



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL OF  
PSYCHOLOGY

The background of the entire page is a colorful, stylized brain scan. The top half shows a cross-section of the brain with a color scale from blue to red. A white silhouette of a human head is overlaid on the scan, facing left. The bottom half of the image shows a more detailed view of the brain's internal structures, also in the same color scale.

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE

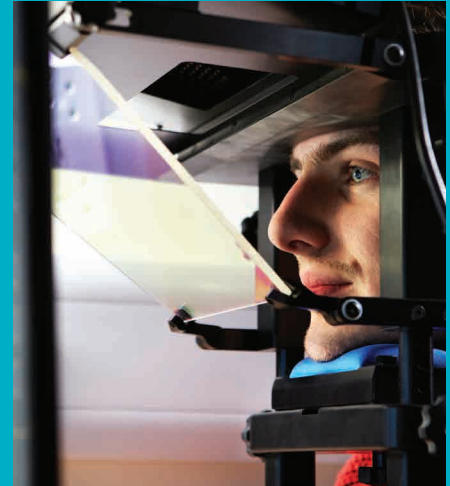
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# Introduction

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At Birmingham, you will study many different aspects of psychology – from child development to psychopharmacology, social psychology to neuroscience. We are one of the largest and most active psychology schools in the UK, with an excellent reputation for teaching and research across all areas of contemporary psychology.

You will study on one of the most attractive and heritage-rich campuses in the UK, only a few minutes from the centre of Birmingham. We are investing in a fully refurbished, purpose-designed space, which will be a new home for our undergraduate students from 2020.



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## THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

As a Psychology student at Birmingham, you will have access to purpose-built facilities specifically equipped for work in human brain sciences (including brain imaging), psychophysiology, cognition and language, visual and auditory perception, neuropsychology, attention, food and nutritional psychology, psychopharmacology, social psychology, clinical and forensic psychology and child development.

Our laboratories are equipped with state-of-the-art computers for experimental control, data collection and analysis. We also have large computer laboratories for statistical analysis, word processing and access to the University's main network. Our degree programmes provide training in the use of these facilities.

We have extensive links with local hospitals and clinics, other universities, industry and local and national government departments. These links provide opportunities for our students' individual research projects.

We are investing in new accommodation in the form of a fully purpose-designed space with ample new areas for undergraduates to study and socialise in. The newly opened Centre for Human Brain Health houses our new MRI and MEG facilities and sleep laboratories.

## WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH

The world-leading research we do feeds directly into our undergraduate programmes, which means you will be learning from academics who are experts in their fields. The School's research is supported by approximately £4.7 million grant income per year, the latest equipment and a number of specialised research centres including:


- Centre for Human Brain Health
- The Institute for Mental Health
- Centre for Applied Psychology
- The Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics

Over half of our research was recognised as being 'world leading' (REF 2014).

## OPENING A HOST OF DOORS

Our graduates are very successful, working in a range of sectors both at home and overseas. With an award-winning careers guidance service tailored to your academic subject area, you will have access to many exciting opportunities, such as mentoring and global internships, to help you stand out amongst the competition. Throughout your degree you will learn both transferable and discipline-specific skills giving you the confidence and experience to succeed.





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For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/psychology](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/psychology)

# Where will your degree take you?

Preparation for your future career should be one of the first things you think about when you start university.



Our graduates are well respected and successful in finding careers both within psychology/neuroscience and in the wider professional, commercial and industrial world. Psychology graduates are qualified to take up a wide range of careers, and many continue in psychology. A degree in Human Neuroscience will equip you for a range of careers both in and outside the life sciences sector.

Our BSc Psychology and MSci graduates are eligible for graduate membership of the British Psychological Society and Graduate Basis for Registration of the BPS, which is the first step towards postgraduate training and careers in clinical, forensic, educational or occupational psychology. Other graduates study towards higher degrees or join a team as research assistants. Some also become teachers of psychology in schools, sixth form colleges or further education colleges.

Alternatively, our graduates may enter careers in which their knowledge of psychology is a useful foundation, such as human resources, marketing, social work, the probation service, advertising or market research.

Some of our graduates find that the broadly scientific nature of our courses qualifies them for more general careers, including the scientific or administrative branch of the Civil Service, local government, the police, or broadcasting, journalism, computing, commerce or industry.

