



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF  
PSYCHOLOGY

# STUDY PSYCHOLOGY AT QUEEN'S

**The Science Behind Behaviour**



**SHAPING A  
BETTER WORLD  
SINCE 1845**





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# WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and the mind: you'll study how we think and learn; how we develop and age; how we differ from one another; how we interact, collaborate and sometimes conflict with each other. You'll consider the extent to which these behaviours are influenced by both nature and nurture, and also explore animal behaviour which reveals the contrasts that make us uniquely human.

As you'll see, our Psychology degree is diverse and stimulating. Our graduates are confident, independent achievers who have numerous professional career pathways open to them.



We explore the importance of relationships to babies and toddlers.



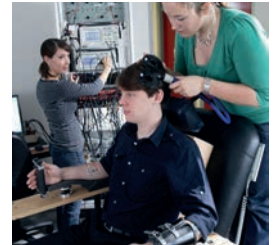
We investigate why people differ in terms of their personality, intelligence and ability.



We look into relationships and the forming of groups, sub-groups and communities.



We enhance the health and welfare of pets and animals within home and zoo environments.



We research mental and physical health conditions and the connected psychological impact.

## Why study Psychology at Queen's?

- Our professional body, the British Psychological Society commended our integration of employability into the BSc degree: **"The employability agenda is fully embedded throughout the programme"**. They also commented that; **"there is a strong focus on the development of the students' research skills beyond what would typically be expected at undergraduate level particularly in quantitative methods."**
- First year experience survey 2019: **"94% of first year students were satisfied with the quality of their course"**
- We are committed to supporting our students through our **'Transition into HE'** programme which begins in welcome week and continues for undergraduates through our personal tutoring system.
- We have been twice awarded the prestigious **Athena SWAN Gold Award**, most recently in 2017, which recognises the advancement of gender equality through representation, progression and success of all.



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# HOW DO WE TEACH PSYCHOLOGY AT QUEEN'S?

## What will I learn?

<b>Level 1</b> 3 full year double modules	Provides a gentle introduction to Psychological theories of the core domains, research methods 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.
<b>Level 2</b> 3 full year double modules	Builds upon the core psychology knowledge developed at Level 1 (with a focus on the conceptual underpinnings of the discipline and how these have shaped contemporary theories) as well as focusing on employability. A group research project is also conducted.
<b>Optional Work Placement Year</b>	By transferring on to our BSc (Hons) Psychology with Professional Placement degree pathway, students are able to take a year out between their second and final years on a paid work placement with one of our employment partners across the public, private and voluntary sector.
<b>Level 3</b> Combination of half, single and double modules	Final year modules allow students a choice of specialised topics to suit their interests and career intentions. The module options offered change annually, choices in previous years have included: clinical health psychology, ageing, literacy development, animal psychology, youth and political violence, psychology of music, sport psychology and an optional work placement module. Students will also undertake a substantial empirical study resulting in a thesis.

## How will I be taught?

**Lectures:** These vary according to subject but expect a class size of approximately 180 students.

**Tutorials:** These are used to discuss progress and give feedback. A Personal Tutor is allocated to you during Welcome week and the average size is 8-10 students.

**Practical laboratory work:** These take place within our computer and research labs and allow you hands-on experience.

**Group projects:** This is an opportunity to work with your peers on a common subject.

**Thesis:** This is your final year independent research project. It will be completed under the supervision of one of our expert academic staff, who will be with you every step of the way on your transition to becoming a graduate Psychologist.

**Support:** We are committed to supporting our students with our Transition into Higher Education programme which begins in Week 1 with team building activities and ongoing personal tutoring and peer mentoring.

83%

We achieved an overall satisfaction rating of  
83% in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2019



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# WHICH OPTION IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

We provide excellent training in Psychology and currently offer a variety of undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research degrees.

## **BSc (Hons) Psychology**

Our degrees are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS), meaning our graduates are eligible to join the BPS with graduate basis for chartership (MBPsS grade), provided the minimum standard of a 2:2 degree classification is achieved and the final year thesis is passed. This allows entry into Postgraduate Psychology Training Pathways

## **BSc (Hons) Psychology with Professional Placement**

Our three year BSc degree with the addition of a one year paid placement

## **MSc Applied Developmental Psychology**

A one year MSc that examines the application of basic developmental science in applied contexts.

## **MSc Clinical Health Psychology**

A one year MSc that focuses on people with a health condition that could be prevented, treated or rehabilitated through the use of psychological techniques or procedures.

## **MSc Psychological Science (Conversion)**

A one year intensive conversion programme for graduates of other disciplines to gain a Psychology qualification, accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS)

## **PhD through research**

An opportunity to spend three years researching a topic of interest which results in a PhD award

## **Doctorate in Clinical Psychology**

A three year professional training programme for future Clinical Psychologists

## **Doctorate in Educational, Child & Adolescent Psychology**

A three year professional training programme for future Educational Psychologists



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# RESEARCH WITHIN THE SCHOOL

**In the UK-wide Research Excellence Framework (REF) in December 2014:**

- Psychology at Queen's is 9th out of 82 for research intensity
- Psychology at Queen's is tied 18th out of 82 for research impact
- Our research has been judged “world-leading” and “outstanding” by the 2014 REF review

## **Perception and Action**

Our research encompasses a wide range of topics related to human perception, action and their coupling. Our work extends from fundamental (with our aim of understanding the principles underlying human perception and action) to applied (utilising our knowledge to improve health and well-being across the lifespan).

