Psychology (Honours)

3632  |  192 Units of Credit

Overview

Psychology is a discipline of both scientific research and applied practice. As a science, psychology is concerned with the study of behaviour and its underlying mental and neural processes. Topics of study include learning, memory, cognition, perception, motivation, life-span development, personality, social interactions, and abnormal psychology. The program also develops research methods skills.

Psychology has many areas of cutting edge interdisciplinary research and application and students have an option to pursue individual interests, choosing electives from a range of specialist areas, including psychology and law; psychology and work; development disorders; psychopathology; health psychology, language, cognitive science, neuroscience and others.

Psychology has many areas of application, especially in clinical, correctional, counselling, educational, and organisational settings. In addition, people with training in psychology pursue careers in academic research, health research, developmental disabilities and rehabilitation, ergonomics, occupational health and safety, personnel selection, training, and management, vocational guidance, and marketing.

In the fourth year of the program, students conduct a year-long, 30 UOC major independent research project (completed under the guidance of an academic supervisor), and write a thesis based on the project. In addition, students complete 18 UOC of advanced-level core and elective coursework in both Term 1 and Term 2.

The research project may be undertaken in most areas of psychology including: psychopathology; behavioural neuroscience; cognitive science; cognition and perception; forensic psychology; and social, personality and developmental psychology. The project culminates in a written thesis, which is assessed independently by two academics (neither of which is the student's supervisor).

The coursework requirement includes content that encompasses history,
professional ethics, evidence-based practice and advanced coverage of selected contemporary issues in psychology that reflect the expertise and research specialisations of School staff.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Faculty</strong></th>
<th>Faculty of Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campus</strong></td>
<td>Kensington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Level</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Typical duration</strong></td>
<td>4 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery Mode</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face, Research</td>
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<td><strong>Intake Period</strong></td>
<td>Term 1</td>
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<td><strong>Academic Calendar</strong></td>
<td>3+ Calendar</td>
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<td><strong>Minimum Units of Credit</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Award type</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Award(s)</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) -</td>
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<td>BPsyCh(Hons)</td>
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<td><strong>UAC Code</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CRICOS Code</strong></td>
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**Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the core topics of psychology.

   Professionals  Global Citizens  Scholars  Leaders

2. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to evaluate and apply research methods in psychology.

   Professionals  Scholars  Leaders  Global Citizens

3. Develop and apply critical thinking skills that use logic, evidence and psychological science in understanding human behaviour and mental processes.

   Global Citizens  Professionals  Scholars

4. Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate values and ethics in psychology.

   Global Citizens  Leaders  Professionals

5. Develop effective communication, interpersonal and leadership skills.

   Professionals  Global Citizens  Leaders

6. Apply knowledge and skills of psychology in a manner that is reflective, culturally appropriate and sensitive to the diversity of individuals.

   Professionals  Global Citizens  Leaders

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**Graduate Capabilities:**

For more information on Graduate Capabilities, please click on this [link](#).
**Program Structure**

Students must complete 192 UOC as a standalone program.

1. 96 UoC of PSYC courses (Stage 1 - 3)
2. 48 UoC Honours in Psychology (Stage 4)
3. 36 UOC Free electives (These courses can be taken from any Faculty of the University).
4. 12 UOC General Education courses

**NOTE**: This is a four-stage, full-time program. Students must enrol in a full study load of 48 UOC across each year of the degree. Only in exceptional or unavoidable circumstances will students be allowed to enrol in a reduced study load across any given year.

**Level 1 Core Courses**

Students must take 24 UOC of the following courses.

- **PSYC1001 | 6 UOC**
  Psychology 1A

- **PSYC1011 | 6 UOC**
  Psychology 1B

- **PSYC1021 | 6 UOC**
  Introduction to Psychological Applications

- **PSYC1111 | 6 UOC**
  Measuring Mind and Behaviour

**Level 2 Core Courses**

Students must take 30 UOC of the following courses.

- **PSYC2001 | 6 UOC**
  Research Methods 2

- **PSYC2061 | 6 UOC**
Level 3 Core Courses

Students must take 12 UOC of the following courses.

- **PSYC3001** | 6 UOC
  Research Methods 3

- **PSYC3011** | 6 UOC
  Research and Applications of Psychology

Level 3 Prescribed Electives List A

Students must take at least 12 UOC, up to a maximum of 18 UOC of the following courses.

- **PSYC3051** | 6 UOC
  Physiological Psychology

- **PSYC3211** | 6 UOC
  Cognitive Science

- **PSYC3221** | 6 UOC
  Vision and Brain

- **PSYC3241** | 6 UOC
  Psychobiology of Memory and Motivation
Level 3 Prescribed Electives List B

Students must take at least 12 UOC, up to a maximum of 18 UOC of the following courses.

