PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION		Newcastle University

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	BSc Hons
4	**Programme Titles**	Psychology Psychology with Professional Placement Psychology with Placement Year Psychology with International Study Year
5	**UCAS/Programme Code**	C800 C801 1310U 1606U
6	**Programme Accreditation**	British Psychological Society
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	Psychology
8	**FHEQ Level**	6
9	**Date written/revised**	February 2024

10	**Programme Aims**

The programme aims:

1. To provide undergraduate degree programmes that will enable our students to gain the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society.

2. To provide coherent and detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of the theoretical and empirical basis of the major areas of contemporary Psychology.

3. To provide coherent and detailed knowledge of and competence in the practical skills, research methods and data analysis needed to carry out psychological investigations and procedures.

4. To prepare students to progress to professional training in Psychology or related programmes.

5. To develop students' intellectual and transferrable graduate skills and psychological literacy and cultivate the application of these skills to personal, professional and social issues.

Additional for Professional Placement/ Placement Year
6. To provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer.

7. To facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting.

8. To provide a period of practical work experience that will enhance employability.

9. To enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the workplace, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings.

Additional for Study Abroad:

10. To cultivate intercultural competence and global citizenship through studying in a different culture and learning environment.

11. Study a broader range of modules than available in the standard-length degree.

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11   Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Psychology.

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Knowledge and understanding

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On completing the programme students should be able to:

A1   Describe, evaluate, and apply key processes, theories, and research methods in the main areas of psychology which will provide sufficient breadth and depth to meet the BPS requirements for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership.

A2   Discuss, evaluate and synthesise knowledge from the core areas of psychology and their inter linkages, i.e., biological psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, social psychology, personality and individual differences, conceptual and historical issues, research methods.

A3   Independently conduct a piece of empirical research thus demonstrating the application of appropriate research methods i.e., research design, data collection, the appropriate analysis of data including a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods and issues concerning research ethics.

Additional for Professional Placement/ Placement Year:

A4   Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.

A5   Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.

A6   Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.

A7   Relate their work-based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary method of imparting knowledge and understanding is lectures, supplemented by additional materials and online resources. Learning is further supported by tutorials and/or seminars, small group work, practical classes and workshops appropriate to the module content. These delivery mechanisms allow outcomes A1, A2. Our research methods and data analysis strand taught via the methods outlined above culminates in a final year empirical project ensuring outcome A3.

Additional for Professional Placement/ Placement Year:
A placement taken after Stage 2 allows outcomes A4-A7

Assessment Strategy

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Assessment of A1-A3 is by means of formal unseen and seen written examinations (essay, MCQs SAQs) and oral presentations and coursework which includes, essays, practical reports, poster presentations and group work assignments amongst others. Modules provide opportunity for formative assessment and feedback and students are encouraged to reflect on feedback so it can be fed – forward into future assessments and encourages students' progress and self-monitoring.

Additional for Psychology Professional Placement/Placement Year:
The placement module is assessed by means of a poster presentation, reflective log, and supervisor reports (A4-A7).

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1   Gather information from a variety of sources.

B2   Understand and apply theoretical concepts.

B3   Evaluate arguments and evidence.

B4   Formulate and test hypotheses and develop research questions.

B5   Understand and consider critical issues in psychology and articulate arguments and points of view in relation to these.

B6   Reflect on their own learning, knowledge, and skills.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary method for developing Intellectual Skills are lectures, supplemented by additional materials and online resources. Skill development is further supported by tutorials and/or seminars, small group work, practical classes, and workshops appropriate to the module content. These delivery mechanisms allow outcomes B1-B3. Our research methods and data analysis strand taught via the methods outlined above culminates in a final year empirical project ensuring outcome B4. Our Psychological Enquiry curriculum strand and Placement Degrees use the methods detailed previously along with tools such as NU Reflect to aid reflective practice enabling outcome B6.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment of B1-B3 and B5 is by means of formal unseen and seen written examinations (essay, MCQs and SAQs), coursework and oral presentations. B4 is assessed by practical reports, poster and oral presentations and the empirical project. B6 is assessed via reflective logs. Modules provide opportunity for formative assessment and feedback and students are encourages to reflect on feedback so it can be fed – forward into future assessments and encourages students' progress and self-monitoring.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1   Understand and implement empirical design principles and identify appropriate research methods for the design of empirical studies.

C2   Conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses and interpret data and findings.

C3   Demonstrate numerical and graphical data presentation skills.

C4   Use results to inform their understanding of psychology.

