



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**SCHOOL OF  
PSYCHOLOGY**

**March 2019 – Updated with new Stage 3 information**

**The information below should answer many of the questions you are likely to have about our Psychology degree programme.**

**What will I study in BSc Psychology at Queen's University Belfast?**

*Note that many modules particularly those in final year change annually and modules listed are intended only to give an idea of the range of topics that might be available.*

Psychology covers seven core domains. You'll cover topics from each domain on an annual basis, building your understanding and critical insight incrementally throughout your degree programme which is approved by our accrediting professional body, the British Psychological Society (BPS).

1. **Biological Psychology** – Biological basis of behaviour: neuroscience, genetics, animal behaviour
2. **Cognitive Psychology** – Mental processes underlying thinking, memory, language and learning
3. **Conceptual & Historical Issues** – Considers where the discipline has come from, where it's going, and the big unanswered questions of Psychology
4. **Developmental Psychology** – How we grow and develop, from conception to old age
5. **Individual Differences** – How we differ from one another in terms of traits, abilities and motivations
6. **Research Methods** – How we collect and analyse data to further understanding of the mind and behaviour
7. **Social Psychology** – How we perceive ourselves and others, interact as groups and the influences of culture and society

Throughout your time with us, you'll develop a wide range of transferable skills which make our graduates so appealing to employers. Psychology offers an arguably unique grounding in both qualitative and quantitative research skills, meaning our graduates have high verbal and numerical competencies. You'll have well developed organisation and self-management skills and be confident communicators to both small and large groups of people, using a range of media. Equipped with team-working and leadership experiences, you'll not only be able to problem solve with critical insight, but lead others to do so too. All this on top of your insights into the mind and behaviours of others, and yourself.

### Stage 1

In first year you'll get a gentle introduction to Psychological theories in each of the core domains and the application of Psychology in everyday life. We deliver this through a variety of engaging and interactive teaching methods including lectures, small-group tutorials and practical laboratory classes.

- Foundations in Psychology
- Introduction to Methods in Psychology
- Using Psychology in Everyday Life

### Stage 2

In second year you'll build a more detailed knowledge of the core domains whilst developing critical and analytical thinking skills. Our subject specialists use a mixture of theoretical and practical teaching methods to hone the skills required to be a successful graduate.

- Core Psychology I
- Core Psychology II
- Psychological Methods

### Professional Work Placement Year Option

At the end of second year, you'll have the opportunity to enhance your employability and practice your psychological skills within the workplace, by taking a year-long professional work placement, working with one of our many graduate employer partners across the private, public and voluntary sectors.

### Stage 3

In final year you'll be able to tailor your Psychology degree according to your own individual interests by choosing from a selection of modules designed to

explore current developments across the domains of Psychology; all delivered by our cutting-edge researchers.

**Note that modules listed below are indicative only – Stage 3 modules offered vary from year to year primarily due to staffing changes.**

- An Introduction to Clinical Health Psychology
- Comparative Psychology (animal versus human behaviour)
- Introduction to Political Psychology
- Navigating the social world: What infants, children and other species can teach us
- Childhood Adversity
- Human Communication and Social Signals
- Data Science in Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Psychology
- Psychology of Gender
- Using Nudges to Change Behaviour
- Typical and Atypical Literacy Development
- Exploring Psychological Issues in Cancer
- Psychologists at Work: Insights into Graduate Employment (Placement module)
- Psychology Thesis
- Psychology General Paper

For students who don't wish to take a year-long work placement before starting final year, we offer our 'Psychologists at Work' module which places students with one of our many employer-partners to work on a 6-8 week project applying psychology in the workplace.

You'll complete your degree in Psychology by submitting a research project thesis at the end of final year. This independent research is completed under the supervision of our expert academic staff, who will be with you every step of the way on your transition to becoming a graduate Psychologist.

#### What else will you do?

You'll also have opportunities to see psychology in action across your three years.

Our students participate in an 'away-day' each year, focusing on getting to know your class in first year; working as a team in second year; and leadership skills in final year.

We have a Research Participation Scheme for first year students, where they gain experience by taking part in research projects being run within the School, while earning degree credit.

We also offer a number of paid research internships where students have the opportunity to work with one of our academic teams over the summer months, developing their research skills while contributing to one of our many research projects.