## **Development and Cognition**

We have a particular strength in cognitive development, especially in relation to higher cognitive functions such as reasoning, decision-making, executive functions, numerical cognition, reading, speech and language. Some of our research in these areas focuses on atypical populations, such as children with developmental disorders.

## **Social Psychology**

Our research focuses on the role of identity in explaining social attitudes and behaviour. We examine intergroup relations in a variety of contexts both within and beyond Northern Ireland. We engage with Northern Ireland's

political context to produce original and influential research on social identities and intergroup conflict.

## **Health, Welfare and Educational Psychology**

We undertake fundamental and applied research (on humans and animals) exploring how early influences impact on subsequent behaviour. We also examine treatment, pathways and interventions to improve wellbeing, where adverse welfare and mental health exist.

Our research has led to a greater understanding of the development and delivery of effective interventions to improve health and welfare in animals and humans.

## **Research in Action:**

We have a Research Participation Scheme for first year students to gain experience, by taking part in research projects, while earning degree credit. We also offer paid research scholarships, where students have the opportunity to work with our academic colleagues.



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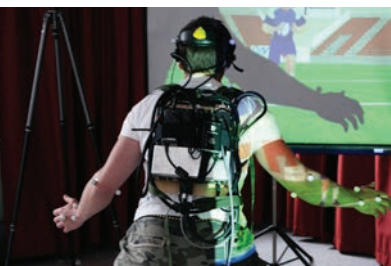
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We have recently refurbished a state of the art teaching space along with a dedicated student common room. As a student, you will also have the opportunity to use many of our research facilities detailed below throughout your degree.

## OUR RESEARCH FACILITIES

**We have outstanding facilities focused on our four research groups:**

- Development and Cognition
- Health, Welfare and Educational Psychology
- Perception and Action
- Social Psychology



### **A new Postural Control and Ageing Laboratory**

With a SMART Balance Master system that provides objective assessment and retraining of the sensory and voluntary control of balance, this laboratory measures how well a research participant's eyes, inner ear, muscles and joints are working together to maintain balance. It measures the centre of gravity and postural control through a rotating force plate. It also has a moving backdrop to measure the person's use of visual information in maintaining balance.

### **Two equipped brain stimulation laboratories**

These labs use TMS (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation), tDCS (transcranial Direct-Current Stimulation) and EMG (electromyography) devices to study healthy as well as clinical populations. TMS involves placing a magnetic coil to the scalp. This coil allows an electric current to flow to a targeted area of the brain. It is non-invasive and allows us to measure the connection between the central nervous system and muscles.

### **A unique multi-modal communication lab**

This lab can take real-time recording (audio and visual) of human-computer conversation. The facilities have been central to a number of international multidisciplinary EU projects concerned with the development of naturalistic human-computer interfaces and the automatic analysis of communication and emotion.

### **A Developmental laboratory**

The facility has a separate observation room, embedded video cameras and microphones, a waiting area for parents, and children's toilets and baby changing facilities.

### **New EEG (electroencephalogram) facilities**

An EEG is a recording of brain activity. Our researchers attach small sensors to the scalp, to detect electrical signals produced when brain cells send messages to each other. The reports helps us to examine the development of speech and language. This facility has a sound-proofed booth that has been specially configured for testing children.

### **Eye-tracking laboratory**

Eye tracking refers to the process of measuring where we look or our point of gaze. The eye tracker records the position of the eyes and the movements they make in relation to the environment. Our researchers use eye tracking to explore the visual attention of infants and whether this has links to temperament and cognition. The lab has four different SensoMetric Instrument eye trackers that vary in terms of speed and application; one of the systems is portable, allowing testing off-site.

### **Science in Motion Lab**

This lab includes an immersive interactive Virtual Reality system, 22 Qualisys motion capture cameras (including 8 Oqus 4 cameras with outdoor capture capabilities), a golf simulator and 2 AMTI force platforms. Motion capture is the process of recording the movement of objects or people. It involves placing markers onto a participant and recording how they move, either within a sporting context or with clinical populations such as adults with Parkinson's disease.



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# PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT- INSIGHT PROGRAMME

The Insight Programme launched in 2013 to prepare our Psychology undergraduates for employment. The Insight Programme spans all three years of the degree and seeks to build the experience and confidence of our students from school to the workplace.

