PROGRAMME HANDBOOK FOR

PSYCHOLOGY BSc DEGREE PROGRAMME

Academic Year 2019-2020

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Contents

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(1) OVERVIEW

Welcome to Psychology at QMUL! Our programme here is steeped in the tradition of biology. We continue to excel in biological psychology (that is, how ultimate and proximate biological mechanisms deliver cognitive and behavioural outcomes) and have a related expertise in animal cognition and cognitive neuroscience. We also offer a unique focus on health and well-being, beginning with the first-year core module on Positive Psychology, and continue to add to our offerings in other areas of psychology, including social behaviour (e.g., Psychology of Play; Social Development) and applied psychology (e.g., Counselling Psychology).

The BSc degrees offered by SBCS is externally accredited by the British Psychology Society (BPS) (http://beta.bps.org.uk/), confirming that the BSc includes content relevant to professional psychologists. The programme prepares you for further study at the postgraduate level (MSc and PhD) and careers that require knowledge of psychology.

As of 2019-2020, we now offer three accredited BSc programmes: The standard 3-year degree and two four-year degrees, one with a study-abroad year and one with a year of professional experience. If you reach the appropriate marks in year one, you can switch onto one of the latter two programmes from the standard BSc programme.

To find out the latest information, news and events about the department, please go to the Information for Psychology Students QMPlus page, which will be continually updated.

We wish you a wonderful academic year!

Dr Shirley Wang

Psychology Programme Director

(2) KEY NAMES / CONTACTS

The following are some key contacts for you regarding teaching and student support:

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
Psychology Programme Director	Dr Shirley Wang	shirley.wang@qmul.ac.uk
Psychology Programme Tutor	Dr Sevasti Foka	s.foka@qmul.ac.uk
Psychology Placement and Study Abroad Programmes Coordinator	Dr Paraskevi Argyriou	p.argyriou@qmul.ac.uk
SBCS Student Support Officer	Ms Shaheda Batha	s.batha@qmul.ac.uk
SBCS Undergraduate Enquiries	Professional Administrative Staff	sbcs-ug-enquiries@qmul.ac.uk
SBCS Director of Student Experience	Dr Caroline Brennan	c.h.brennan@qmul.ac.uk
SBCS Director of Education	Dr Chris Bray	c.bray@qmul.ac.uk

Specific questions about a module should first be directed to the **Module Organiser** (MO), the lecturer who is in charge of the specific module. Your **Academic Advisor** is your first point of contact regarding questions about your progress and general academic issues.

The **Programme Director** is the member of the academic staff responsible for the academic curriculum and overall development of the psychology programmes and is available for discussing broader concerns/suggestions about modules or the programme as a whole.

The **Programme Tutor** is a member of the academic staff who serves to support you on matters both academic and personal, after you have already gone to the MO or your advisor and if the issue remains. The Tutor's role is to try to advise you on how resolve the issue or guide you to the appropriate external resource (e.g., counselling service), if appropriate.

The **Student Support Officer** is a member of the professional administrative staff who is responsible for administering Extenuating Circumstances.

The **SBCS Director of Student Experience** chairs the Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC), which works to receive feedback from the student representatives across SBCS and improve the student experience at the level of the school.

The **SBCS Director of Education** is responsible for overseeing the academic programmes at the level of the school.

With administrative questions, please email **SBCS Undergraduate Enquiries**.

(3) PROGRAMME AIMS

The Psychology BSc programme aims to provide:

- a thorough foundation in psychology, with significant contributions from psychologists and behavioural biologists that will enable an understanding of core principles, theories and issues in psychology;
- a thorough scientific and natural sciences approach to the study of psychology giving a broad understanding of psychological theory and research;
- an impressive range of transferable skills in preparation for scientific and non-science career paths.

In addition to these specific programme aims, the BSc degree also aims to:

- Provide a rational, flexibly structured and coherent programme of study which is relevant to the needs of employers, facilitates your professional development and lays the foundations for a successful career which is to the benefit of the economy and society;
- Provide a sound knowledge base in the fields studied and develop key transferable skills in the areas of communication, numeracy, information technology, working with others, problem solving, time and task management;
- Foster the development of an enquiring, open-minded and creative attitude, tempered with scientific discipline and social awareness, which encourages lifelong learning.