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Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary method for developing Practical Skills is through our Research Methods and Data Analysis curriculum strand and through the Project (C1-C4), complemented via learning across the curriculum (C4). These modules are delivered via lectures and practical workshop sessions.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment is by means of formal exams, research reports and other coursework including oral and poster presentations and through the Empirical Project. Modules provide opportunity for formative assessment and feedback and students are encourages to reflect on feedback so it can be fed – forward into future assessments and encourages students' progress and self-monitoring.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should have the ability to:

D1   Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts using different modes of communication (written, oral, poster, video) suitable to the audience.

D2   Use appropriate search tools and library resources to source information effectively.

D3   Work both independently and as an effective member of a team.

D4   Take responsibility for their own learning, intellectual, practical and transferable skills development.

D5   Effectively 'time-manage' allocated work of various nature, as well as the ability to schedule workloads effectively.

D6   Be competent in using and evaluating information technology.

D7   Reflect on and manage own learning and development in personal, professional, and societal contexts.

D8   Respect and value diverse perspectives and experiences

Teaching and Learning Methods

The development of these key transferable skills or graduate attributes are interwoven in teaching and learning across our programmes. For example, D1 is acquired across core modules where students have to prepare their work in different mediums and for different audiences. A mix of independent work and opportunities for group work are afforded by the programme with the use of peer mentor groups and demonstrator led group work to facilitate D3. Formal teaching related to D2, D4, D7 & D8 are integrated into our Psychological Enquiry curriculum strand. This strand also provides guidance on D5, although it is anticipated this is developed through successful completion of the programme, adhering to deadlines and maintaining satisfactory attendance.

Assessment Strategy

Skills D1-D6 are assessed across the programme through essays, practical reports, skills portfolios, oral and poster presentations and the Empirical Project. D7 and D8 are assessed via reflective logs. D5 is not assessed per se but is necessary for the student to achieve success over the three year period, and guidance in relation to this is provided where necessary by personal tutors.

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12	Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme
This is a three-year (BSc Psychology) or four-year (BSc Psychology with Professional Placement) full-time programme based on 30 weeks attendance per annum and accredited by the BPS. Modules to the value of 120 credits are taken in each year or stage, and 10 credits are equivalent to 100 hours of study time (contact time plus private study time). Modules can vary in size, although the majority are worth either 10 or 20 credits. The third year of the four-year programme is comprised of a single 120 credit module involving a professional placement.   In Stage 1 all modules are compulsory. Stage 2 comprises 80 credits compulsory modules and 40 credits optional modules. Students may take up to 20 credits from Stage 2 modules offered by another unit. In Stage 3 the 3rd year project (30 credits) and Psychological Enquiry module (10 credits) are compulsory with a total of 80 credits from optional modules (students may take up to 20 credits from FHEQ level 5 or 6, non-psychology modules subject to approval of the DPD).

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
Across our programme our modules can be viewed as three strands;   Content modules-that focus initially on teaching student breadth in content areas of psychology as students progress through the degree the focus shifts to depth and at Stage 3 modules reflect the specific areas of expertise of our staff, cementing the research led approach of our teaching.   Research Methods and Data Analysis modules focus on developing the skills and understanding required for students to be competent undergraduate researchers and to ultimately undertake a piece of independent research in the form of their Empirical Project. Psychological Enquiry modules initially introduce students to the academic skills needed for university level study, then foster awareness of key conceptual issues in psychology today and finally, at Stage 3 encourage students to reflect on their own development and helps to prepare them for life after university.   Across the programmes   Stage 1 provides a good introduction to a broad range of basic topics in Psychology and also gives guidance in the development of a range of key skills, including time management, memory techniques, organising knowledge, note-taking, reading styles (including speed-reading), creative use of IT and communication skills. Topics are taught in this Stage in order to introduce students to the variety of content and different methodologies of the subject, and to provide them with basic psychological principles, which are important to apply throughout the subject; this approach continues throughout the first year, although there is some development between semesters 1 and 2.   Stage 2 has ten 10 credit modules in the core areas of psychology, of which four Research Methods modules, covering both quantitative and qualitative methods providing a detailed and comprehensive approach to research methodology in conjunction with practical work. In addition, Stage 2 will further develop academic and professional skills in psychology, encouraging students to think critically about major issues, debates and current problems, practical issues in psychology and to record and reflect upon their skills development using NU Reflect. There are also optional psychology modules, with students able to take up to 20 credits from Stage 2 modules offered by another unit.   Following successful completion of Stage, 2 students can apply to undertake either a 32 week professional placement, a career placement or a study abroad year. For those obtaining a professional placement, it provides psychology students with experience of applying psychological knowledge, for example within the NHS, within research laboratories, or within schools. Students will therefore graduate having gained experience of working in a relevant profession. Students opting for a career's placement gain similar experience and skills but via a placement in an area outside those considered professional psychology careers. For those completing a study abroad year, they gain experience of adapting to live

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and study in. different culture whilst continuing to develop their knowledge understanding and skills.