- **PSYC3121**  6 UOC  Social Psychology
- **PSYC3301**  6 UOC  Psychology and Law
- **PSYC3311**  6 UOC  Health Psychology
- **PSYC3331**  6 UOC  Developmental Psychology
- **PSYC3341**  6 UOC  Psychology Research Internship

Level 4 Core Courses

Students must take 48 UOC of the following courses.

For the coursework component, students must enrol in PSYC4093 in T1 and PSYC4103 in T2.
For the thesis component, students must enrol in PSYC4072 in T1 and PSYC4073 in T2 and T3.

- **PSYC4072**  6 UOC  Psychology Honours Research Project 6 Units of Credit
- **PSYC4073**  12 UOC
Free Electives

Students must complete 36 UOC of courses from any Faculty within the University, not including GEN# coded courses.

any course

General Education

Students must complete 12 UOC of General Education courses.

Any course defined as a Science course (see Table 1) cannot be taken as General Education (GE). All other courses can be used to fulfil the GE requirement of this program, including GEN# coded courses. Any exceptions to these rules must be approved by the Associate Dean (Academic Programs) or nominee.

any General Education course

Excluded General Education Courses

Students may not undertake any of the following excluded courses.

any Computer Science course

any Food Technology course

any course offered by School of Medical Sciences

any course offered by Faculty of Science

any General Education - Faculty of Science course
**Level 1 UOC**

Students can take a maximum of 72 UOC of Level 1 courses, including any GEN# course, or mainstream Level I course taken to fulfill the 12 UOC General Education requirement.

*any level 1 course*

**Level 2 Maturity Requirement**

Students may not commence level 2 courses until 24 UOC of Level I courses have been successfully completed.

*any level 2 course*

**Level 3 Maturity Requirement**

Students may commence Level 3 courses upon successful completion of 72 UOC.

*any level 3 course*

**Course Information Rule**

GEN# courses cannot count towards the free elective component in the program. Any exceptions to these rules must be approved by the Associate Dean (Academic Programs) or nominee.

**Sample Programs**

To access sample program(s), please visit:

*Sample Science Programs*

**Enrolment Disclaimer**

Unless advised otherwise by your program authority, you should follow the rules for the handbook for the year you commenced your program. You are also responsible for ensuring you enrol in courses according to your program requirements. myUNSW enrolment checks that you have met enrolment requirements such as pre-requisites for individual courses but not that a course will count towards your program requirements.
Related Programs

Related Double Degree Programs

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) - BPsych(Hons)
Bachelor of Laws - LLB
4721 Psychology (Honours) / Law

Faculty: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 288
Typical Duration: 6 Years

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Related Programs

Bachelor of Psychological Science - BPsychSc
3435 Psychological Science

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 Years

Read More

Bachelor of Science and Business - BSc&Bus
3925 Science and Business

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 Years

Read More

Bachelor of Life Sciences - BLS
3966 Life Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 Years

Read More

Bachelor of Science - **BSc**

**3970 Science**

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 Years

Read More

Bachelor of Science (International) - **BSc(International)**

**3987 Science (International)**

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 192
Typical Duration: 4 Years

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Program Requirements

Recognition of Prior Learning

UNSW Students may be granted Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) which may or may not reduce the amount of learning required to achieve a degree at UNSW. Generally, RPL is only granted based on the completion of tertiary-level studies, but in exceptional circumstances may also include non-formal or informal learning such as professional experience. RPL will not be granted based on partly completed tertiary courses. All applications for RPL at UNSW are subject to UNSW Recognition of Prior Learning (Coursework Programs) Policy and Procedures. Students seeking credit for courses completed at another university are required to submit documentary evidence (course outlines, academic transcripts) to support their application, and to nominate the course(s) for which they seek credit. In addition, the following conditions apply for all UNSW Science programs (including the Science component of dual award programs): Specified course credit, i.e. credit granted for an exact or near exact equivalence to a course at UNSW, will not be granted when more than 7 years has elapsed from the successful completion of the course (or other learning) and the student’s commencement in the Science program. Where this time period is shorter it will be stipulated in the individual rules for the relevant program. Unspecified course credit (e.g. General Education or free electives) will not be granted when more than 10 years has elapsed from the successful completion of the course (or other learning) and the student’s commencement in the Science program. Students may only receive credit of up to a maximum of 50% of the coursework component of their Science program, excluding Honours. For most undergraduate programs this will be 72 UOC. For dual award programs that include a Science component, it will be a maximum of 50% of the Science component of the dual degree, excluding Honours. Credit for the other program will be assessed by the Faculty that administers that program. Applications for RPL will only be assessed for students who have accepted a place to study in a UNSW Science program. Students must formally apply for RPL unless they become a UNSW student as part of a formal Articulation Agreement. Applications for RPL should be made as early as possible in the student’s program. Students who are readmitted into a Science program after a period of unapproved absence or deferment, or after exclusion, will not necessarily retain credit for all units completed at UNSW prior to the absence if the date of completion of the units of study is greater than the 7 and 10-year rules outlined in points 1 and 2 above. In these cases, the credit retained will be decided by the Associate Dean (Academic Programs) in consultation (when necessary) with the Program and/or Course Authority.
**Progression Requirements**

**Academic Standing**

Students are required to achieve an average mark of 70 or higher in Psychology courses taken in any Stage (based on the first attempt result for each course). Students not maintaining this level of performance in Stage 1 will be counselled. Students who fail to achieve an average mark of 70 or higher in all Psychology courses taken in Stages 2 and 3 will normally be required to transfer to the Bachelor of Psychological Science (3435, Pass Degree).