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/psych-careers](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/psych-careers)

Example employers for recent graduates:

- Autism West Midlands
- Accenture
- Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust
- Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust
- West Midlands Police
- The Cambridge Institute
- Fresh Winds Charity
- Dorset Healthcare University
- NHS Foundation

## TAILORED CAREERS SUPPORT FROM CAREERS NETWORK

We provide a wealth of opportunities to develop your career. From your first day at Birmingham to after you graduate, Careers Network is here to help you identify and achieve your individual career aspirations through its wide range of services.

Careers Network has a strong professional relationship with colleagues in the School and delivers a range of activities including career planning workshops and employer and alumni sessions focusing on key industry sectors of interest.

The dedicated careers team brings you information, advice and guidance tailored to your specific needs. Careers advisers offer one-to-one advice appointments where you can discuss your career plans and explore your options.

Our multi-award-winning work experience team has dedicated internship officers to help find the right work experience for you. Make the most of these opportunities and apply for our Work Experience Bursary Scheme, the Global Challenge Internship Programme or one of our successful mentoring schemes.

Our application advisers deliver a range of workshops and individual support to help you create the perfect CV and covering letter, improve your interview skills and use social media more effectively. You can access tailored careers information at our 'Careers Hubs' or via our dedicated careers virtual learning resource.

CAREERS



Employability data source: 2016/17 *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)* survey

'The course provided me with a wide range of research and analytical skills that I was able to apply to a range of professional jobs.'

**GAGANDEEP**  
BSc Psychology graduate

\* Graduate Prospects data source: *The Complete University Guide 2019*


For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/psych-careers](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/psych-careers)



'I am a strong believer that the best learning is achieved through experience, and my placement in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, as part of the MSci programme, has been phenomenal in this regard. The teaching on the course is of an excellent standard, but it's the work experience that really gives you the edge over other candidates hoping to get into applied psychology. My time at Birmingham has prepared me with a realistic view of mental health professions and has helped me build the confidence to succeed in the future.'

**CHRISTOPHER HUNT, MSci Psychology and Psychological Practice**



'I love coming out of every lecture and genuinely thinking I've learnt more than one new thing in that time. My lecturers are so passionate about the field of psychology they are teaching that they have inspired me to engage in the subject and want to learn more. I never thought that I'd be able to relate psychology so much to my everyday life. I can say with certainty that my lecturers are the reason behind my success and enjoyment at Birmingham.'

**NOUREEN LAKHANI, BSc Psychology**

# Psychology

## BSc

Because of the wide-ranging nature of psychology, we believe that students should examine all of its various approaches and interests before choosing an area in which to specialise.

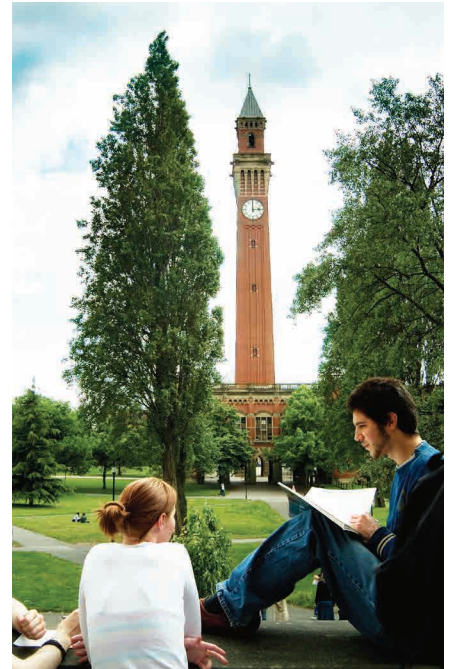
Our Single Honours BSc Psychology degree is therefore structured so that you will follow a common programme in all of the areas that make up the core of contemporary psychology. The degree programme is structured on a modular basis. In the first and second years you will take a range of modules covering psychology, research methods and subject-related skills (such as coding, public engagement, digital skills and entrepreneurship). In your final year you will be offered a range of options, allowing you to concentrate on the themes that interest you most.

Formal tuition is designed to provide a balance between theoretical issues and practical experience. However, the timetable of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical classes accounts for only a portion of the week, and you will have the opportunity to structure your own work within these formal attendance requirements. As part of this work you will write course-related essays and in some cases prepare posters and reports of practical work which, together with written exams at the end of each session, contribute to the mark for each year and to the final degree classification.

