



BROWSE PAGE EDIT

**Status:** Checked out to MariCarmen Gil Ortega.

Shared with...

Add a page

Add an app

Site contents

Design Manager

Site settings

Getting started



### Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<i>Programme title</i>	MSc (PG Dip / PG Cert) Health Psychology
<i>Awarding Institution//Body</i>	University of Bath
<i>Teaching Institution</i>	University of Bath
<i>Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)</i>	MSc Health Psychology accredited by British Psychological Society 1999, 2003, 2008 & 20...
<i>Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:</i>	n/a
<i>Date of Specification preparation/revision</i>	
<i>Applicable to cohorts</i>	
<i>Programme Approved by</i>	

#### Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The programme is the responsibility of the Department of Psychology and was established in 1996. We have built an excellent track record for the training of health psychologists since it began. Our programme was one of the first in Britain to be accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) in 1999. The content of the programme closely follows the syllabus recommended by the British Psychological Society.

The programme aims to provide the first stage in the training of Chartered Health Psychologists working in Britain. The inclusion of a placement in the programme provides practical experience with a psychologist working in a health-related setting, as well as the opportunity to integrate applied psychology. We also aim to provide a multidisciplinary programme through our own teaching and with the assistance of colleagues working on other health disciplines.

**Structure and Content:**

The Masters in Health Psychology is studied as a one-year full-time programme or a two-year parttime programme. The formally taught units are offered between September and April. The programme includes a placement over the summer months for those who progress to the Masters in Health Psychology. The programme is divided into three phases each consisting of a number of units. Details of unit contents can be found from the Unit Catalogue from <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/other.html> - please note that these are updated in July of each year to list units for the following academic year.

The first phase of work, involves successful completion of three, 18 credit units over two semesters from October - April (PS50195, PS50196, PS50188). Unit PS50195 provide a grounding in health psychology theory and core approaches and offer students the opportunity to consider contexts and perspectives in health psychology, physiological and psychosomatic disease processes, health related behaviour and cognitions. Unit PS50196 provides an opportunity to apply health psychology via developing an understanding of client groups and other stakeholders, interventions and applications within health psychology, healthcare and professional settings. Both these units also help students to develop understanding around analytical skills, professional development, and measurement issues. In addition PS50188 provides an opportunity to explore the application of applied research design and methodologies, and both quantitative and qualitative analysis. Students who do not wish to proceed to a Diploma or Masters may exit at this point.

In phase two, when all the taught units have been taken students who do not progress to the Masters but who wish to exit with a Diploma are required to complete an extended essay (PS50081), which allows them to develop a more in-depth understanding of a key health psychology issue of their own choice. Students are not permitted to defer to the diploma option once they have commenced the placement and dissertation phase of the programme.

The third phase of work involves the successful completion of a placement (PS50051 - 6 credits) which provides students with the opportunity to develop their skills as a scientist-practitioner by working closely with health professionals working in research and practice settings. Students also further develop their research skills as they put into practice some of the methods, theories and skills that they have learned by carrying out an independent research project which they write up in the form of a dissertation (PS50055 - 30 credits). Successful completion of phases 1, 2, and 3 results in the award of 90 credits in the ETCS system.

**Educational aims of the programme**

---

The Masters in Health Psychology will enable students:

- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of health psychology
- To develop the general critical and analytical powers of the student
- To develop critical, analytical problem-based learning skills and the transferable skills to prepare the student for postgraduate employment or further study
- To enhance the development of the students interpersonal skills
- To develop research skills
- To provide the student with opportunities for collaborative learning with others
- To assist the student to develop the skills required for both autonomous and team work

**Learning outcomes**

Students gaining an award from this programme should be able to:

- Identify and engage critically with appropriate and representative literature in the field of health psychology
- Understand current contributions to health psychology
- Demonstrate clarity of thought and quality of argument in health psychology theory and application
- Have the ability to conduct appropriate statistical analysis
- Appreciate the uses of qualitative and quantitative methods and their application
- Locate issues and concerns of health psychology in the wider health sciences research context
- Understand the psychological processes involved in the consultation and provision of treatment
- Appreciate how ill people cope with chronic and acute health conditions

In addition to the above, students successfully completing the placement and dissertation and therefore who are awarded the Masters in Health Psychology should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Select and justify the focus, scope and methodology of a study in health psychology
- Carry out independent research in health psychology
- Critically review, employ and engage with the appropriate literature on the study area
- Draw appropriate conclusions from the research study, being aware of its strengths and limitations
- Work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Effectively and efficiently apply principles of health psychology within a variety of health contexts

**Teaching and learning methods**

Lead lectures, tutor-led seminars and tutorials, student-led seminars, practical workshops, guided reading, group work, active participation in research seminar programmes, monitoring of personal development and problem-based scenarios.

**Assessment**

Coursework, practical presentations, placement report, dissertation, research protocol.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge &amp; Understanding:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the theoretical basis of learning processes and effective learning.</li> <li>• Fundamental concepts of health psychology relevant to the student becoming an effective practitioner.</li> <li>• Theoretical basis of health psychology.</li> <li>• Current developments in practice and research in health psychology</li> <li>• To understand how these knowledge outcomes apply in work based situations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intellectual Skills:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To think creatively and analytically</li> <li>• To communicate an argument</li> <li>• To evaluate others arguments and research</li> <li>• To learn independently and to be able to assess own learning needs.</li> <li>• To critically evaluate and assess research and evidence as well as a variety of other information.</li> <li>• To gather information, data, research and literature from a number of different sources.</li> <li>• To synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding.</li> <li>• To utilise problem solving skills.</li> <li>• To work independently</li> <li>• To communicate an argument to other health professionals</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Practical Skills:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reflect upon new technology and innovation within social sciences and to make decisions regarding legitimacy, reliability and effectiveness.</li> <li>• To effectively and efficiently apply principles of health psychology within a variety of health contexts.</li> <li>• To develop sensitivity to the values and interests of others.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transferable/Key Skills:</li> </ul>	