**Honours Entry**

Students who successfully complete a total of 144 UOC (including all the requirements of the first 3 stages of the program), and meet the entry requirements into the Psychology Honours year will gain admission into the fourth-year Honours component. Entry to the Honours year is obtained by achieving a Psychology Average mark of at least 75%. The Psychology Average is calculated from:

Marks for 60 UOC of psychology core courses: PSYC1001, PSYC1011, PSYC1111, PSYC2001, PSYC2061, PSYC2071, PSYC2081, PSYC2101, PSYC3001 and PSYC3011; and

The three highest of marks for all Level 3 psychology electives ever attempted (total of 18 UOC).

The Psychology Average is calculated based on a student's mark for the first attempt at courses unless there were special circumstances which justify including the mark from the second attempt. Not counted towards the Psychology Average: courses taken at another university, and Level 1 PSYC electives.

Students who achieve a Psychology Average between 70 - 74.99% may be admitted into the Honours year subject to appropriate research and supervision resources being available, and at the discretion of the Head of School. Students with a Psychology Average below 70% will normally not be admitted into the Honours year and will be required to transfer the Bachelor of Psychological Science (3435, Pass Degree).

For more information on university policy on progression requirements please visit [Academic Progression](#).
Pathways

Post Graduate

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD
1400 Psychology

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 to 4 Years

Read More

Master of Science - MSc
2450 Psychology

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 96
Typical Duration: 2 Years

Read More

Master of Philosophy - MPhil
2475 Science

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 72
Typical Duration: 1.7 Years

Read More

Master of Psychology (Clinical) - MPsycho1(Clin)
8256 Psychology (Clinical)

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 96
Typical Duration: 2 Years

Read More

Master of Psychology (Forensic) - MPsycho1(For)
8257 Psychology (Forensic)
Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 96
Typical Duration: 2 Years

Read More
Professional Outcomes

Professional Recognition
Graduates are eligible to become an Associate Member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) (www.psychology.org.au).

Career Opportunities
Psychologist in clinical, correctional, counselling, educational, organisational settings; academic research; developmental disabilities and rehabilitation; ergonomics; health research; marketing; work health and safety; personnel selection; training; management; vocational guidance.
Recognition of Achievement

University Medal

The University Medal is awarded to recognise outstanding academic performance by a bachelor degree student in line with the University Medal Policy and University Medal Procedure.

Honours Classes

At the completion of the Honours year, students will be awarded an honours grading as follows:

- Honours Class 1: mark of 85 or greater;
- Honours Class 2 Division 1: mark from 75 to 84;
- Honours Class 2 Division 2: mark from 65 to 74;
- Honours Class 3 or Pass: mark below 65.

The calculation of class of award will be determined from the student’s weighted average mark for all of the courses (research-based and coursework) required in the final year of the program. Only PSYC4-coded courses will be included within an honours calculation.

Honours marks and gradings will be scrutinised at the School level to ensure consistency across cohorts. The Faculty will also review these marks and grades prior to the release of results.

University Medal

Nominees for the University Medal will be determined in accordance with UNSW University Medal policies and procedures.
Additional Information

Definition of 'Science' courses

Table 1

Science Handbook Rules and Editions

Students must follow the program rules and requirements in the UNSW Handbook published in the year they commence their studies with the Faculty of Science.

Students who transfer from another UNSW Faculty into Science (for example, from a Bachelor of Arts into a Bachelor of Science) must follow the program rules and requirements in the UNSW Handbook published in the year of their transfer.

Students who are readmitted to UNSW after a period of unapproved absence or deferment, or after exclusion, must satisfy the program rules in the Handbook published in the year of their readmission. In addition, these students may be subject to restrictions on which courses taken at UNSW may be counted on their return. In some cases, students returning from an unapproved absence may be required to repeat courses. See the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) section above for more details. Students who take approved leave or deferment will follow the Handbook for the year of their original commencement unless otherwise approved by the Associate Dean (Academic Programs).
Program Fees

At UNSW fees are generally charged at course level and therefore dependent upon individual enrolment and other factors such as student's residency status. For generic information on fees and additional expenses of UNSW programs, click on one of the following:

Domestic Students
Commonwealth Supported Students
International Students
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions