

Undergraduate courses

The first two years of all Psychology BSc programmes cover a central core of knowledge in a range of key areas such as Research Methods, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, the neuroscience of behaviour, and aspects of Clinical Psychology. In the final year, all students work closely with members of academic staff to carry out research projects at the cutting edge of contemporary research. In addition, students choosing C800 BSc Psychology continue to cover a broad range of advanced topics in their final year, whereas students on the more specialised BSc programmes focus on areas of Psychology with relevance to their particular degree choice. Students can change between the different Psychology BSc programmes at the end of the first year subject to availability. We admit around 170 undergraduate students across all our single honours programmes each year (with no limits on individual programmes).

- **C800 BSc Psychology** will give students a thorough understanding of how research into human behaviour can be conducted across different areas of Psychology without limiting study to any specific area. During year 3 students are able to study topics relating to cognitive and social development, language acquisition and processing, attention and perception, as well as a selection of the topics listed below. Additionally, students may complete a Dissertation (independent library project) on a topic of their choice under the supervision of a member of staff.
- **C804 BSc Applied Psychology** focuses on applying psychological research to real world issues, offering a broader social and occupational context. Topics include how we can modify health and social behaviour, research into psychological problems and understanding of interventions for children and adults, and also how Psychology can be used in the work-place, in education and when exploring criminal behaviour.
- **C805 BSc Psychology, Development & Developmental Disorders** focuses on issues related to the study of typical and atypical child development, including the development of perceptual, cognitive and social skills in infancy and early childhood, and developmental disorders such as autism, Down syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia and attention deficit hyperactive disorder.
- **C806 BSc Psychology, Clinical Psychology & Mental Health** focuses upon the study of psychological problems in children and adults, as well as the study of how psychological factors are related to physical health and the prevention of illness.
- **C807 BSc Psychology, Clinical & Cognitive Neuroscience** examines the relationships between the brain and higher functions such as decision-making and consciousness, the causes, symptoms and treatments of common brain disorders such as stroke and Parkinson's disease, and methods for studying the brain such as functional MRI.

All of our above BSc Psychology single honours degrees are recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, and qualify students to undertake postgraduate study in Psychology once they have graduated.

Single honours programmes course units:

- [Year 1](#)

Single honours students from all programmes take four courses in each term of the first year. You will be taught how to design and run research studies and will receive practical experience in carrying out simple experiments and analysing statistical data. You will also have introductory courses in lifespan development, biological psychology, learning and memory, abnormal psychology, self and society, and sensation and perception. You will be taught in several different ways, mostly through lectures, tutorials and laboratory classes. Altogether you can expect around 12 hours of tutorials, classes and lectures each week and the rest of the time you will be engaged in private study, reading and revision. Your understanding and knowledge will be assessed in coursework essays throughout term and end of year examinations, which are usually in May. You will also be allocated your own Personal Advisor – a member of academic staff who will be available to give you guidance and support throughout your time as a psychology student at Royal Holloway.

Year 1 class units

- [PS1010 - Introduction to Psychological Research](#)
- [PS1021 - Learning and Memory](#)
- [PS1030 - Self and Society](#)
- [PS1040 - Lifespan Development](#)
- [PS1060 - Biological Foundations of Psychology](#)
- [PS1061 - Sensation and Perception](#)
- [PS1110 - Introduction to Abnormal Psychology](#)

Single honours programmes course units:

- [Year 2](#)

Courses in the second year build on the knowledge gained in the first year. They are more specialised and give students the chance to learn about particular topics in greater depth. Second year students are expected to carry out more independent reading and to begin to design their own research. You will receive lab classes and tutorials and lectures in research methodology and statistics, developmental, cognitive and social psychology, personality, brain and behaviour, and conceptual issues.

Year 2 class units

- [PS2010 - Psychological Research Methods and Analysis](#)
- [PS2021 - Cognitive Psychology](#)
- [PS2030 - Social Psychology](#)
- [PS2040 - Developmental Psychology](#)
- [PS2050 - Personality and Individual Differences](#)
- [PS2061 - Brain and Behaviour](#)
- [PS2080 - Conceptual Issues in Psychology](#)

Single honours programmes course units:

- [Year 3](#)

In the final year, all students carry out independent research projects in small groups. Each group works closely with a member of staff to design a study on a topic at the cutting edge of contemporary research. Other course unit options will depend on your choice of BSc, see the options below for [C800](#), [C804](#), [C805](#), [C806](#) and [C807](#). Note, all courses are subject to change depending on what the Department is able to offer in any given year.

