Psychology

Investigate it

Challenge it

nottingham.ac.uk/psychology
Undergraduate guide 2018
Welcome to the School of Psychology

Psychology is a stimulating, diverse and fast-paced field of study. In our school, we are committed to generating and sharing knowledge that helps us to understand and predict human behaviour. If you study with us we will work with you to develop a comprehensive knowledge of psychology.

Throughout your course we’ll stretch you intellectually, and challenge you to evaluate and test your own thoughts and ideas as well as those of others. We will do this by introducing you to fundamental topics in psychology, by developing your critical thinking and communication abilities, and by providing you with practical experience of the many ways psychologists analyse and assess behaviour.

We will work in partnership with you to ensure that you complete your degree with the knowledge and skills in place to enable you to succeed in whatever you do next, be that employment or further study.

I hope to welcome you to our school soon.

Professor Paul McGraw
Head of the School of Psychology

To find out where a degree in psychology could take you, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/psychology
Studying psychology at Nottingham

Psychology is the scientific study of brain and behaviour, and is one of the most exciting, relevant and rapidly changing fields of study. It encompasses the perceptions, thoughts, feelings and actions of people from infancy to old age, as well as related phenomena in groups, organisations and societies, animals, and computers.

Our school community
From the peer mentoring scheme, to our esteemed society PsychoSoc, our students and staff are continually working together to create a friendly, supportive learning environment. Throughout your time at Nottingham you will have a personal tutor, overseeing your academic and personal development.

Research excellence
You will be taught by staff who are research active and, in many cases, international leaders in their fields. In the latest Research Excellence Framework the school was part of a unit of assessment that was ranked in the top 10 in the UK for research power.* Read more about our ground-breaking research on page 10.

Professional accreditation
Our BSc Psychology, MSci Psychology, and BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience degrees are accredited by the British Psychological Society, so you can be assured that the curriculum taught on these courses is determined by the Quality Assurance Agency’s benchmark statements for psychology.

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Our courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>A levels</th>
<th>IB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single honours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology</td>
<td>C800</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB^</td>
<td>36-34^^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>C850</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB^</td>
<td>36-34^^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSci Psychology</td>
<td>C803</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAA^^^</td>
<td>36-34^^</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Including one science subject, plus GCSE in English and maths at 5 or above. Candidates without an A level in a science subject may be asked to attain AAA.
^With at least 6, 6, 5 at Higher Level.
^^Including one science subject, plus GCSE in English and maths at 5 or above. Candidates without an A level in a science subject may be asked to attain A*AA.

In keeping with the reform to GCSEs in England where subjects are to be graded from 9 to 1 instead of A* to G, we can confirm that in accordance with Ofqual recommendations, we will treat GCSEs graded numerically as GCSE grade A=7, B=5, C=4. GCSE qualifications taken outside of the UK will still be graded A* to G.

English language requirements
IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element).
For more information and a list of the alternative English language requirements we accept, please see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Developing your academic English and study skills
The Centre for English Language Education (CELE) offers you the opportunity to develop your English language skills at one of the world’s top universities. Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English, CELE provides high-quality teaching, facilities and support. Our presessional courses take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to undergraduate study without taking IELTS again. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

I love that psychology is so diverse and relevant to everyday life. The school is so friendly that I found myself feeling at home really quickly. My lecturers are extremely knowledgeable in their subject area and the open door policy is great if you have any questions.
Alice Lindsey, BSc Psychology

For more information about our courses please visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/psychology
BSc Psychology

Our programmes are designed to offer you a structured introduction to key topics in psychology, and the opportunity to acquire and develop the fundamental skills of a psychologist.

Year one
In your first year we begin with the core areas of biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology. Your modules will cover theoretical principles as well as the applied aspects of these subjects – for example in education, engineering and clinical settings.

Lectures and tutorials on these core areas are complemented by a module in statistical methods of analysis and a practical methods module, which will teach you how to carry out psychological experiments. In addition, you will be able to choose a number of modules from departments across the University, such as business, languages, law, and philosophy.

Year two
Psychology modules follow on from the first year, tackling topics in greater depth. In addition to pursuing core modules you will also continue your training in research methods.

Greater independence in undertaking research is expected, and you will take part in practical sessions over a series of five-week group projects. Further modules in statistics develop your skills.