(4) WHAT WILL YOU BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

	On successful completion of your BSc programme, you will have studied:
Academic Content	1. Empirical and theoretical psychology and wider issues of the development of psychology as a science, the role of empirical data, and how to make critical judgements about arguments in psychology within an experimental and biological context.
	2. Systematic knowledge of multiple perspectives in psychology and understanding of the relation between psychology and other cognate disciplines (such as biology, cognitive science, sociology and psychiatry).
	3. Competence in the design, conduct, statistical analysis and reporting of empirical research in human and animal psychology.
	4. Theoretical, practical and methodological limitations and consequences of research designs and statistical analysis in psychology.
	5. Practical skills and understanding of the use of psychological tools including specialist software, laboratory equipment, task design, psychometric testing, and general measurement techniques.
	6. Ethical context of psychology as a discipline, the ethical principles/procedures in dealing with research participants and to demonstrate these in personal study, particularly with regard to the final year psychology research project.
	7. Demonstrating transferable skills including quantitative research and statistical analysis through laboratory reports and a substantive research project, communication of ideas and research findings through written, oral and visual modalities, project and time management, information retrieval and management,

	detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and evaluate their significance, self-directed learning, problem solving and solution generation, and team work.
Disciplinary Skills	On successful completion of your BSc programme, you will be able to: 1. Reason critically. 2. Integrate theory and practice; use advanced theories and concepts to explain psychological phenomena. 3. Identify and formulate problems; apply psychological principles to the solution of problems. 4. Analyse and evaluate/interpret the results of controlled experiments. 5. Devise and implement strategies for the retrieval and selection of relevant information from a wide range of sources. 6. Conduct practical work efficiently and with due regard for safety. 7. Use a range of laboratory and analytical equipment (including psychometric testing equipment). 8. Prepare scientific/technical reports. 9. Use a range of computational tools and packages.
Attributes	On successful completion of your BSc programme, you will be able to: 1. Communicate effectively by written and/or verbal means. 2. Manage time, prioritise workloads and work to deadlines. 3. Learn independently. 4. Work independently, with minimal or no supervision. 5. Participate constructively as a member of a group/team. 6. Apply psychological knowledge and problem solving skills in a wide range of theoretical and practical situations. 7. Assess the relevance, importance and reliability of the ideas of others. 8. Locate information and be competent in the use of computer-based technology. 9. Demonstrate awareness of the role and impact of science in society.

(5) HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

You will acquire knowledge and develop your understanding mainly through **lectures** and directed **independent study** (*see Section 6*). Your understanding will be reinforced through a combination of **tutorial workshops**, **problem classes** and **laboratory classes** (depending upon the modules which you study), including regular **feedback** on submitted work. Additional learning support is provided through Queen Mary's online learning environment, **QMplus**, and the facilities of the QMUL Student PC Service.

(6) WHAT IS "INDEPENDENT STUDY"?

For every hour of contact with academic staff, you will be expected to <u>devote between 3 and 5 hours</u> to independent study. This may include staff-directed exercises (*e.g.* completion of coursework assignments) or self-directed independent study. There are various forms of independent study which include:

- **preparation** (in advance of a lecture/tutorial/practical class)
- **consolidation** of material introduced by the lecturer/tutor (*e.g.* writing up your lecture notes)
- **elaboration / extension** (*e.g.* reading around the topic after the lecture)
- **application** (*i.e.* reinforcing your understanding of a topic by applying any principles introduced in a lecture/tutorial/practical class to a new scenario)

You might be expecting to prepare and consolidate, since these activities most closely resemble the "homework" for Secondary/Further Education.

(7) HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

For each module that comprises your psychology degree, your knowledge and understanding will generally be tested through a combination of assessed coursework and unseen written examinations. For the majority of modules, your final grade will be determined using a weighting of 25% coursework to 75% exam.

For some modules (*e.g.,* PSY109 and PSY209), a higher proportion of marks will be derived from the coursework, and in extreme cases (*e.g.,* PSY100 and PSY600), the module will be assessed by coursework only with no written exam. (Please check the module details on QMPlus to confirm the exact coursework to exam weighting for each module.)

The exact nature of the coursework varies from module to module and may include work in the form of in-class activities, laboratory experiment write-ups, essays and/or problem sheets. The coursework mark may also include a contribution from computer-based assessments and in-course tests. Specific modules include assessed individual or group presentations and extended reports/dissertations.

