

MSc Health Psychology (THPS-APM32)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MSc Health Psychology
Route(s)	MSc Health Psychology
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Masters Degree not mainly by Research
Award name	Masters - Postgraduate Taught
Course mode of delivery	Part time
Course length	2 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Psychology

Course Description

Course Summary	Immerse yourself in the exciting field of health psychology on this BPS-accredited course. You'll mix theoretical learning with a 16-week work placement.
Course Description	Throughout this course, you'll gain a solid grounding in the main areas of health psychology, which you'll be able to demonstrate in an applied setting during a work placement.

It is British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited. This means you'll gain contemporary and relevant knowledge that you can use in a range of careers in health related research, public health and healthcare. The accreditation also ensures you have Stage 1 competencies in health psychology, which you will need if you wish to proceed to Stage 2 doctoral-level training to become a registered health psychologist.

During your studies, you'll explore this fascinating subject in a multidisciplinary context, focusing on:

- preventing ill health
- managing long-term health conditions
- developing effective healthcare provisions

This will give you a better appreciation of how psychology can be used to help us better understand health and health behaviours, and design interventions to improve people's wellbeing.

Your academic learning will be complemented by hands-on experience of health psychology during a 16-week placement. This will be an opportunity to use the knowledge you'll gain in class while improving your employability with real-world experience.

You'll also learn about research in healthcare settings, looking at issues such as research design, governance and ethical considerations. This will prepare you for conducting your own independent piece of research to finish the course.

If you are a psychology graduate interested in progressing to a career in health psychology as a practitioner or researcher, this course is suited to your needs. It's also

suitable if you are working in health and social care settings and want to learn more about theory and practice to progress your career.

Learn from experts in the field

You'll learn from experts in health psychology, as well as staff in the wider Department of Psychology(/departments/department-of-psychology/) community. Their passion, knowledge, experience and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

Use specialist facilities

The Department of Psychology is located in a new £30 million building.

You'll be able to use this space for your seminars, group meetings and computer work. The building contains advanced psychology research facilities, including:

- biopsychology suite with two-way mirror(<https://massinteract.com/university-of-bath/31964258p&296.91h&85.92t>)
- crossmodal laboratory including a soundproof room(/360-image/index.html?360=45)
- sensory and pain research suite(<https://massinteract.com/university-of-bath/31964257p&107.79h&83.97t>)
- social and developmental observation labs(/360-image/index.html?360=46), including the Bath Babylab(/research-groups/bath-babylab/)
- virtual reality lab(/360-image/index.html?360=44) with motion sensor cameras
- an electroencephalogram (EEG) scanner
- eye-tracking equipment

As an MSc Health Psychology student, you'll have access to an independent workspace in 10 West. This contains PCs and working spaces.

Gain important career skills

Upon successful completion of this course, you'll have gained:

- enhanced research skills that can be applied to primary, secondary and tertiary health and social care settings
- core knowledge of health psychology approaches, theories and models
- a strong foundation for further postgraduate training in health psychology

You'll also receive comprehensive support to help you find and prepare for graduate positions, placements, and a variety of other employment opportunities. This will include sessions that cover professional skills development.

We'll also provide you with information about progressing to doctoral study and/or Stage 2 Health Psychology training.

Graduate prospects

Studying this course will prepare you for moving into a wide range of health-related posts within universities, government departments, the private sector and charities.

The skills you gain will also act as a solid foundation for going on to undertake a PhD, Stage 2 professional doctorate, further clinical psychology training or work as a research assistant.

Recent graduates of this course have gone on to work in a wide variety of roles, including:

- Project Executive at a national cancer charity
- Public Health Researcher at a local council
- Trainee Health Psychologist
- Research Officer at the Office for National Statistics
- Assistant Psychologist within the NHS
- Doctoral student on a UK doctoral-level counselling course
- Research Assistant at a European university
- Teaching Assistant
- Doctoral student on a UK doctoral-level clinical psychology course

Contact hours

You are expected to spend approximately 15-20 hours per week studying, with around

4 hours of this being structured classes.

This will be made up of a combination of lectures, practical sessions, and tutorials. You will work as an individual and as part of small groups.