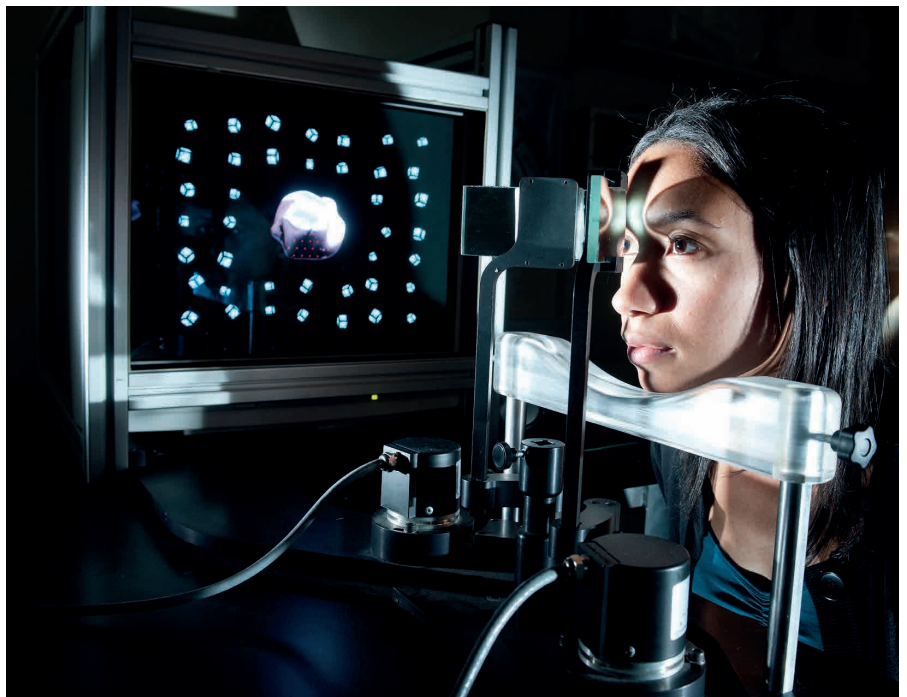


### BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ACCREDITATION

Our BSc and MSci Psychology programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for Graduate Membership of the Society with the Graduate Basis for Registration, provided the minimum standard of qualification of second-class honours is achieved. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. For more information, see the British Psychological Society website: [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)



**The British  
Psychological Society**  
Accredited



For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/bsc-psychology](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bsc-psychology)

### Programme structure

The first two years of the course consist of a range of compulsory core modules, which have been chosen carefully to provide a firm grounding in all the major areas of contemporary psychology.

In Year 1, you will discover the psychological and psychobiological mechanisms of many of the key features of what it is to be human, including the ability to learn, understand speech and perceive the world around us. You will also develop your skills as a researcher by conducting psychological research projects in groups.

Year 2 will continue to provide the foundations of other core areas of psychology, including forensic psychology, visual illusions and infant cognition, as well as advancing your practical research skills.

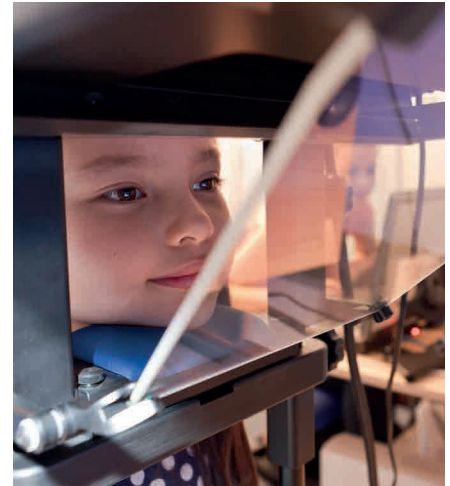
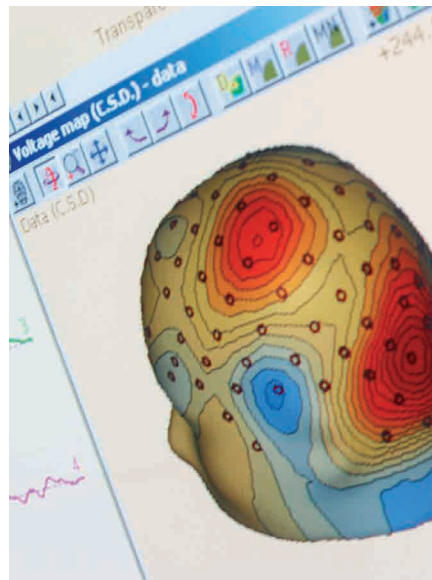
Year 3 is designed to allow you to develop your individual interests and abilities. You will choose four modules from a wide range of subjects. The modules on offer may vary from year to year, but examples include: Understanding Emotions, Visual Cognitive Neuroscience and Art, Why We Eat What We Eat, and Clinical Psychology of Severe Intellectual Disability. Class sizes in the third year encourage discussion and places are subject to availability. For each chosen module, there is usually a weekly two-hour lecture plus workshops and/or seminars.

