

# MSc PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY

## UNIQUE

The only course focusing on development in the context of child adversity.

## TAUGHT BY EXPERTS

A longstanding reputation for research and practice in developmental psychology.

## PATHWAY TO DOCTORATE

Developed in conjunction with educational and clinical psychologists.

## CONTACT US

askeys@qub.ac.uk  
www.qub.ac.uk

# MSc PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY



## Course Content

The MSc in Psychology of Childhood Adversity provides advanced study of topics in developmental psychology, with a specific focus on development in the context of adversity. Childhood adversity refers to factors extrinsic to the child such as growing up in contexts of parental psychopathology, economic deprivation and community conflict. Psychological, educational and behavioural outcomes of adversity will be explored as well as the predictors, mediators and moderators of outcome.

The study of the psychology of childhood adversity will address questions such as:

- What aspects of childhood adversity impact on child and adolescent development?
- How do intrinsic and extrinsic factors interact to moderate outcomes of adversity?
- What programmes and interventions can help children growing up in

adversity and how can they be best designed and implemented?

## The Environment

With 30 years of conflict research with local mixed community groups, Northern Ireland is an ideal place to study childhood adversity.

The School of Psychology has a long-standing reputation for research and practice in developmental psychology.

Underpinned by discussion-led peer learning, you will learn with and from each other and participate in group activities in which you can learn from your peers.

You will also have access to specialised research facilities including a child-friendly development lab, eye tracking equipment, EEG lab and movement innovation lab.

## SKILLS

### Psychological Measurement

Use a variety of psychological tools relevant for working with children, eg,

- psychometric tests
- laboratory equipment
- specialist software

### Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

- statistical techniques
- advanced statistical modelling techniques
- discourse and narrative analysis

### Applied Research

The ethical conduct of research with human participants, specifically with children

Enable students to evaluate interventions designed to mitigate the effects of growing up in adversity

### Variables of Influence

Understand the major variables such as:

- looked after children
- trauma in childhood
- familial adversity
- economic adversity
- youth and political violence

### Interventions

- improving outcomes using evidence based interventions
- theoretical underpinnings and implementation of the programme
- the policy context

### Development

- understanding child and adolescent development from psychosocial and psychobiological perspectives
- family relationships and attachment
- development in adverse environments
- vulnerability and resilience
- critical thinking



**Course Director**  
Dr Teresa Rushe

## Who will be teaching you?

People like Course Director **Teresa Rushe**:

Her research falls within the area developmental psychopathology with particular expertise in developmental neuropsychology. She has published widely in the area of psychosis, with a particular focus on understanding the neurodevelopmental origins. Her current work includes several projects exploring the impact of childhood adversity on adult outcomes.

As principal investigator on the Northern Ireland Childhood Adversity Study, she is investigating the psychological and neuropsychological outcomes in young people who were in care in early childhood, as well as the mediators and moderators of outcome.

## Who are you?

You will be ambitious, altruistic, committed and enthusiastic. You will have an interest in working with children and young people to improve health and well-being.

You will also be interested in programmes and interventions to help children growing up in adversity.

## Where could you be in five years?

Studying for a doctorate in clinical/educational or a PhD in psychology.

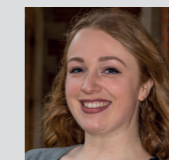
Working with statutory and NGO organisations aimed at improving lives of children and young people in vulnerable situations.

NHS, DoE, Youth Justice, HSC trusts, Barnardo's, Foster network NI, education sector, children and young people's organisations, children's voluntary or statutory services.

## To discuss the course in more detail or if you have any questions contact:



UK, Ireland and EU  
**Melissa Kent**  
m.kent@qub.ac.uk  
+44 (0) 28 9097 4950



Rest of the World  
**Ciara Murray**  
ciara.murray@qub.ac.uk  
+44 (0) 28 9097 5469

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE COURSE:

<http://go.qub.ac.uk/adversity>