The weighting of marks available for a given component should be reflected in the amount of time that you will need to commit to working on each element. For example, where 25% of the module marks are available for coursework, you should expect to devote 25% of 150 hours (*i.e.* approximately 37 hours) to completing the coursework elements to the best of your ability. The remaining 75% of 150 hours (*i.e.* approximately 113 hours) should be devoted to attending lectures/tutorials and independent study to ensure you understand the module content well enough to achieve a high grade in the module exam. The *default* exam durations and structures also differ between years, as follows, though you may have exams any given year that do not follow this structure:

	Default Exam Duration	Default Content
Year 1	1.5 hours	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)-Only OR MCQ and Short-Answer Questions (SAQ)
Year 2	1.5-2 hours	MCQ-Only OR MCQ, SAQ and 1 Essay
Year 3	2 hours	2 Essays

- To progress beyond Year 1 of the degree, you must pass at least 6 modules x 15 credits (*i.e.* 90 credits in total).
- To progress beyond Year 2, you must pass at least 195 credits cumulatively from Year 1 and 2 modules.
- To graduate with a BSc degree, you must pass at least 315 credits across your 3-year programme with a minimum of 90 credits at level 6.
- *An alternative way of considering these criteria is that you can fail no more than 3 x 15 credit modules across 3 years*.

(8) QUALITY ASSURANCE OF MARKS

The department's quality assurance measures of exams and exam-marking are conducted in accordance with regulations set by the Academic Registry and Council Secretariat (ARCS), which sets the regulations about quality assurance for the entire University.

Coursework is marked by lecturers, or in some cases, PhD students who have been trained in how to provide feedback. If there is more than one person marking an assignment, then the marking will be moderated by checking a sample of papers to make sure the marking has been done consistently across markers.

Exams are marked only by lecturers and a certain percentage (depending on the level of the module and the number of students in the module) will be moderated or second-marked by another lecturer.

In preparing exams, a minimum of two staff members plus an expert external to the University will scrutinize each script in an attempt to make scripts as clear as possible as well as to minimize errors. Following the marking of exam scripts, the department meets to discuss the marks for each module and to discuss any issues that have taken place in an exam, in effort to make the experience as fair as possible for all students. After the department has determined that the grades are correct and fair, to our best knowledge and ability, the exam procedures and marks are ratified at the level of the University as well.

You can read the ARCS regulations for 2018-2019 here for more information about quality assurance of marks.

(9) THE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

In the programme outline provided on the following pages, **compulsory** modules are denoted in standard text whereas **elective** modules are denoted in italicised text. The credit value of each module is denoted in parentheses. In each academic year, you must study 120 credits (such that you study a total of 360 credits over the course of your 3-year BSc). It is strongly recommended that where elective modules are available, you should select a total of 60 credits to study in Semester A and a total of 60 credits in Semester B.

If you wish to study more credits in one or other Semester, you should discuss this with your Academic Advisor and then with the Programme Director before making your pre-selection. You may not enrol for more than 75 credits in any given semester.

To assist your choice of electives, we want you to have every opportunity to research the elective modules available to you prior to **module pre-selection**. *Module pre-selection for 2020-2021 will run from 09 March 2020 until 14 April 2020.*

Please note that some elective modules have to operate **caps** on the maximum number of students that the module can accommodate, *e.g.* due to the educational methods used in a module. In this case, acceptance on to a module with capped numbers may be contingent on your academic performance prior to the point of module selection.

The modules listed in the programme outline which follows are **indicative** only. Every effort will be made to run all of the modules advertised in the degree programme outline. However, to offer you the best educational experience while at QMUL, in any one year, a module advertised on the following pages may not be offered if:

(a) the numbers of students eligible to select a particular module (either too many or too few) would provide you with a compromised student experience;
(b) academic staff with the requisite experience are unavailable to teach a module (*e.g.* through ill health, injury or retirement)

Likewise, dependent on staff availability and appropriate quality assurance, we may be able to add new modules to subsequent years of your degree programme and improve even further your choice of elective modules.

		SEMESTER A	**SEMESTER B**
Year 1		**PSY100** Essential Skills for Psychologists (15) **PSY109** Research Methods & Statistics in Psychology I (15)	
		PSY117 Introduction to Biopsychology (15) **PSY119** Positive Psychology (15) **PSY124** Exploring Psychology I (15)	**PSY121** Brain & Behaviour (15) **PSY125** Exploring Psychology II (15) *BIO125 Physiology (15)* *ICM4014 Society, Medicine & Health (15)* *LIN101 Language Acquisition (15)* **PSY127** Emotion (15)
Year 2		**PSY209** Research Methods & Statistics in Psychology II (15)	
		PSY211 Cognitive Psychology (15) **PSY215** Social Psychology (15) **PSY235** Comparative Psychology (15) *SBC5215 Health & Wellbeing (15 credits)* *SBC5251 Engaging the Public in Science (15 credits)*	**PSY253** Psychopathology (15) **PSY223** Developmental Psychology (15) **PSY223** Individual Differences (15)