In Year 3, you will also complete an independent Research Project. Under the guidance of a supervisor, you will design a study in your chosen research area, collect and analyse the data, and interpret the data for an oral presentation and written report. This is a substantial piece of independent work that accounts for one-third of the year's grade, and allows you to develop in-depth knowledge of a specific sub-field of psychology.

### Final assessment

Overall assessment for the final degree is based on several components:

- The project report, literature review and project presentation
- Written examinations and coursework or practical work relating to the third-year option modules
- Marks achieved during the second year



'What makes the course stand out for me is the infectious enthusiasm of the teaching staff in sharing with us the latest developments in their respective fields.'

NICHOLAS LOH  
BSc Psychology





For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/bsc-psychology](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bsc-psychology)



'I enjoy the breadth of the course the most; we do modules across biology, psychology and biomedicine. A lot of the time the modules across the different disciplines link together and we have tutorials to help with this cross-linking and enhance our understanding. It's a very tight-knit course and I've made a lot of friends – we're always there to help each other!'

**ELLIE EDWARDS, BSc Human Neuroscience**

# Human Neuroscience

## BSc

We are at the beginning of what has been called 'The New Century of the Brain'. New technologies and new understanding of biology and behaviour are driving development in this vibrant and expanding field.

This is a specialised degree course for highly qualified students that will provide instruction in cutting-edge neuroscience.

The three-year Honours degree introduces students to the discipline of neuroscience. It is taught by international experts in neuroscience research and gives students broad coverage from molecules to behaviour. There is a special emphasis on human aspects of the field; cognitive neuroscience, diseases and disorders of the nervous system, and clinical and psychological topics.

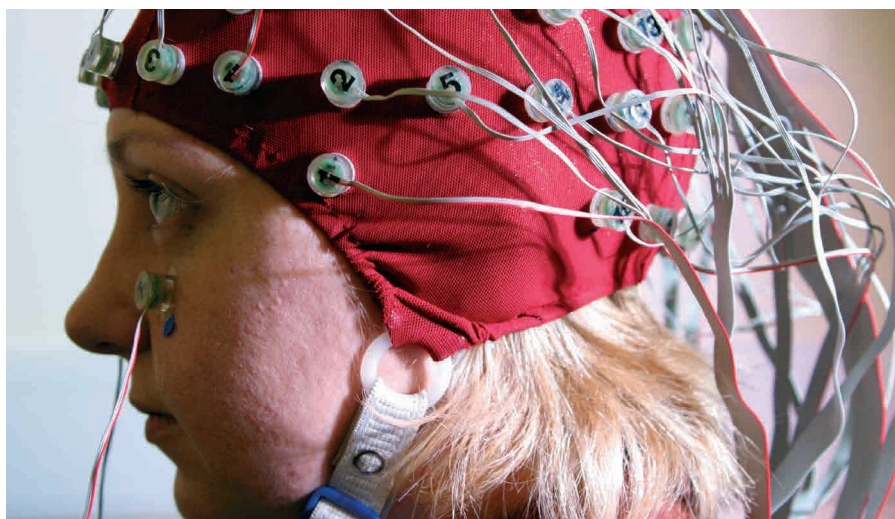
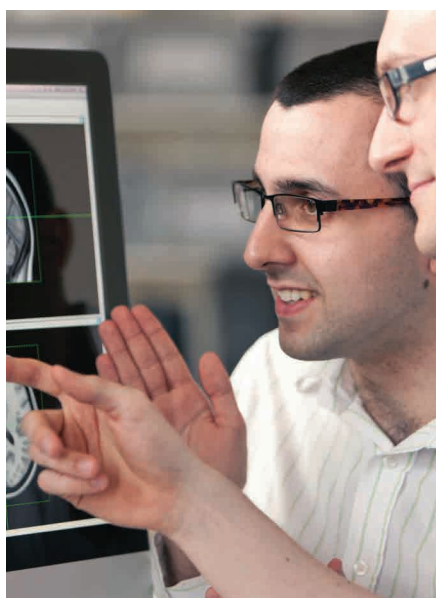
The course is taught through a timetable of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical classes. It has a broad multidisciplinary scope, with modules drawn from Biosciences; Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences; Psychology; Biomedical Science, and Philosophy.

