

School of Psychology

MSc Research Methods Cognitive Neuropsychology

Cognitive neuropsychology is the study of how cognitive functions and processes relate to brain structure and function. It emphasises studying the cognitive consequences of brain injury or neurological illness, with the aim of developing models of normal cognitive functioning. This practical and research-oriented degree gives you the opportunity to work with cognitive neuroscientists who are active in research. You will learn to administer and interpret standardized neuropsychological tests, including modern computerised test batteries, as well as developing knowledge and experience of working with single case studies. You will also learn about and evaluate cutting-edge methods such as functional brain imaging, animal research and connectionist modelling.

The course helps you develop research skills to design a novel study and generate neuropsychological evidence based on data analysis, as well as to critically appraise published neuropsychological studies.

There are eight taught modules on the course, plus a cognitive neuropsychology research dissertation (worth four modules).

You'll study the following core modules:

Core Research Skills covers academic writing, literature searching, oral presentation, and advanced use of Word, Powerpoint, and Endnote.

Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology focuses on statistical and graphical data analysis with SPSS, scientific report writing, designing questionnaires and interview schedules, statistical power calculation, designing experiments, and an introduction to multivariate statistical data analysis (factorial ANOVA, factor analysis and multiple regression).

You'll also take the following specific modules:

Neuropsychology I takes both a theoretical and practical approach that links major disorders to testing procedures and models, applied to a variety of disorders affecting: language, object recognition, face processing, attention and executive function.

Neuropsychology II focuses on brain mechanisms of cognition, including memory, attention, action and executive functions; considering evidence drawn from neuroanatomical, neurophysiological, neuropharmacological, neurogenetic and experimental lesion studies.





Topics in Cognitive Neuropsychology explores current topical issues, including the influence of genes on cognition; developmental neuropsychological disorders (Williams syndrome, specific language impairment, autism); the neural correlates of consciousness; cognitive neuropsychiatric disorders; and synesthesia. These topics change to accommodate new advances and directions in neuropsychology.

Research Apprenticeship in Cognitive Neuropsychology sees you working in close collaboration with a senior member of staff on an agreed programme of research tasks, which are designed to enhance your cognitive neuropsychological research experience.

Cognitive Neuropsychology Research Project involves a literature review and a research dissertation supervised by an experienced neuropsychological researcher.

Future options This course is especially suitable if you're planning to become a researcher in cognitive neuropsychology, study for a PhD, or study clinical or educational psychology.

Research In the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008), 30% of research in the School of Psychology achieved the highest ratings of either 4* ("world-leading") or 3* ("internationally excellent").

Entry Requirements

At least a 2:2 honours degree in psychology or cognitive science or acceptable equivalent(s). If English isn't your first language, you'll need a minimum IELTS score of 6.0.

Study Routes

Full-time 1 year
Part-time 2 years

Fees

Please see our website www.herts.ac.uk for information about our fees.

UH Programme Code

HHRMP

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Additional information

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