Year 3	**PSY319** History and Philosophy of Psychology **PSY313** *Psychology of Creativity (15)* **PSY333** *Nature, Nurture and Mental Health* **PSY317** *Health Psychology (15)* **PSY335** *Social Development (15)* **LIN213** *Language & Mind (15)* **PSY315** *Animal Behaviour & Cognition (15)* **BIO311** *Behavioural Ecology (15)* **ECS638U** *Design for Human Interaction (15)*	**PSY322** *Critical Approaches to Psychology Research (15)* **PSY323** *Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience (15)* **PSY329** *Counselling Psychology (15)* **PSY331** *Behavioural Epigenetics (15)* **PSY335** *Psychology of Food (15)* **PSY339** *Psychology of Play and Games (15)* **BIO331** *Mammals & Evolution (15)*
	PSY600 Psychology Research Project (30)* *OR* **PSY606** Extended Essay in Psychology (15)	

*To obtain a BPS accredited BSc Psychology degree you are required to pass PSY600 and graduate with a minimum of 2:2 (Lower Second) degree classification.

Year 1: Seven of the eight Year 1 modules (105 credits) are compulsory to ensure that all students on the degree programme have the requisite understanding to prepare them for Years 2 and 3 of the degree programme. In Semester B, you can select one elective module (15 credit).

Year 2: Seven of the eight Year 2 modules (105 credits) are compulsory: **PSY209** (Research Methods and Statistics II), **PSY211** (Cognitive Psychology), **PSY215** (Social Psychology), **PSY223** (Developmental Psychology), **PSY235** (Comparative Psychology), **PSY253** (Psychopathology) and **PSY223** (Individual Differences). This will leave you with a choice of one elective module (15 credits).

Year 3: There is only 1 compulsory (15 credit) Year 3 module: **PSY319** History and Philosophy of Psychology. In addition, you **must** *either* undertake a 30-credit research project (**PSY600** Psychology Research Project), which is a requirement for BPS accreditation *or*, for a non-accredited degree, a 15-credit literature-based project (**PSY606** Extended Essays in Psychology). This leaves you with a choice of either 5 or 6 elective modules (75 or 90 credits).

Commencing in the 2019-20 academic year, QMUL will have two main exam periods. The first period, lasting two weeks, will take place in January and will assess modules completed in Semester A. The second exam period, predominantly in May, will last four weeks and will include exams for modules completed in Semester B and year-long modules. The exam timetable will be released to students in approximately week 10 of each semester.

(10) ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic honesty is a very important consideration in this course and in your university career. We take a zero-tolerance approach to any form of academic dishonesty and misconduct, including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating (i.e., providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on assignments or exams), and impersonation. It is your

responsibility to be aware of the rules and policies associated with academic dishonesty. Here are the University's [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) and [Regulations for Assessment Offence](#).

At QMUL, any instance of academic dishonesty or negligence must be reported confidentially to the department's Plagiarism Officer, who follows procedures outlined by the university.

(11) USING YOUR STUDENT VOICE

Module Organisers

You are strongly encouraged to provide informal feedback to Module Organisers and/or to the Programme Director where you can see a way that a specific module could be significantly improved.

Student Experience Task Force

The department has a task force that meets several times a year to listen to student feedback and improve the student experience at the level of the department. Please contact the Programme Director for more information.

Town Hall Meetings

The department will hold two "town hall" meetings per year, to which all psychology students are invited. These meetings are intended to communicate changes to the department or programme with students, as well as to field student questions, comments and suggestions. These meetings will be led by one or more academic staff.

Student-Staff Liaison Committee

The SBCS Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC), chaired by the Director for Student Experience, provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of elected student representatives from each year in the School, together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. SSLC is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The SSLC meets regularly throughout the year.

Other QMUL Committees and Procedures

The SBCS Teaching & Learning Committee (TLC) advises the School's Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board (TPB). Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys and input from the SSLC.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review (APR) of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main

document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the National Student Survey (see below), Queen Mary Student Survey (QMSS) and module evaluations.

<u>The National Student Survey</u>

Final-year students are invited during the spring of their final year to participate in a national survey of all publicly funded universities in the U.K. The NSS is commissioned by the Office for Students on behalf of various government education and health agencies. It is independent of QMUL, which means we do not have any say in the 27 questions asked, but the data is very important to us in improving our programmes and we do examine the results carefully.

(12) ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Your Advisor serves as your main point of contact for advice regarding academic matters and for assistance with pastoral concerns each year. You can schedule an appointment to meet with your Advisor via email. Moreover, if and when your Advisor is unavailable or cannot help with a specific problem, the School has a Programme Tutor and a Student Support Officer plus Director of Student Experience who can also work with you to address concerns.