In the first year, there is a range of core modules that provide the biological and behavioural basis for more in-depth analysis in subsequent years. Topics covered include the physiology of nerve cells, pharmacology, evolution, genetics, perception and memory.

In the second year, there are a number of options available for selection. These include cognitive neuroscience topics (eg, perception and movement), sport and exercise science topics (the control of human movement), computational approaches to data analysis, and even the philosophy of the mind-body problem. Additional options allow further in-depth study of neurophysiology and pharmacology, evolution and human behaviour.

In the final year, students undertake an extended research project, under the supervision of internationally recognised experts with access to state-of-the-art laboratories for MRI, EEG, TMS, tDCS, eye-tracking, visual attention, psycholinguistics, motion tracking, posture and balance, food and nutrition, social cognition, neuropsychology, and child development.

This complements further optional modules building on areas in cognitive neuroscience, human biology and sports science. There is also an emphasis on relating the academic study of neuroscience back to wider implications for society.



For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/humanneuro](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/humanneuro)

# MSci programmes

We offer two four-year undergraduate integrated Masters (MSci) programmes designed to enhance career opportunities for those interested in applied psychology or psychological research. You will study the same modules as students on the BSc Psychology programme for the first three years, followed by an additional fourth year in which all modules are at Masters level. The programmes provide relevant, specialist work experience through placements and projects helping to give you a head start in a career in psychology. Please note that the programmes have a limited number of places.

For MSci programmes you can either apply through UCAS, or alternatively apply to transfer during your BSc Psychology degree. Please note that due to a very limited number of places on the MSci programmes, we are not able to consider applications for deferred entry. If you are made an offer and subsequently wish to defer, you can retain your offer for the BSc Psychology programme.

Both MSci courses are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a lower-second-class honours is achieved. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

## MSci Psychology and Psychological Practice

This programme is designed for those considering careers in clinical, forensic or educational psychology. During the fourth year, you will spend six months working for three days a week at an external work placement organised by the School, and gain hands-on experience of clinical, forensic or educational psychology in the real world. You will also attend lectures and seminars on the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of applied psychology.

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/c801](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/c801)

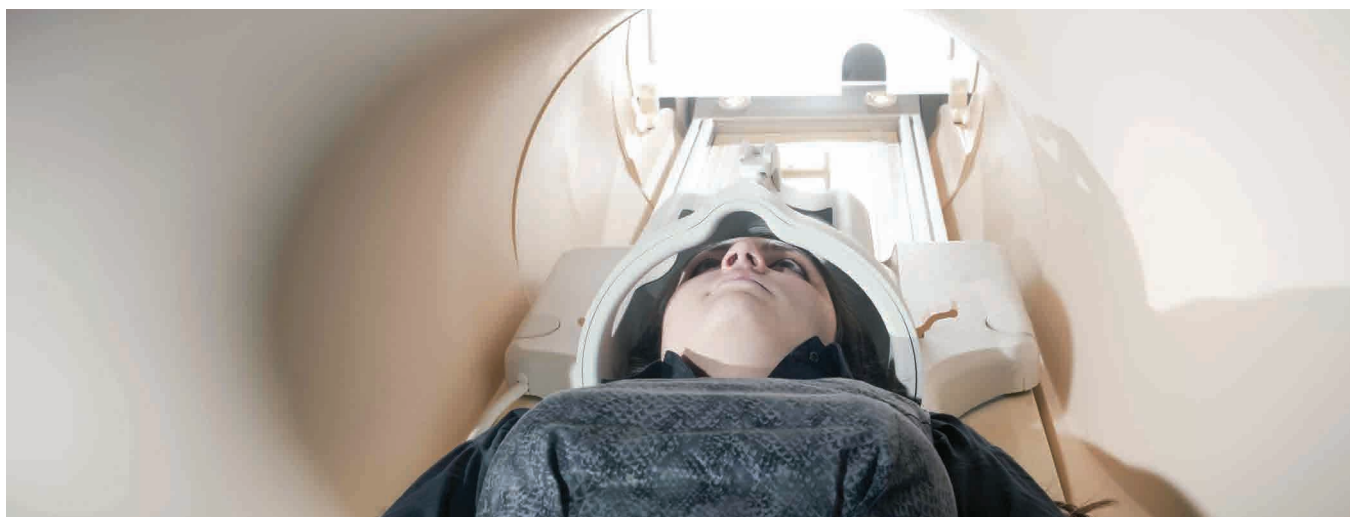
## MSci Psychology and Psychological Research