Year 3 class units

All students must take:

- [PS3200 - Research Project](#)

In addition, C800 students select six options (in consultation with the Academic Coordinator) from the following list:

- [PS3022 - Language, Communication, and Thought](#)
- [PS3031 - Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience](#)
- [PS3041 - Advanced Developmental Psychology](#)
- [PS3050 - Health Psychology](#)
- [PS3060 - Perception and Awareness of the World and the Self](#)
- [PS3061 - The Ageing Brain](#)
- [PS3090 - Advanced and Applied Social Psychology](#)
- [PS3110 - Adult Psychological Problems](#)
- [PS3121 - Developmental Disorders](#)
- [PS3131 - Human Neuropsychology](#)
- [PS3141 - Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience](#)
- [PS3151 - Occupational and Organisational Psychology](#)
- [PS3171 - Human Performance: Work, Sport and Medicine](#)
- [PS3181 - Criminal and Forensic Psychology](#)
- [PS3190 - Educational Psychology \(tbc\)](#)
- [PS3210 - Dissertation](#)

In addition, for C804 students the units are predetermined as follows:

- [PS3050 - Health Psychology](#)
- [PS3090 - Advanced and Applied Social Psychology](#)
- [PS3110 - Adult Psychological Problems](#)
- [PS3151 - Occupational and Organisational Psychology](#)

- [PS3171 - Human Performance: Work, Sport and Medicine](#)
- [PS3181 - Criminal and Forensic Psychology](#)
- PS3190 - Educational Psychology (tbc)

In addition, for C805 students the units are predetermined as follows:

- [PS3041 - Advanced Developmental Psychology](#)
- [PS3050 - Health Psychology](#)
- [PS3061 - The Ageing Brain](#)
- [PS3090 - Advanced and Applied Social Psychology](#)
- [PS3110 - Adult Psychological Problems](#)
- [PS3121 - Developmental Disorders](#)
- PS3190 - Educational Psychology (tbc)

In addition, for C806 students the units are predetermined as follows:

- [PS3050 - Health Psychology](#)
- [PS3061 - The Ageing Brain](#)
- [PS3110 - Adult Psychological Problems](#)
- [PS3121 - Developmental Disorders](#)
- [PS3131 - Human Neuropsychology](#)
- [PS3141 - Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience](#)

In addition, for C807 students the units are predetermined as follows:

- [PS3031 - Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience](#)
- [PS3060 - Perception and Awareness of the World and the Self](#)
- [PS3061 - The Ageing Brain](#)
- [PS3131 - Human Neuropsychology](#)
- [PS3141 - Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience](#)
- [PS3171 - Human Performance: Work, Sport and Medicine](#)



MSc courses

Building on the strong research profile of the Department, the MSc course is designed to be an introduction to current research and are suitable both as a preparation for continued PhD studies, or for anyone wishing to broaden and deepen their skills and knowledge in these fields.

Since 2008, the Psychology Department has offered a one-year Masters' course - [MSc Applied Social Psychology](#).

The Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London, provides an ideal setting for this course. The Department is a leading centre for psychological research in the UK and internationally (ranked joint 7th in the UK in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, RAE 2008) and is widely recognised both for the quality of its teaching and state-of-the-art research facilities, which include an on-site research-dedicated MRI scanner, an infant research laboratory, and several systems for eye movement recording. Our faculty research staff and students come from a wide international base. The department has a vibrant research culture, and students are encouraged to participate fully in the department's academic life. The leafy and beautiful campus is located in the Green Belt close to Windsor Great Park, yet only 40 minutes from central London by train.

PhD courses

The Department is active and expanding, well-equipped and situated on a beautiful campus close to London. There are around 35 academic staff members, around 20 research staff and about 25 postgraduate research students. Academic staff include leading researchers in several fields, and the Department was ranked 7th out of 75 Psychology Departments in the UK in the most recent RAE.

A wide range of [research facilities](#) is available. The Department has a research-dedicated MRI scanner on the site and offers considerable MRI support and expertise. There is also a TMS laboratory and several laboratories with sophisticated equipment for measuring body movements, actions and eye movements. There is a well-equipped baby lab for research on infants. There are vision research laboratories and a language research laboratory.

Most members of academic staff are available for supervision of postgraduate research students, and a description of the research conducted in the department (including research interests of individual staff members) is [available here](#). Prospective applicants are invited to make contact informally with individual staff members, who will be able to discuss possible projects and provide information about the facilities and funding opportunities that are available within their specialist areas of expertise.

Both full-time and part-time students are expected to engage in the departmental research training programme. This is tailored to the needs of the individual student and can include attending a postgraduate research methods course, another course in an area of specialist interest, departmental colloquia, and an annual postgraduate convention. In addition, research students are required to attend the College Research Skills Programme (RSP): details about these courses are provided [here](#) .