MSc Psychology Conversion Course

If you want to work as a professional psychologist but don’t have a psychology degree, this conversion course will enable you to obtain the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS) - the first step towards a professional career in psychology.

You will study for the conversion course as a 180 credit MSc. You will take a range of psychology modules, including theoretical, and experimental/research oriented modules. By the end of the course, you will have demonstrated sufficient knowledge of psychological theories and literature to be eligible for the GBC, including a more detailed knowledge of literature, theories and issues in areas relevant to your career ambitions.

Teaching and learning methods include lectures, seminars and tutorials. You will learn how to design, carry out and evaluate psychological research using a variety of methodologies, including the ability to conduct a research project and ethically sensitive research. Assessment is by examination, coursework, demonstration of a series of competencies and completion of the research project.
Why study Psychology?
In studying for the MSc you will be engaged in the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. How does language develop in young children? Is behaviour influenced by being a member of a group? What brain systems are involved in perception, memory and the control of actions? How do individuals solve problems? Can machines think? How do you undertake a psychological investigation involving gathering evidence and analysing data? These are examples of the types of questions addressed in the MSc Psychology conversion course.

The MSc Conversion Course includes the following modules:

Developmental, Social, and Cognitive Psychology is a systematic examination of some of the central topics that are key to the understanding of behaviour in social contexts, general human development, and adult cognition.

The Biological Basis of Psychology involves studying cognition from a biological perspective; knowledge of types of brain cell and their means of communication; and the physical and functional neuroanatomy of the brain.

Individual Differences and Conceptual /Historical Issues in Psychology includes key psychological theories relating to individual differences; the contribution of some key figures in psychology; and current and historical themes and debates in psychology.

Using Data to Address Research Questions helps you to develop a range of statistical methods for analysing data; gives you the capacity to communicate research findings to both academic and professional audiences; and allows you to gain the theoretical knowledge and skills you need to undertake an original piece of research.

Methods of Collecting Data in Psychology is all about understanding some of the issues involved in designing, preparing, and executing psychological research; and developing an awareness of ethical considerations relevant to undertaking research with human participants.

Advanced Psychology Project is a piece of independent psychological research under supervision, drawing on the methodology of the discipline of psychology. This will involve designing, implementing, interpreting, and evaluating a psychological experiment.

There is also a selection of option modules available each year for MSc students (subject to availability):
- Cognitive Neuropsychology
- Topics in Forensic and Criminal Psychology
- Advanced Topics in Memory
- Topics in Psychopathology

Additional information
There are a small number of scholarships available for international students. Please ask for details when you apply.