Delivery methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the learning and teaching methods used on the course:

Practical sessions
Lectures
Tutorials

Assessment summary

You'll experience a balance of different forms of assessment designed to support your professional development. This will be made up of coursework, including essays, reports, presentations, practical work, set exercises, reflective assessments, and a dissertation.

We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities. Take a look at our Disability Service's pages(/professional-services/disability-service/) for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:

Coursework
Essay
Oral presentation
Dissertation
Practical
Reflective assessment
Report
Set exercises

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of textbooks. Some courses involve visits away from campus and you may be required to pay some or all of the costs of travel, accommodation and food and drink. If you're on a placement, you're responsible for your own travel, accommodation and living costs. You should also consider the financial implications if you go on an unpaid or overseas placement.

Additional Costs

If you receive an offer, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of £1,000 when you accept to secure your place. This will be deducted from your tuition fee when you register.

During your placement you may need to pay travel costs. This is dependent on where your placement is and the in-person working requirements of the organisation.

Different placements will have different requirements, but may require a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This will be at your own expense. Currently enhanced DBS checks cost £44.

Placement/Study Year Abroad details

This is one of the only BPS-accredited courses to offer a 16-week work placement. Part-time students can complete the 16 weeks on a pro-rata basis.

You'll be allocated a placement within an academic, public health or health-related setting. During this, you'll work on a piece of research that addresses an actual challenge. This will allow you to use real-world evidence and experience alongside your knowledge of health psychology theories, models and approaches.

Your placement will take place during the summer (typically May to August). You'll be paired with a placement supervisor and an academic supervisor - the latter will be a member of our health psychology team - to ensure you are supported throughout.

In addition to gaining invaluable employment experience, you'll improve your understanding of how health psychology can be applied in different contexts.

As with all of our placement opportunities, these change from year to year, and we cannot guarantee specific roles or locations. If you have any specific questions on the placement that forms part of this course, please reach out to the relevant placement officer(/teams/faculty-of-humanities-social-sciences-placements-team/).

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	Not specified
Course Progression Requirements	Not specified

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PS00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	PS52048	Health psychology approaches	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	
AY	PS52051	Health psychology interventions	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	

Additional rules for module selection

None

Year 2

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PS52038	Advanced research methods for applied psychology	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	15	
AY	PS52052	Health psychology placement	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
DIS	PS52049	Health psychology dissertation	Part 4 Project/Diss Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	35	

Additional rules for module selection

None

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
No data found						
Additional rules for module selection						
None						

The availability of optional units is subject to constraints such as staff availability, minimum and maximum group sizes, and timetabling factors, as well as a student's ability to meet any pre-requisite rules.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge and Understanding	Professional and Transferable Skills	Study Year
	Understanding	Skills	Placement Abroad
Demonstrate an understanding of the psychological processes involved in the consultation and provision of treatment	✓		
Appreciate how individuals manage acute and long term physical health conditions	✓		
Demonstrate clarity of thought and quality of argument in health psychology theory and application		✓	
Demonstrate the ability to choose appropriate research designs and conduct appropriate statistical analysis		✓	
Appreciate the uses of qualitative and quantitative methods and their		✓	

application

Identify and engage critically with appropriate literature in the field of health psychology	✓
Design, conduct, analyse, interpret and report a study in health psychology and recognise its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations	✓
Effectively apply principles of health psychology within a variety of health contexts	✓
Develop the knowledge of ethical, organisation and governance related issues associated with working in a health related context	✓ ✓
Communicate complex information effectively using appropriate written, oral, graphical and electronic means, considering a diverse and varied audience	✓

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards

There are two exit awards. These are detailed below. Relevant tables for these are included above also. Diploma in Health Psychology Students will be awarded a Diploma in Health Psychology if they pass all four 15 credit units below. Additionally, students must elect to complete the Diploma in Health Psychology as an exit award instead of progressing to Health Psychology Placement and Health Psychology Dissertation. Health Psychology Approaches – (15 credits) Health Psychology Interventions – (15 credits) Advanced Research Methods in Applied Psychology – (15 credits) Health Psychology in Focus – (15 credits) – This unit is specific to the diploma. Certificate in Health Psychology Students will be awarded a Certificate in Health Psychology if they pass two of the three following 15 credit units below: Health Psychology Approaches – (15 credits) Health Psychology Interventions – (15 credits) Advanced Research Methods in Applied Psychology – (15 credits)