their core modules at the end of Term 2 the research project can be conducted during the summer period. If you are studying full-time you will study two 30 credit modules in each of these periods, thus completing 120 credits over two taught terms. It is also possible to study the programme part-time taking just one module a term. The programme operates up to two intakes a year, in September and January.

What you will study when

Below are listed the names of the modules and their credit ratings.

Level	UEL Module Code	Available by distance learning (Y/N)	Module **Title**	Credit	**Status**
7	PY7151	N	Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology	30	Core
7	PY7152	N	Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences	30	Core
7	PY7153	N	CHIPS & Social Psychology	30	Core
7	PY7154	N	Research Methods	30	Core
7	PY7155	N	Dissertation (Ind. Research Thesis)	60	Core

The timing of the four core modules before the final Research Thesis is presented below for students studying in a full-time mode of study and as a function of starting point of the programme.

September start:

Term 1	Term 2
Research Methods	Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences
Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology	CHIPS & Social Psychology

January start:

Term 2	Term 1
Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences	Research Methods
CHIPS & Social Psychology	Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology

Students wishing to study the programme part-time are able to do so by taking just one module a semester if they want to and will simply take longer to complete the programme than full-time students. The standard route through the programme means that following completion of the four core modules, you will be eligible to commence your research dissertation. For those completing their core studies at the end of Semester B, this will be during the summer period (June-August) and for those completing at the end of Semester A, this will be during the following Semester B (Feb-May). However, in individual circumstances where a student has to resit an exam or due to a change in circumstance all core modules have not been completed, it

may be possible to commence the project. This will, however, only be allowed following consultation with the programme leader.

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology, you will need to obtain 60 credits at Level M through completing any two of the four core modules.

- 1. Research Methods
- 2. Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology
- 3. Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences
- 4. CHIPS & Social Psychology (Conceptual & Historical Issues in Psychology). .

In order to gain the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology, you will need to obtain 120 credits at Level 7 through completing ALL four modules.

In order to gain the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (with Empirical Project), you will need to obtain 120 credits at Level M through completing the following four modules:

- 1. Research Methods
- 2. Cognitive Psychology & Psychobiology
- 3. Developmental Psychology & Personality/Individual Differences
- 4. CHIPS & Social Psychology (Conceptual & Historical Issuesin Psychology)

and the following Level 6 module:

- Independent Research Project! Please note that this named award is only available to those students who already have at least 60 Psychology credits in their previous degree.

In order to obtain the Masters in Psychology, you will need to obtain 180 credits at Level M. These credits will include a 60 credit level 7 core module of advanced independent research.

Masters Award Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Masters award then the award classification is determined by calculating the arithmetic mean of all marks and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% Distinction
60% - 69%   Merit
50% - 59%   Pass
0% - 49%   Not Passed

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70% - 100%	Distinction
60%- 69%	Merit
50% - 59%	Pass

0% - 49%	Not passed

Further information

Please see also the British Psychology website for further information on accreditation: www.bps.org.uk

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through
•   Lectures, seminars and workshops •   Individual study time (including reading) •   On-line UELPlus discussions
Thinking skills are developed through •   Lectures •   Reflecting on practical exercises •   Seminars •   Peer study groups •   Preparation and production of assignments and evaluating feedback •   Dissertation supervision
Practical skills are developed through •   Group exercises •   Individual exercises •   Research methods sessions and dissertation
Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through •   Peer study groups •   On-line UELPlus discussions •   Academic writing

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by
•   Coursework •   Examination
Thinking skills are assessed by •   Coursework •   Examination

Practical skills are assessed by
•   Dissertation

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by
•   Demonstration of effective oral and written communication skills

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 the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole subject area 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 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 (UELPlus / Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & 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/CurrentExternalExaminers.htm

Listening to the views of students

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

- End-of-Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees

- Direct student feedback through online (UELMoodle) feedback

Students are notified of the action taken through:
- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- feedback from student representatives
- summaries of student feedback and action taken on (UELMoodle)

Listening to the views of others

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

- Questionnaires to former students
- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- Discussion with professional bodies
- Links with potential employers

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (http://www.uel.ac.uk);
- The student handbook
- Module study guides (see Moodle)
- UEL Manual of General Regulations http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/;
- UEL Quality Manual http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/;
- Regulations for the Academic Framework http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/;
- Our UEL web site http://www.uel.ac.uk
- AKMI http://www.amc.edu.gr/
- The School of Psychology web pages http://www.uel.ac.uk/psychology
- The BPS web pages http://www.bps.org.uk/