## YEAR 1: Raising Awareness

Developing skills around time management, CV writing and communication skills

## YEAR 2: Enhancing Skills

Examining vocational interests, analysing strengths and development areas

## YEAR 3: Putting into Practice

Optional work placement module consisting of 15-20 days with an employer



*"My placement involved me working alongside the Advertising Psychologist to complete practical and computer research, observation in schools, statistical analysis and focus groups/ interviews. These tasks made me step out of my comfort zone which really improved my confidence.*

*I would definitely recommend this placement module to upcoming students as this placement improved my skill set and may be helpful when applying for jobs after University, as I now have practical psychology and graduate level job experience outside of the University setting. Also I now have a clearer insight into my career aspirations after University, and I wish to apply to research/statistics jobs."*

**Hannah Close**



*"My reasons for applying for this module were based around my desire to extend my experience beyond that of a classroom. I wanted to get a taste of what life after my degree would be like and tried to pick an environment that would be both stimulating and challenging. I wanted to test my abilities and see how much of what I had learnt in my degree could be applied to the world of work. More importantly, I saw it as an opportunity to explore and better understand what skills I still need to work on before finishing my degree.*

*My placement definitely helped broaden my skill set and leave me more confident in my own ability. I think the biggest thing a student can develop from this module is a sense that the world of work is not as daunting as you may think, and coming from a Psychology background you are extremely useful and transferable between a range of different jobs."*

**Conall O'Rourke**

## A selection of our industry partners:

### PRIVATE SECTOR

MXB Agency  
Aperture  
Carecall  
Adoreboard  
Ipsos MORI  
Sensum  
Toward Ltd

### PUBLIC SECTOR

Probation Board NI  
Education Authority  
Belfast City Council  
Belfast HSC Trust  
CCEA  
Department for Communities  
HMRC  
Various primary and post-  
primary schools

### THIRD SECTOR

Co-operation Ireland  
Mindwise  
Alzheimer Society  
Cancer Focus  
Inspire Wellbeing  
Guidedogs NI  
The Rainbow Project  
Friends of the Earth  
Abbeyfield & Wesley

To learn more about the Insight Programme please visit:

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





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# HOW CAN I USE MY DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY?

**Psychology graduates and our alumni work across the public, private and third sector in a range of professions.**

These include:

- Working with community groups to promote inclusion and cross-community relations
- Working in academia at universities and higher education colleges worldwide
- Working with local Health and Social Care Trusts in roles such as mental health workers and health care associates
- Leading Departments as Senior Directors within the Northern Ireland Civil Service
- Teaching at primary and secondary school level and working with young people
- Advertising psychologists who inform advertising campaigns for road safety and other public information campaigns
- Within Cancer charities to promote healthy living and helping patients deal with a cancer diagnosis
- Supporting IT design and implementation so that it is user-friendly and intuitive
- Working within L&D teams in bespoke training companies and within HR teams for larger organisations
- Conducting quantitative and qualitative market research, data analysis and statistical analysis for international companies
- Within Research and Policy teams in public sector bodies
- Utilising interpersonal and problem-solving skills in graduate roles such as Trainee Accountants and Client Executives

For more information around what you can do with a Psychology degree visit:

<http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-portal>



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# BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY WITH PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT

In September 2017, we launched the BSc (Hons) Psychology with Professional Placement pathway. This degree programme allows students to transfer in (after their second year) from the BSc (Hons) Psychology degree and include a one year paid placement. Students are encouraged to source their own placement via Queen's Myfuture careers portal or direct recruitment. There is also a limited number of placements secured annually by our Psychology Placement team.

## A selection of our partners:

Adoreboard

Aperture

Beyond Autism

Camphill Community Glenraig

Croft Community

Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council

Ipsos MORI

Queen's University Belfast

Sensum

NI Ambulance Service

NISRA

Prison Health Service



*"Since starting Aperture, I have improved upon my skills and knowledge that I have learnt not only in my Psychology degree but through my previous work experience. It has given me a lot more confidence to do tasks I would never have thought of doing. It has enhanced my transferable skills especially my communication skills and my organisation and planning.*

*My psychological skills have also been improved as I now have more research experience. My year of placement has allowed me to get "a foot in the door" and make great connections. The placement has opened my eyes to a career outside of clinical psychology, and made me think more in depth about what I would like to do after I finish my undergraduate degree".*

**Zoe Robinson**  
Aperture



*"Placement has helped me extensively, it gave me the opportunity to obtain professional experience which I believe will prove helpful in future roles. It has also helped me network with people in the field of data analytics, providing me with the opportunity to work with various companies including international brands.*

*The placement year has highlighted for me things which I do and do not like in the work place. I also enjoyed having an academic 'break' from studying for exams- as I feel readier for final year in terms of deciding on modules and my thesis.*

**Ashlin Maguire**  
Adoreboard

To learn more please visit:

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





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## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

E: [admissions@qub.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@qub.ac.uk)  
T: +44 (0) 28 9097 3838

## COURSE INFORMATION

The Secretary for BSc Psychology  
School of Psychology

E: [psychology@qub.ac.uk](mailto:psychology@qub.ac.uk)  
T: +44 (0) 9097 5445  
W: [psych.qub.ac.uk](http://psych.qub.ac.uk)



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