As part of your studies, you'll have the chance to take personality and ability tests for yourself, see how they're scored and learn how to interpret your results, gaining insight into who you are as an individual and how you tend to approach life, work and study situations.

Our optional modules in final year also offer field trips where possible. In previous years, our students have gone to Belfast Zoo to see animal psychology in action; to a peace line/community group to see social psychology; and have hosted a visit from a local primary school gaining practical experience of administering educationally relevant psychological assessments to young children.

### **How will I be assessed and receive feedback on my work in BSc Psychology at Queen's University Belfast?**

#### Assessment

Assessment isn't just about measuring performance; it's about helping and motivating you to achieve your full potential. That's why we use a continuous assessment philosophy with a 'little and often' approach. The course is designed to help you to keep up with your studies on a weekly basis, and so avoid stressful 'cram for the exam' situations. We assess students in a variety of ways, with each assessment tied to the aims and objectives of the module. For example, we assess understanding and knowledge of Psychology through coursework essays, research reports, class tests and end of year examinations. We also teach and assess the skills necessary to be a successful Psychologist and graduate, using methods including: reflective diaries, oral presentations, debates and practical research/psychometric testing projects.

## Feedback

When you think of feedback, most people think about corrections on a piece of work after it has been marked. That's called 'summative feedback', and while this type of feedback is important, there is much more to feedback than simply a mark and some corrections. Feedback is the key for professional development and success, so when we provide you with summative feedback, we won't just tell you what was good and what wasn't so good; we'll also tell you HOW you can achieve more next time round by giving you specific 'action-points' to work on.

The other, arguably more important type of feedback we'll give you is called 'formative feedback'. This type of feedback is provided BEFORE you submit a piece of work for assessment. We want our students to achieve, and formative feedback is how we will guide you to achieving your best, before you take assessments. It comes in a variety of forms, e.g. coursework guidance documentation, revision classes, coursework help clinics, practice tests, online discussion posts between teaching staff and other students, and tutorial discussions to name but a few. We also believe that feedback is most useful when you engage with it. That's why we'll teach you how to reflect on the feedback you encounter throughout your degree and apply the learning in your future assessments. Reflective practice is something you'll be doing as a future Psychologist, so we will introduce it to you early in your studies so you can harness this approach to improve the quality of your work.

## **Key Facts about BSc Psychology at Queen's University Belfast**

### Student satisfaction

The 2018 National Student Survey of final year students on BSc Psychology found that 92% of our students were satisfied with the course.

### Professional skills

Employability is embedded into our programme, being commended by the BPS and employers. We offer assessed work placements in final year or a full year paid professional placement with one of our graduate employment partners.

### Professional Accreditations

All BSc Psychology graduates automatically become graduate members (MBPsS) of the British Psychological Society (BPS) which is the professional body for psychology and psychologists in the UK. **We invest in our students**

**from day one and provide free student membership of the BPS for the duration of their course** <https://www.bps.org.uk>

### Industry Links

We have links with many employer partners across the public, private and third sectors who work with us to provide rewarding and impactful placement opportunities for our students. See link for a full list

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/psy/BusinessCareers/WorkPlacements>

### World Class Facilities

We have a range of state of the art specialist equipment and laboratories where our cutting-edge research takes place. As a student, you'll have the opportunity to use many of these facilities during the research projects you'll undertake as part of your degree. For example, we have a brand new animal behaviour research lab, brain stimulation labs, virtual reality and motion-capture technology, eye-tracking devices, a child development observation lab, a postural control and aging lab and a large psychometric test library.

### Internationally Renowned Experts

The most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) placed the School among the UK's top 20 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience departments in terms of both research intensity and research impact. Our impact reflects how the School's research is informing policy makers, developing industry partnerships and ultimately touching on the lives of thousands of individuals. We're at the forefront of ground breaking research which you'll find embedded throughout our teaching.

### Student Experience

You'll feel part of our School community. We are committed to supporting our students with our Transition into Higher Education program which begins in welcome week and continues through our personal tutoring and peer mentor schemes.

### Further Study Opportunities

We offer a range of Diploma and MSc courses and Professional Doctorate Programmes in both Educational Psychology and Clinical Psychology.

Please contact Carolyn Largey at [c.largey@qub.ac.uk](mailto:c.largey@qub.ac.uk) if you have any other queries.