This programme is designed for those considering a career in research (eg, working in universities, think tanks or consulting). During the fourth year, you will carry out a six-month research project within the School, and gain experience of cutting-edge science. You will also receive training in transferable skills (eg, presentation and communication) and advanced scientific methods (eg, functional brain imaging).

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/c890](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/c890)

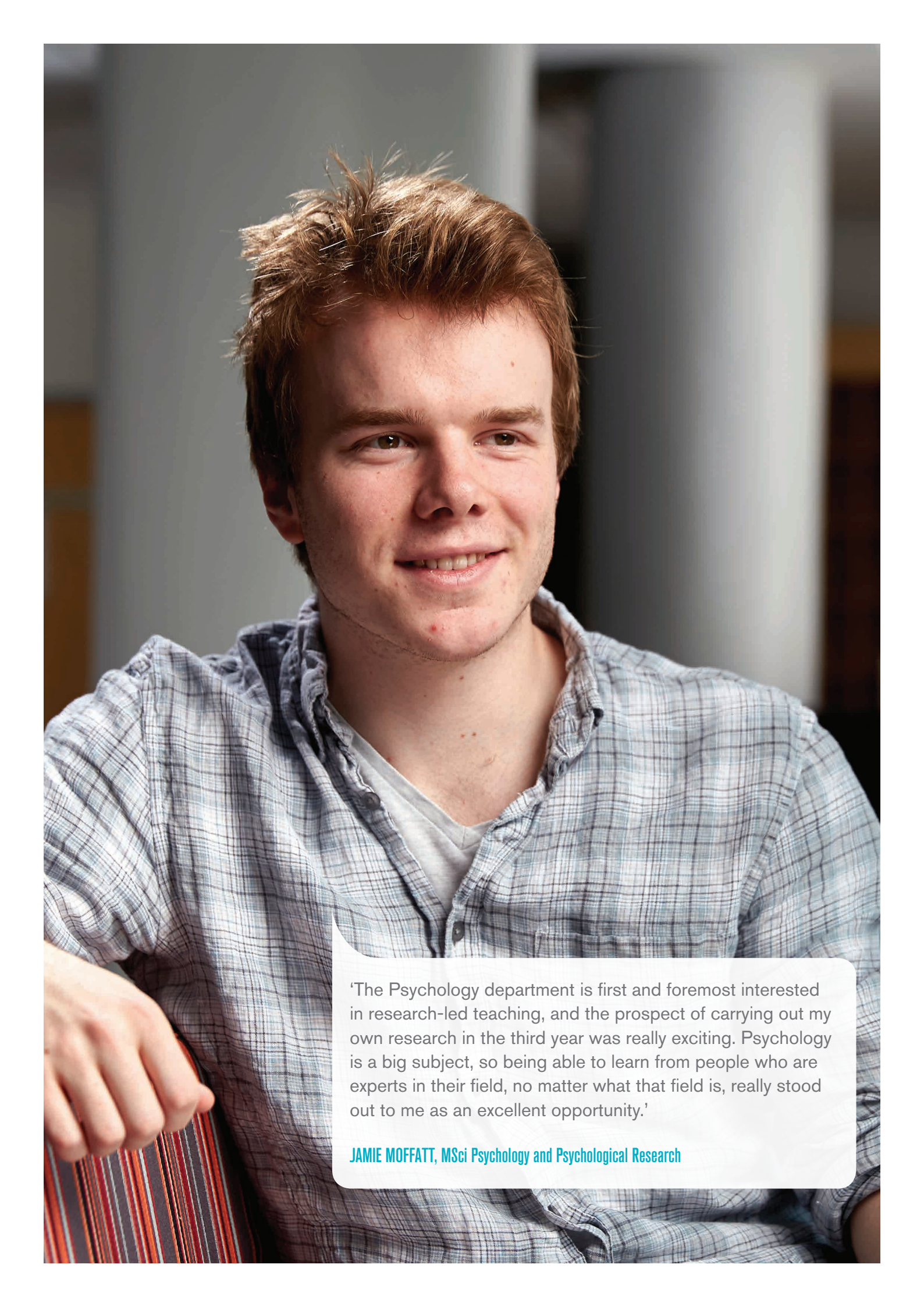


**The British Psychological Society**  
Accredited



For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/ug-psychology](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/ug-psychology)

A portrait of a young man with light brown, slightly messy hair, smiling gently. He is wearing a light blue and white plaid button-down shirt over a white t-shirt. He is sitting in a chair with a colorful, striped fabric backrest. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a white pillar.

'The Psychology department is first and foremost interested in research-led teaching, and the prospect of carrying out my own research in the third year was really exciting. Psychology is a big subject, so being able to learn from people who are experts in their field, no matter what that field is, really stood out to me as an excellent opportunity.'

**JAMIE MOFFATT, MSci Psychology and Psychological Research**

# Study abroad opportunities

Studying abroad expands your horizons. We offer opportunities that will enhance your learning and skills in a global environment.

Up to 20 students per cohort can apply to take a year abroad between the second and third year. You can select your own placement at any non-UK university approved by the International Relations Office. You are also free to choose your own modules whilst away as long as they are broadly relevant to psychology.

Students taking this option will receive a BSc Psychology with Year Abroad. The MSci courses and BSc Human Neuroscience can also be combined with the Year Abroad option.

The Study Abroad and Exchanges team is available to offer advice to students who wish to spend time abroad as part of their degree, including guidance on the application process. We will help you to choose an appropriate institution and modules, and will keep in touch with you while you are away. Recent destinations include the USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan.



For more information, please visit

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/study-abroad.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/study-abroad.aspx)

# How to apply

We attract high-quality candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds.

## How do I apply?

You should apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Demand for places is very high and we advise all applicants to apply early. The deadline for applications through UCAS is in January for entry in September. Apply via UCAS at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## Offer-Holder Visit Day