Stage 3 allows for specialisation and focus on topics of particular interest or career relevance to our students. Through an array of modules that reflect the expertise of our staff it offers the opportunity for students to discover some of the latest work that is being carried out in the field. There are two compulsory modules, the Project (30 credits) and the Psychological enquiry module and then a range of optional 10 and 20 credit modules, which are chosen from a range which can include up to 20 credits from outside the degree structure.

The 30 credit project provides students with the opportunity to do a piece of research in an area, either of their own choosing or that is part of the current research programme of a member of staff and enables students to apply and develop the various skills of research methodology and data analysis acquired over the previous two years.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[RC800, C801, 1310U, 1606U_2425_vFinal.pdf](#)

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13   Support for Student Learning

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See Psychology Student Handbook for more detail

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14   Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and   learning

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See Psychology Student Handbook for more detail

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15   Regulation of assessment

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See Psychology Student Handbook and Assessment Guide for more detail

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In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject

Degree Programme and University Regulations: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.

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Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Development of specific Intended Learning Outcomes occurs through the following modules (compulsory modules in bold text, optional modules in normal, italic text)

	Statement of intended learning outcome	Modules contributing to the outcome
A1	Describe, evaluate, and apply key processes, theories and research methods in the main areas of psychology which will provide sufficient breadth and depth to meet the BPS requirements for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership.	All modules
A2	Discuss, evaluate and synthesise knowledge from the core areas of psychology and their inter linkages, i.e., biological psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, social psychology, personality and individual differences, conceptual and historical issues, research methods.	All modules
A3	Independently conduct a piece of empirical research thus demonstrating the application of appropriate research methods i.e., research design, data collection, the appropriate analysis of data including a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods and issues concerning research ethics.	**PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY2023, PSY2024, PSY2025, PSY2026,** PSY3048 **PSY3097** It should be noted that all modules aim to develop these skills through research-led teaching
A4	Additional for Psychology Professional Placement: Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.	**PSY3000**
A5	Additional for Psychology Professional Placement: Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.	**PSY3000**
A6	Additional for Psychology Professional Placement:	**PSY3000**

	Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.	
A7	Additional for Psychology Professional Placement: Relate their work-based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance	**PSY3000**
B1	**Gather information from a variety of sources**	**All modules**
B2	Understand and apply theoretical concepts.	All modules
B3	Evaluate arguments and evidence.	All modules
B4	Formulate and test hypotheses and develop research questions.	**PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY2023, PSY2024, PSY2025, PSY2026** PSY3048, **PSY3097***, It should be noted that all modules aim to develop these skills through research-led teaching
B5	Understand and consider critical issues in psychology and articulate arguments and points of view in relation to these.	All modules. With specific emphasis on this skill in **PSY2008 & PSY3029**
B6	Reflect on their own learning, knowledge, and skills	All modules with specific focus in **PSY1018**, **PSY2004, PSY2008, PSY3029**
C1	Understand and implement empirical design principles and identify appropriate research methods for the design of empirical studies.	**PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY2023, PSY2024, PSY2025, PSY2026, PSY3097,** PSY3048 It should be noted that all modules aim to develop these skills through research-led teaching
C2	Conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses and interpret data and findings.	**PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY2023, PSY2024, PSY2025, PSY2026, PSY3097,** PSY3048 It should be noted that all modules aim to develop these skills through research-led teaching
C3	Demonstrate numerical and graphical data presentation skills.	**PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY2023, PSY2024, PSY2025, PSY2026, PSY3097,** PSY3048 It should be noted that all modules aim to develop these skills through research-led teaching

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C4	Use results to inform their understanding of psychology.	**PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY2023, PSY2024, PSY2025, PSY2026, PSY3097,** PSY3048 It should be noted that all modules aim to develop these skills through research-led teaching
D1	Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts using different modes of communication (written, oral, poster, video) suitable to the audience.	All modules
D2	Use appropriate search tools and library resources to source information effectively.	All modules
D3	The ability to work both independently and as an effective member of a team.	**All modules**
D4	Take responsibility for their own learning, intellectual, practical and transferable skills development.	All modules with specific focus on this skill development in **PSY1018, PSY2008, PSY3029 & PSY3097**
D5	Effectively 'time-manage' allocated work of various nature, as well as the ability to schedule workloads effectively.	All modules with specific focus on this skill development in **PSY3097**
D6	Be competent in using and evaluating information technology.	All modules with specific focus on this skill development in **PSY1018, PSY1013, PSY1014, PSY3029, PSY3097**
D7	Reflect on and manage own learning and development in personal, professional, and societal contexts.	All modules with specific focus on this skill development in **PSY1018, PSY2008, PSY3029**
D8	Respect and value diverse perspectives and experiences	All modules