Year three
In your final year you are able to tailor the course to your personal interests by choosing from a wide range of optional modules. These options include branches of applied psychology such as clinical psychology, forensic and mental health, neuroscience or educational psychology, as well as advanced options dealing with topics of current importance in research. Many of these modules will allow you to undertake a dissertation for further credit.

You will also have the opportunity to complete a large-scale, independent research project. You’ll design and carry out the research yourself, with help and guidance from your project supervisor.

For more detailed course content visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/psychology

I thoroughly enjoyed developing my own research project, watching the number of participants rise, and eventually analysing the data which yielded some really interesting results. Even more exciting was learning that my research, which I’d dedicated so much time and effort to, had been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Throughout the process I was offered unwavering support, encouragement, and constructive feedback from my knowledgeable research supervisor.

Nicole Harvey, BSc Psychology

BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

Cognitive neuroscience is the study of the ways in which our brains support our thoughts, feelings and actions. You will develop an in-depth understanding of psychology, knowledge about brain structure and function, as well as ways of measuring brain activity.

This course links cognitive neuroscience practicals and modules with core elements of our BSc Psychology course.

Year one
Excellent cognitive neuroscientists are also excellent psychologists, so in your first year you will study the same psychology topics in the same classes as your peers on the BSc Psychology course (see page 9 for module details.) In addition, you will be able to choose modules in other disciplines, such as biology or neuroscience.

Year two
In the second year there is a module in specialised research methods, which will introduce you to a range of cognitive neuroscience methods such as functional magnetic resonance imaging, magnetoencephalography, electroencephalography, and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

It’s exciting to gain first hand insight relating to different neuroscientific methods for brain analysis from expert professionals. Such knowledge is applicable to many modules I undertake, providing a common framework for different topics in the degree.

Malwina Dziwisz, BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

Year three
During the third year the course focuses on understanding the relationships between our brains, our mental lives, and our behaviours. Advanced modules in cognitive neuroscience are offered, covering areas including learning, memory, perception, action, typical and atypical development and the brain basis of psychological disorders. A practical report and project can also be tailored to your interests.

For more detailed course content visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/psychology
MSci Psychology

Our four-year MSci course is designed for students considering a career in research.

The course is intellectually challenging and benefits from the strong research culture in our school. The teaching programme will provide you with a deep understanding of psychological theories and concepts, and the knowledge, analytical tools and skills you need to assess and conduct empirical research.

Year one to three
You will follow the BSc Psychology or BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience programme. See pages 6 and 7 for more information.

Year four
In the fourth year, you will be able to choose from a number of advanced modules, such as research methods, functional imaging methods, and professional skills. You will also have the opportunity to complete extended research projects spanning the third and final years of your four-year course.

We believe that conducting research on the same project over year three and four will be advantageous if you decide to apply for a PhD place on completion of your MSci.

For more detailed course content visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/psychology

Typical modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Year two</th>
<th>Year three</th>
<th>Year four (MSci only)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>Advanced Methods in Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Methods and Seminars in Psychology</td>
<td>Social and Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Functional Imaging Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Behaviour</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Professional Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Methods One</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology Two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Psychology One</td>
<td>Personality and Individual Differences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Psychology</td>
<td>Practical Methods Two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Practical Methods in Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistical Methods Two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
Our research

Research in our school is diverse and covers the four key topics described below. We have many links with other academic schools and institutes in Nottingham and at other prestigious universities. The school also works closely with business partners and charities. All of these partnerships give us opportunities for exciting and innovative research projects.

Our four core areas of research are:

**Behavioural neuroscience**
We investigate fundamental learning and memory processes. We apply our work to understand the causes of conditions such as schizophrenia with a view to ultimately developing interventions that will help people with neurological and psychological conditions.

**Cognition and cognitive neuroscience**
We study mental functions such as perception, memory, language and emotions, and investigate how they are supported by our brains. We do this by combining psychological assessments and tests with cutting edge techniques for measuring and stimulating human brain activity.

**Human development and learning**
We study the processes underlying learning and cognitive development. The school has particular strengths in the study of typically developing children, and children and adults with autism and Asperger’s syndrome. We work with schools, charities and support groups to ensure that our work is relevant to their concerns and needs, and we share our knowledge with them.

**Personality, social psychology and health**
We examine how the roles played by the thoughts, feelings, attitudes and actions of individuals and groups influence decision-making, particularly in relation to health behaviours, pro- and anti-social actions and risk-taking.