We do not usually interview each candidate individually. Instead, should you be made an offer you will be invited to join us at an Offer-Holder Visit Day (OVD). You will be able to visit the School and its facilities, talk to current students and staff, experience student life and practical sessions, tour student accommodation and the rest of our stunning campus. The OVD is an ideal opportunity to ask questions about all aspects of the programmes and should give you a clear idea of what Birmingham has to offer.

## Overseas applicants

We welcome applications from international students. For application to our degree courses, your qualifications should be equivalent to our usual A level offers. For further information, visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx)

## Fees and funding

For comprehensive information on fees and funding visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/index.aspx)

## Optional modules

The optional modules listed on the website for our programmes may occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate, key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

Programme	UCAS code	Duration	A level	IB HL
BSc Human Neuroscience	B140	3	AAA	6, 6, 6
BSc Psychology	C800	3	AAA	6, 6, 6
MSci Psychology and Psychological Practice	C801	4	A*AA	7, 6, 6
MSci Psychology and Psychological Research	C890	4	A*AA	7, 6, 6

## Essential information

- Biology/Human Biology A level is required for BSc Human Neuroscience.
- Please note, only the BSc Psychology and MSci programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma: Our standard offer is no less than 32 points overall. For specific higher level scores and subjects, please refer to course pages online.
- Access to Science (not Social Science) courses are considered on an individual basis for the BSc programmes. Access students should contact us prior to making an application.
- For MSci programmes you can either apply through UCAS, or alternatively apply to transfer during your BSc Psychology degree. Please note that due to a very limited number of places on the MSci programmes, we are not able to consider applications for deferred entry. If you are made an offer and subsequently wish to defer, you can retain your offer for the BSc Psychology programme.
- For further information on entry requirements, please refer to individual programme entries online.





**LEARN MORE**

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/psychology](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/psychology)

Email: [psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



For more information, please visit

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)



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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (June 2019).