(13) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE

If you have an Extenuating Circumstance (EC) that prevents you for completing coursework or an exam by the scheduled deadline, you must complete an EC form, which can be found on the [SBCS QMPlus page](), and returned to the Student Support Officer. Please note there is a separate, strict procedure and deadline for ECs for final exams, so please make sure you file the necessary paperwork prior to the deadline, as the Student Support Officer is unable to make exceptions for this deadline.

(14) SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (**DDS**) that offers support for all students with **disabilities**, **specific learning difficulties** and **mental health** issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and other conditions

(15) ADVICE AND COUNSELLING

Queen Mary has an Advice and Counselling Service (ACS), based in Geography Square, that offers support for all students at all stages of their degree studies. The full range of services offered by the ACS is detailed on their website (www.welfare.qmul.ac.uk). On this website, you will find a series of self-help and guidance booklets covering such diverse issues as adapting to life as a student at university through making a claim for extenuating circumstances to requesting an interruption of studies or withdrawing.

(16) CHANGE OF PROGRAMME

Should you wish to be considered for a Change of Programme (CoP), either within or outside of SBCS, you will need to complete a CoP form, available from the SBCS reception. Before signing and submitting your form you should meet with your Academic Advisor or a relevant Programme Tutor to discuss the pros and cons of switching programmes. You should then return the completed and signed form to the SBCS reception to be considered. As soon as a decision has been reached, you will be emailed and advised of the outcome of your application by the SBCS SSO.

If you wish to transfer to the BSc Psychology with Year Abroad or BSc Psychology with Professional experience, and meet the requirements to do so (e.g., a cumulative mark of 60 after your first year), you should speak with the Placement and Study Abroad Programme Coordinator first, then fill out the CoP form and return it to the Student Support Officer.

You may request a single CoP during your degree. Approval will be contingent on (a) there being places available on the programme onto which you would like to transfer, and (b) meeting the admissions criteria for the new programme.

(17) CAREERS SERVICE

 Expert external bodies such as the BPS and Higher Education Academy (HEA) Psychology Network, plus analyses in top science journals (such as *Science*, 18th May 2007), confirmed that behavioural sciences/psychology training confers significantly marketable skills and knowledge outside of academia. This is supported by the fact that approximately 70% of UK psychology graduates choose careers outside of science/psychology. Thus, our programme in psychology will prepare graduates for wide ranging careers including the first steps towards professional psychology training as well as higher degrees by research (MSc/MPhil/PhD) in biology, psychology, neuroscience, philosophy and several social sciences.

In terms of professional psychology training, the psychology programme is accredited with the BPS which confers eligibility to train on professional doctoral training programmes in clinical, health, forensic, educational and occupational psychology. The wide variety of non-science careers includes high profile options such as banking and finance, marketing, personnel/organisation management and consultancy, teaching, social work and the media. These prospects will be achieved by providing graduates of this programme with impressive transferable competencies typical of psychology training including quantitative research skills, critical evaluation (underpinned by knowledge of cognitive biases from psychology), communication (enhanced by knowledge of theories of communication from psychology) and

the understanding of individual and group behaviour (supported by knowledge of group processes from psychology).

All students are encouraged to visit the QMUL Careers & Enterprise Service in the Queens' Building and use the resources available on their website (www.careers.qmul.ac.uk). The Careers Service run employer and alumni events on campus, offer one-to-one careers advice, practice interviews, CV and application advice and resources to help you with job hunting. Graduates can access the service for up to two years after graduation.

You can also find the latest psychology jobs that have come to the attention of our department on the Information for Psychology Students QMPlus page.

(18) PSYCHOLOGY-SPECIFIC TECHNICAL AND STATISTICS SUPPORT, EQUIPMENT AND LABORATORY SPACES

Psychology Laboratories Manager: Simona Deduchova

- The Labs Manager can help with the programming of experiments, stimuli preparation, and any SPSS statistical support.

Equipment and software available for research use:

- SMI screen-based eye tracker with DELL laptop and analysis software
- EGI EEG research system
- BIOPAC psychophysiological signal registration system
- Neurolectics STARSTIM 20
- E-Prime and Psychopy software for programming experiments
- Qualtrics for online questionnaires and online studies

There are currently three rooms for students to use to run experiments if they do not involve any of the equipment above. The rooms have DELL computers and access to the software mentioned above (E-Prime, Psychopy, SPSS, and Matlab).