**Be a part of our research**
Cutting-edge research makes the University an attractive place to work for lecturers who are experts in their field. You will benefit from our teaching staff’s passion for and commitment to what they do. As you progress into your own research projects, you will be surrounded by experts who can advise and inspire you.

For more information about our research visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/psychology/research
Engaging study, incredible results

Group teaching sizes are small enough for us to know all of our students as individuals and the total class size is large enough to allow us to offer a wide range of modules, meaning that you will be able to tailor your degree to your specific interests.

Teaching
We use a variety of teaching methods ranging from lectures covering the fundamentals of psychology to practical classes and methods workshops, in which we will help you to develop the skills necessary to conduct hands-on psychological research. Interactive small-group sessions run throughout the course. These will support your learning by linking to the lecture content of the modules you are taking.

Personal tutor
At the start of your course you will be assigned a personal tutor who you will meet regularly in a small group. This is an opportunity for you to develop transferable skills such as essay writing, critical thinking and presentation skills. Tutorials are also a chance for you to work with your fellow students.

Research projects
Practical sessions will run in the first and second years, and will encourage you to develop your skills as an independent researcher.

In the third year, you will complete a large scale independent research project, where you will take the initiative in designing and carrying out the research yourself with help and guidance from your project supervisor. These are high-calibre pieces of work, some of which go on to be published in scientific journals.

Practical experience
Throughout the course, you will have many opportunities to participate in mentoring schemes plus scientific and public engagement activities. In the second year, you will be able to apply for a paid summer internship within the school, allowing you to gain academic and practical research experience and occasionally have your name included on a published scientific article.

How will I be assessed?
Our courses are assessed in a variety of ways, including written exams, coursework assignments, dissertations, essays, oral presentations, posters and laboratory reports. The degree classification is based on marks gained from all but the first year of study.

For more information about studying psychology visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/psychology

I enjoyed the flexibility of choosing from an extensive range of interesting optional modules in years one and three, as well as the opportunity to design and carry out my own in-depth psychological study in the final year. A psychology degree equips graduates with many transferable skills, opening up a wide variety of professions in the UK and abroad.

Jessica Davison, BSc Psychology

Develop transferable skills including oral and written communication, data processing and interpretation, and presentation techniques.
How to apply

All applications for an undergraduate place to study at the University of Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS.

Applications should be made online at ucas.com and candidates will be notified of decisions through UCAS Track.

Your personal statement
This is the section of your UCAS form that tells us most about you, and you should make the best use of it. Be as specific and detailed as you can – we would like to see that you are a student who can work hard, be self-motivated and make the best possible use of the opportunities that our courses offer you. We would also like to hear about any skills you have gained through extracurricular activities.

Alternative qualifications
In this brochure you will find our A level entry requirements but we accept a much broader range of qualifications.

These include:
- Access to HE Diploma
- Advanced Diploma
- BTEC HND/HNC
- BTEC Extended Diploma
- Cambridge Pre-U
- International Baccalaureate
- Irish Leaving Certificate
- Scottish Advanced Highers
- Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma

Flexible admissions policy
We recognise that some educational and personal circumstances affect achievement. If we judge that you have experienced circumstances that have adversely affected your achievement, we will consider them when assessing your academic potential. Some courses may vary the offer as a result. For the most up to date information about our offers, please see the entry requirements section of our course pages on our online prospectus. For more information about this policy, please see nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature applicants who have a significant gap in education. You should apply in the normal way through UCAS. More information for mature students can be found at nottingham.ac.uk/mature

International applicants
The University provides a range of information and advice for international applicants. If you are unable to attend an open day, we can meet you in your country at one of our overseas events or arrange an individual visit to the University. For further information please visit nottingham.ac.uk/go/international-applicants

Deferred entry
Applicants who wish to defer their entry by a year will not be at a disadvantage. Please tell us something about your plans for your gap year in your UCAS personal statement.

Equal opportunities policy
The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socio-economic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

Keep up to date with your application by checking online regularly.

To find out how to apply please visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying
World class for employability

As a Nottingham psychology graduate you will be well prepared for a wide range of employment and postgraduate study opportunities.

The skills you’ll develop will provide an excellent basis for many careers, including management, social work, teaching, marketing, and advertising. Our undergraduate courses also provide an excellent grounding for a research career or professional postgraduate training in areas of applied psychology, and approximately half of our students continue in the discipline after graduation.

