University of Sheffield

Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Psychological Research Methods		
2. Award type	Master of Science		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 7	**Mode of Study:** Full time Part time	**Duration:** 1 year 2 years
4. Faculty	Faculty of Science		
5. School	**Owning:** School of Psychology		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Eligibility for Graduate Membership of the BPS		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 100497 **Percentage:** 50	**Code:** 100959 **Percentage:** 50	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code (internal use)	PSYT107 (Full time) PSYT24 (Part time)		

9. Programme aims

	The programme aims to:
A1	Provide students with comprehensive training in general research skills for psychological and related behavioural, empirical research.
A2	Broaden knowledge and critical understanding of leading-edge psychological research methods and analysis.
A3	Provide training in the key skills required to plan and manage a research project, equipping students with a solid foundation for pursuing a research degree or a career in non-academic research.
A4	Immerse students in an academic environment that rewards innovation, fosters a sense of community, and encourages students to direct their own learning.

10. Programme learning outcomes

	Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
K1	Basic principles of research design and strategy, including formulating appropriate research problems and appreciating alternative research approaches.
K2	Applying a range of psychological research methods, analysis, and tools.
K3	Applying professional standards and best practices for conducting and disseminating research, as well as managing data.
K4	The conceptual basis of quantitative and qualitative research methods, their advantages and limitations, and the relationship between a research question and the choice of method of data collection.
	Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:
S1	Summarise and synthesise psychological literature systematically and replicably, using library and internet resources effectively.
S2	Use appropriate software to analyse and visualise data arising from research, enabling the discovery, interpretation, and critical appraisal of the data patterns emerging.
S3	Communicate research findings effectively to academic and non-academic audiences, both in written work and in oral presentations.
S4	Use appropriate and ethical research methods to independently and effectively address research problems and report the findings in a substantial piece of work.
S5	Display project management skills, personal responsibility and the ability to work in teams.
S6	Understand the structure and content of complex presentations, whether these are scientific data

	or difficult texts, using problem solving and reasoning skills.
S7	Use software for communication, word-processing, statistical analyses and accessing databases.
S8	Think deeply about difficult issues, including the ethical dimension of any work or activity, and to make judgements based on available evidence and argument.
S9	Communicate ideas and arguments effectively, where applicable backed up by empirical evidence, both orally and in writing.
S10	Develop the skills and confidence of an independent learner, with the ability to manage time effectively by working to deadlines.
S11	Work autonomously to research and produce substantial pieces of writing, including empirical work of a recognised scientific quality, to specified standards of content and presentation; and be able to work as part of a team aware of the psychological aspects of interpersonal communication and shared skills.
S12	Use libraries and IT resources effectively for the purposes of searching for and acquiring relevant information.
S13	Manage and synthesise bodies of psychological literature in a systematic and replicable fashion.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

The primary teaching methods, except for the research project which is individually supervised, are seminars and workshops. These methods maximise staff-student interaction and active participation by students in discussions, individual presentations and team-working on practical problems. They also provide a supportive context in which immediate feedback can be offered to, and discussed with, students on aspects of their performance. Additionally students have the opportunity for reflective practice and critical examination of issues through discussion, and to enhance their transferable skills such as use of IT, communication and presentation skills, and the ability to work effectively in groups.

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Taught modules include a variety of assessment methods to cater for different learning styles and preferences, offering diverse opportunities to demonstrate learning. Coursework is spread across the semesters and includes written exercises (essays, research proposals, a systematic review, statistics and coding exercises, and e-portfolios) and oral presentations, with an emphasis on effective communication to different audiences. The dissertation research project is completed during the summer. Formative assessment of the research project includes draft chapters of the dissertation; summative assessment includes an oral presentation at an internal conference and a written report.

Formative feedback is built into all modules of the programme and includes oral feedback in workshops and seminars, dissertation supervision meetings, and written feedback on draft chapters of the dissertation. In addition, students are encouraged to proactively raise questions and request feedback on exercises in workshops and when conducting the research project. Summative feedback is provided on all coursework through written annotations and electronic marking via Turnitin and Blackboard.

Version Number:	Purpose / Change:	Cohort affected: (academic year and level)	Date change approved:
1			March 2017
2	Major Amendment	26/27 - Year 1	October 2025

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