



## **Course Specification**

### **HLSU216: BSc (Hons) Psychology**

**School of Psychological, Social and Behavioural Sciences  
Faculty of Health and Life Sciences**

**Academic Year 2019/20**

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

## PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

### Title of Course

#### 1. Introduction

The BSc (Hons) Psychology undergraduate course is a distinctive and unique course which utilises a broad range of teaching and learning strategies to provide students with an opportunity to advance their knowledge and skills in a popular area for undergraduate study. The course utilises internationally relevant 'real-life' themes and students will have the opportunity to learn about the applicability of Psychology in a global context, whilst also ensuring that students study the required level of subject content to meet the standards, subject benchmarks, and accreditation criteria of the British Psychological Society (BPS) and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). BSc (Hons) Psychology is accredited by the BPS (subject to re-approval) and will confer eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC), which is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist in the United Kingdom (UK).

Students gain knowledge and develop critical and evaluative skills through a structured series of lectures (online and face-to-face), tutorials, seminars, workshops and independent learning activities. Guest lecturers are also utilised on the course to give students additional insight into the application of Psychology. The course has been designed to encourage student progression and modules are integrated in terms of content, assessments (formative and summative), and skills (both discipline specific and transferable) to ensure student development both within and between levels of study. A peer-mentoring scheme is also offered in the early stages of the course to provide students with additional support during the transition to Higher Education.

The School has a thriving research community. Members of the course academic team are active researchers and the School is closely linked with the Faculty Research Centre Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement (FRC PBA). Course material is informed by current research in each of the taught areas of psychology, particularly for the specialist level 3 options, which reflect the research and academic interests of the academic team. Community contribution and responsibility is particularly highlighted throughout the course as the very nature of Psychology emphasises the importance of ethics and consideration of others. In addition, students work with the community on a 'real-world' problem in the second year. The course has a strong focus on employability and this strategy is embedded within the curriculum at each level. The course has a dedicated Employability tutor who works in close collaboration with the Employability Support Team (EST). Students undertake short-term work experience in the second year, which is a valuable opportunity and helps them to develop their professional identity. In addition, modules within the course are specifically designed to develop transferable skills (e.g. communication skills, leadership and creativity) and all students have an Academic Personal Tutor (APT) who provides support and guidance. Additionally, students will learn creativity as they will be expected to demonstrate originality and self-direction in their application of relevant knowledge to new and complex situations in their assignment tasks. Creativity will be further enhanced when students undertake an Individual Research Project developed through enquiry based learning. The internationalisation of the course is supported by the use of international teaching materials, themes/topics and case studies. Students also have the opportunity to spend a year abroad and also can undertake international field-trips at each level of study via the Psychology Global Experience Add+Vantage modules. In addition, the course uses Online International Learning (OIL) projects which involve students interacting with peers from international partner institutions. These projects enable a multicultural understanding of the application of psychological perspectives and add a global dimension to students' studies and continuous personal development. Innovation and digital literacy is also demonstrated in the course as students have exposure to specialist software (e.g. SPSS, E-Prime, DMDX) and complete diverse assessments (e.g. 'vlogs'). Additionally, students will be encouraged to use numerous online sources for additional reading and research purposes as well as the use of Moodle for online learning, all of which supports the development of students' digital fluency skills.

The course incorporates Coventry University's unique Add+Vantage modules which offer students an extensive range of cross-university modules aimed at developing work related knowledge and employability skills. A 10-credit Add+Vantage module is mandatory in each stage of the course.

The general ethos of BSc (Hons) Psychology is to explore human behaviour in a global context and engages with both the theories and application of psychological perspectives and methods/techniques. The course aims to develop a professional level of transferable, practical and cognitive skills which give graduates the necessary qualities to confidently embark on graduate employment and/or postgraduate study in a global arena.

<b>2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study</b>			
Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
BSc (Hons) Psychology	F/T 3yrs	C800	6
BSc Psychological Studies*	SW 4 yrs		6
Diploma in Higher Education*			
Certificate in Higher Education*			
*only available as a fall back award			
<b>3 Awarding Institution/Body</b>	Coventry University.		
<b>4 Collaboration</b>	None		
<b>5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery</b>	Coventry University		
<b>6 Internal Approval/Review Dates</b>	Date of latest review: (03/2017) Date for next review: Academic year 2021/2022		
<b>7 Course Accredited by</b>	The British Psychological Society (BPS) subject to re-approval. BSc (Hons) Psychology confers eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society (BPS), provided a minimum award of 2:2 is achieved.		
<b>8 Accreditation Date and Duration</b>	BSc (Hons) Psychology was reaccredited by the British Psychological Society in 2017. The degree is accredited for all cohorts on an ongoing basis, and the current course is subject to BPS re-approval (2020)		
<b>9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors</b>	<p>QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Psychology October 2016 available at: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Psychology-16.pdf">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Psychology-16.pdf</a></p> <p>The British Psychological Society's 'Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in psychology' October 2016 available at: <a href="http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/PaCT/Undergraduate%20Accreditation%202016_WEB.pdf">http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/PaCT/Undergraduate%20Accreditation%202016_WEB.pdf</a></p> <p>These benchmarks have been used to inform the aims of the course, and also the intended learning outcomes.</p>		
<b>10 Date of Course Specification</b>	02/2017. (Previous revision: February 2013).		
<b>11 Course Director</b>	Dr Aris Terzopoulos (Course Director for BSc (Hons) Psychology) Dr Rebecca Jenks (Programme Director for UG Psychology Courses)		