£21,016 was the average starting salary, with the highest being £35,000.*

96% of first-degree graduates in the School of Psychology who were available for employment had secured work or further study within six months of graduation.*

Our careers team are on hand to offer advice and guidance after you graduate.

Recent graduate destinations include the fields of:
- Clinical psychology
- Counselling psychology
- Educational psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Sport and exercise psychology

Find out more about the Careers and Employability Service at nottingham.ac.uk/careers

Careers and Employability Service
Our Careers and Employability Service has a team dedicated to Faculty of Science students. They will be on hand to offer you specialist support and guidance throughout your degree and for life after you graduate. Whether you need help writing a CV, preparing for an interview or exploring career ideas, you can book one-to-one appointments or come along to a workshop. Each term there is also an exciting events schedule, bringing you face-to-face with employers offering real-life insight into their professions.

Recent graduate destinations include the fields of:

- Clinical psychology
- Counselling psychology
- Educational psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Sport and exercise psychology

The Nottingham Advantage Award
The award-winning Nottingham Advantage Award recognises and rewards your extracurricular activities. With a choice of over 200 modules, you can hone the key skills employers want. From developing your leadership skills and learning a language to public speaking and volunteering, you will leave university with demonstrable experience that sets you apart from other graduates.

For further information, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

Career-focused events
The School of Psychology organises a variety of careers events throughout the year to inform you about career opportunities and help improve your employability. You will be able to attend symposia on clinical, health and forensic psychology, meet with recent alumni and attend workshops on postgraduate opportunities.

We hold weekly drop-in sessions with a professional careers adviser, who will be able to answer all your careers questions, discuss your career plans and review your CV, application forms or personal statements.

Find out where Nottingham could take you and network with our graduates on LinkedIn.

* Known destinations of full-time home and EU first-degree graduates, 2014/15. Salaries are calculated based on those in full-time paid employment within the UK.
Experience it in a world beyond ordinary

There’s so much for you to get involved in and explore at the University and around the city. Whether you’re interested in sports, learning a language or just having fun with friends alongside studying, you’ll be spoilt for choice.

Getting involved in your Students’ Union

University of Nottingham Students’ Union (UoNSU) is a brilliant, diverse community, and whether you are an undergraduate or postgraduate, first-year or final-year student, you are a part of it. With 300+ student-led groups, clubs and societies, hundreds of volunteering opportunities and support for every stage of your university journey, your Students’ Union offers something for everyone. Find out more: su.nottingham.ac.uk

Your new home from home

At Nottingham we offer a wide range of room types across the campuses in both catered and self-catered accommodation. From standard single rooms with shared bathrooms to large en-suite studios and flats, there’s something to suit every budget and personal choice. For current pricing and to review all accommodation options please visit nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Exploring your new city

Nottingham city centre is around a 10-minute bus ride away from University Park Campus, so you’re always close to the action. There are plenty of music venues, from the world-famous Rock City to the Motorpoint Arena or one of the smaller gig venues for a more intimate live show. If you enjoy shopping, there are independent boutiques and vintage shops as well as high street names in our large shopping centres. Nottingham is also a hotspot for dining, with a great choice of cuisines on offer. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

Sport

The University of Nottingham is one of the UK’s leading universities for sport and is currently ranked 4th in the university sport rankings*. We have one of the biggest portfolios of sports facilities in the country including the brand new £40m David Ross Sports Village. We also have a rich heritage of supporting Olympic medallists and we have more than 70 student sports clubs to choose from. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/sport

*British Universities and Colleges Sport Standings, 2015-16.

Your support network

Throughout your university journey there will be numerous people on hand to support and advise you, including tutors and dedicated staff. We have Student Service Centres on all three of our UK campuses, which provide a range of support, information and specialist services. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

Learn a language

The University’s Language Centre gives you the opportunity to study a language alongside your course. All languages are offered from beginners’ level with some going up to near native competency. There are nine languages to choose from: Modern Standard Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/language-centre

Music

All student musicians at the University of Nottingham are encouraged to get involved with the vibrant musical life on campus. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/music/performance

Your opportunity to study abroad

We offer a range of study abroad opportunities with many students having the option to live and study in another country as part of their university career. Studying or working abroad is a fantastic opportunity to broaden your horizons, experience different cultures, and develop the key skills that employers are looking for. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/studyabroad

Experience it in a world beyond ordinary

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This brochure has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check our website for any updates before you apply for the course by following nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.