- Study and learning skills.
- Basic information and computing technology skills.
- To be aware of ethical issues in carrying out research.
- Inter-personal and communication skills.
- Essay research, preparation and writing skills.
- Revision and examination skills.
- Time management and administration skills.
- Presentation skills and verbal communication.
- Advanced information technology and computing technology (e.g. SPSS)
- Team and group working skills.
- To reflect on his/her academic and professional performance and take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.
- To solve problems in a variety of situations.
- To prioritise workloads.
- Independent and group working skills
- Advanced oral communication skills
- Advanced numeracy skills
- Leadership skills
- To understand career opportunities and challenges ahead.

#### Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

#### Progression Regulations and Awards

##### Progression and interim awards

The first phase of work, which can result in an exit award of Postgraduate Certificate, should the student wish, offers students the opportunity to study the fundamental concepts of health psychology and to gain an understanding of the theoretical basis of health psychology. In addition, students develop their research skills.

The second phase of work, which can result in an exit award of Postgraduate Diploma, should the student wish, provides an opportunity to further explore concepts of health psychology and develops the students understanding of both the development and practice of research in health psychology.

The third phase of work, which results in an exit award of a Masters in Health Psychology, provides students with the opportunity to develop their skills as a scientist-practitioner by working closely with a psychologist working in a health setting. Students also further develop their research skills as they put into practice some of the methods, theories and skills that they have learned and undertake an empirical piece of research.

The programme assessment and progression regulations are covered by the University's "New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes (NFAAR-PGT)" which can be found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm>.

With effect from 2019/20, the MSc Health Psychology is exempted from the NFAAR-PGT requirement that an aggregate mark of 40% is required for the successful completion and award of credit for a unit. Instead an aggregate mark of 50% is required, and where 40% is specified elsewhere in NFAAR-PGT, 50% is meant for these programmes. (Exemption granted by University Learning, Teaching & Quality Committee, 19 March 2019.)

Specific regulations for the Masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>.

If a student fails a unit, a BEP will meet in April/May to agree supplementary assessment recommendations for approval by the Board of Studies and for completion during the dissertation phase of the programme. The student may be permitted to progress to the next stage of the programme (Placement and Dissertation) whilst undertaking supplementary assessment. Results of supplementary assessment for units will be considered at the September Supplementary BEP.

All decisions will be based on the Persistent Generic PGT Rules for the programme (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>).

In the case of **Part-Time students**, decisions on supplementary assessment requirements will be made at the April/May BEP at the end of the Taught Stage. Any decisions regarding supplementary assessment requirements will be based on the Persistent Generic PGT Rules for the whole Taught Stage (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>). It should be noted however that, very occasionally, those decisions made during the Stage may have to be reconsidered at a subsequent BEP, depending on the students' performance during the remainder of the Stage, taking into account the timeframe in which supplementary assessment has to be completed. Given the extended durations for dissertations, final award decisions may be delayed beyond the normal November BEP to the following April/May BEP.

#### Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

Integral to the Bath MSc in Health Psychology is the summer placement, a unique aspect not currently offered by other MSc health psychology courses in the UK. All students complete a summer placement of 16 weeks working closely alongside an academic or health professional. This provides an excellent opportunity to put into practice some of the methods and theories that the students have learned during the programme and to build professional skills. Most students' work with health professionals in Britain, but some have taken the opportunity to complete placements abroad e.g., Greece, USA. Candidates may be required to seek a Standard or Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service prior to undertaking their placement. Part time students may complete their placement part time over these same four months in the first and second year of the programme or full time in the second year of the programme.

#### Details of Study Abroad Requirements

#### Details of Professional Accreditation

**The British Psychological Society** requires particular standards and content in our programmes so that students exit able to claim professional registration or recognition, enabling them to progress successfully in their subsequent careers. Current professional accreditations are reviewed periodically by the bodies concerned. They are shown against each relevant programme in the prospectus. The full list can be seen here: [QA8 RegisterofAccreditationsCurrent.pdf](#).

#### Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

The programme is open to graduate psychologists.

UK graduates will normally be expected to have been awarded a good honours degree in Psychology (upper second class or above) and to have completed a programme that is recognized by the British Psychological Society (The Graduate Basis for Registration).

Applicants must submit a personal statement that provides evidence of how their academic, professional and personal experiences equip them to meet the demands of the programme. As part of the statement they will also be asked to document their reasons for wishing to study health psychology at University of Bath and to outline their subsequent career intentions.

Overseas students with equivalent qualifications will be admitted in accordance with the University's regulations. Overseas applicants must seek approval for their course from the British Psychological Society before they can be admitted to the programme.

These admissions criteria are a baseline expectation for all candidates.

English requirements:

IELTS 7.0 (with not less than 6.5 in each category).

These are the minimum levels required.

Students may be interviewed by telephone.

#### Details of Support Available to Students

All taught students will be allocated a Personal Tutor and a supervisor who is responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students.

Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services.

These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/>.

There are also Medical and Dental Centres, and a Chaplaincy on campus that are very experienced in meeting the needs of a student population, as well as a University nursery and vacation sports schemes are sometimes available for older children during the school holidays.

#### Department and Programme Specific Support Information

Programme web page

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/programmes/msc-in-heal-psyc>

British Psychological Society

<http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/undergraduate-and-postgraduate-psychology/undergraduate-and-postgraduate->

**Business Support Systems** - part of Computing Services