## **12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course**

The educational aims of the BSc (Hons) Psychology course are to:

1. Develop students' critical awareness and understanding of contemporary and global psychological concepts and theories.
2. Develop students' ability to apply the knowledge and skills they acquire to psychological theory, psychological evidence and research methods/techniques in psychology.
3. Equip students with the appropriate methodological and analytical skills to undertake research in the field of psychology whilst adhering to discipline defined ethical standards.
4. Provide a broad and varied educational experience within which learning occurs, engaging students in experiential learning and a wide range of international contexts.
5. Develop a professional level of transferable, practical and cognitive skills so that students are able to work with self-direction and autonomy to manage their own lifelong learning and have the necessary qualities to confidently embark on graduate employment and/or postgraduate study.

The aforementioned educational aims are designed to meet the standards, subject benchmarks, and accreditation criteria of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2008) and the British Psychological Society (BPS).

## **13 Course Learning Outcomes**

A student who successfully completes the course will have achieved the following Course Learning Outcomes.

1. Developed a comprehensive and critical understanding of psychology as a discipline - the core areas and their application to 'real world' challenges, its historical origins, theoretical underpinnings, discourses and concepts, community contribution and responsibility and limitations
2. Formed the ability to adopt a critical approach to the identification of suitable sources of information, analysis and evaluation of psychological research evidence and theory
3. Evidenced a critical understanding of psychological research paradigms, research methods, data analyses, and an awareness of ethical issues in psychology, culminating in the successful execution of an independent psychology research project
4. Demonstrated a critical appreciation of how psychology can be applied to real world questions, different situations and global contexts
5. Apply range of transferable skills including, but not necessarily limited to, working independently and within teams, numerical and reasoning skills, digital literacy, communicating effectively in a variety of media to different audiences with scientific argument and sensitivity, and appropriate self-management strategies to organise time and workloads
6. Gained relevant professional experience and by encouraging learners to take responsibility for their own learning and skills development to enable them to pursue a range of employment opportunities and careers.

## **14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**

BSc Psychology conforms to the University's regulations for first degree level courses. Within the parameters set by the regulations, the course is designed to equip graduates with the core knowledge, skills and expertise within the broad field of psychology. Module within the course, the levels, credit value and the assessment weighting are tabled below. All modules at Levels 1 and 2 are mandatory. In Level 3 students study a combination of mandatory modules with three optional module choices.

In order to obtain a **BSC (Hons) Psychology** degree students must meet the University requirements for an Honours degree to include passes in the following modules:

### Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
4001PY Developing as a Psychologist (1) (10 credits)	4004PY Research into Human Behaviour (40 credits)
4002PY Human Behaviour (20 credits)	4005PY The Psychology of Popular Culture (20 credits)
4003PY The Darker Side of Psychology (20 credits)	
Add+vantage (10)	

### Year 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
5000PY Developing as a Psychologist (2) (10 credits)	5003PY Psychological Perspectives (2) (20 credits)
5001PY Psychological Perspectives (1) (20 credits)	5004PY Applied Research Methods (2) (20 credits)
5002PY Applied Research Methods (1) (20 credits)	5005PY Professional Experience (20 credits)
Add+vantage (10)	

### Year 3

Semester 1	Semester 2
Add+vantage (10 credits)	6002PY Independent Research Project (30 credits)
6001PY Project Ethics (10 credits)	6000PY Developing as a Psychologist (3) (10 credits)
<p><b>*Optional Modules:</b> choose <b>Two</b> from below:</p> <p>6008PY Criminal Behaviour and its contexts (20 Credits)</p> <p>6005PY Special Educational Needs (20 Credits)</p> <p>6007PY Drug Use and Addiction (20 Credits)</p>	<p><b>*Optional Modules:</b> choose <b>One</b> from below:</p> <p>6004PY Mindfulness and Meditation (20 Credits)</p> <p>6003PY Psychology of Gender and Sexualities (20 Credits)</p> <p>6006PY Psychology of Teaching and Learning (20 Credits)</p>

### Enhancement Year

On successful completion of level 2 a student may opt to take an 'enhancement' year by enrolling on an optional module 5003SPS Employment Enhancement Year (0 credits) or 5002SPS International Enhancement Year (0 credits). Students taking this option will take an additional year to complete the degree.

### Add+Vantage Modules

The Add+Vantage scheme is designed to enhance students' skills and competencies for employment. Modules offered within this scheme focus on skills and personal development and career planning (offered by the School) as well as via University-wide modules in enterprise, business, marketing, voluntary work and other areas that enhance employability. Under this scheme students can

(i) study, in more detail, subjects related to their choice of employment

(ii) and/or develop practical and enterprise skills, for example by studying a foreign language or undertaking voluntary work.

Further details of the Add+Vantage scheme are available at <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/study-at-coventry/student-support/enhance-your-employability/add-vantage/>.

### Course specific regulations for progression, awards and classification

The regulations given below are course specific regulations applicable to the course outlined in this document. They should be read in conjunction with the University Academic Regulations.

<http://wwwm.coventry.ac.uk/Registry/Regulations/Pages/AcademicRegulations.aspx>

A student who is enrolled on level 3 of the BSc (Hons) Psychology degree, but who fails to meet the honours degree requirements, may be awarded an unclassified degree in BSc Psychological Studies if he/she meets the University's general requirements for an unclassified degree.

A student who fails or withdraws after level 1 or level 2 of the course may be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) or Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) as appropriate to the stage of withdrawal and in line with the University's general academic regulations.

### Progression

To progress from level 1 to level 2 a student must pass 90 credits.

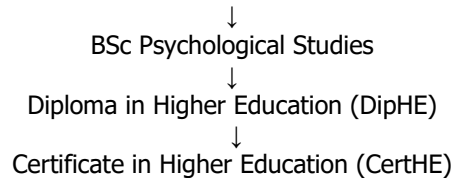
To progress from level 2 to level 3 a student must pass 90 credits. This must include 5004PY Applied Research Methods (2).

The table below shows how each module contributes to the overall learning outcomes of the course and is mapped against the University's Education Strategy (2015-2021) and embeds the principal pillars of transformative learning: (1) research inspired teaching, (2) embedded employability, (3) creativity and enterprise, (4) multicultural and international engagement, (5) community contribution and responsibility, and (6) innovation and digital fluency.

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Course Learning Outcome	CU Education Strategy Pillar
4002PY	Human Behaviour	20	1,2, 4, 5	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
4003PY	The Darker Side of Psychology	20	1,2, 4, 5	1, 4, 5
4000PY	Developing as a Psychologist (1)	10	3, 5,6	2, 6
4004PY	Research into Human Behaviour	40	1,2, 3, 4, 5	1, 4, 5, 6
4005PY	Psychology of Popular Culture	20	1,2, 4, 5	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
5001PY	Psychological Perspectives (1)	20	1,2, 4, 5	1, 4, 5
5002PY	Applied Research Methods in Psychology (1)	20	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
5000PY	Developing as a Psychologist (2)	10	3, 5, 6	2, 6
5003PY	Psychological Perspectives (2)	20	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 4, 5
5005PY	Professional Experience	20	4, 5,6	2, 3, 5
5004PY	Applied Research Methods in Psychology (2)	20	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
6001PY	Project Ethics	10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 3, 5
6002PY	Independent Research Project	30	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
6000PY	Developing as a Psychologist (3)	10	3, 5, 6	2, 3, 6

### Cascade of Awards:

BSc (Hons) Psychology



### **15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure**

UCAS entry profiles may be found at: <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/profiles/index.html>

#### Normal Entry Requirements for Degree Courses

Entry requirements to the first year of the course are that applicants should normally meet the entry requirements of the course as detailed on our University website: <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/study-at-coventry/course-search/>.

Non-standard applicants will be considered for entry to the course and will be at the discretion of the Course Director and the Admission Tutor.

#### Credit for Prior Learning

Accreditation for prior learning (APL) or prior experiential learning (APEL) may be granted for modules at the discretion of the Course Director providing that adequate evidence of learning is submitted by the student in accordance with University guidelines. APL/APEL will be limited to the maximum specified in University Regulations.

### **16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment**

This Course conforms to the standard University Regulations Mode E available at <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/life-on-campus/the-university/key-information/registry/academic-regulations/>

## **17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement**

The Courses are managed by the Psychological Social and Behavioural Sciences Board of Study of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

The Programme Assessment Board (PAB) for Psychological, Social and Behavioural Sciences is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners report annually on the course and their views are considered as part of the annual quality monitoring process (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's web site.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year. Students at partner institutions will have the opportunity to provide feedback and raise issues through locally-arranged forums.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The following are key indicators of quality and standards:

- The course has been designed in accordance with the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education (October 2014), the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Psychology (October 2016), and the British Psychological Society's 'Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters courses in psychology' (October 2016).
- The School has a thriving research community. The majority of staff contribute to applied research activity through the Faculty Research Centre Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement (FRC PBA).
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- BSc (Hons) Psychology is subject to the annual National Student Survey (NSS)

The QAA's review of higher education undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets UK expectations in:

- the setting and maintenance of the academic standards of its awards;
- the quality of student learning opportunities;
- the quality of the information about learning opportunities;
- the enhancement of student learning opportunities.

## **18 Additional Information**

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,

Student Handbook

Course Guide

Course Specification

Module Guides

Module Information Directory

Study Support information