

## Minor Specification

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### Psychology (Minor)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	Psychology
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Psychology
Faculty that owns the minor	Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences
Minor Leader	Dr Jana Kreppner and Dr Sylwia Cisek
Date specification was written	22-01-2016

### Overview of Minor

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**1 Brief outline of the minor** In your third year, you will progress to deepen your understanding in a specific area of psychology by choosing specialized options. You will take at least one third year option. Your other third year module for the Minor can be either another specialized third year option, or you can opt to take another second year module ('backtracking') to broaden your understanding across selected core areas of psychology.

**2 Learning and teaching**

The teaching and learning methods comprise a wide range of activities. Core and up-to-date specialist knowledge and understanding are acquired through traditional and interactive lectures and seminars together with regular coursework in the form of essays, blogs, posters and oral presentations. Students are taught within a strong research led department which encourages the development of key skills such as analytical and critical thinking and the careful appraisal of evidence. Throughout the Minor you are expected to undertake independent reading both to consolidate what is being taught and to broaden the knowledge and understanding of particular topics. This includes academic text books, journals and other selected sources.

**3 Assessment**

Your understanding of psychology is evaluated through a wide range of assessment methods across the Minor path. These can include traditional essays, oral presentation, poster presentation, reflective journals, wikis and blogs, traditional or computerised exams, multiple choice questions, short answer questions and literature reviews. The range of assessment methods used ensures that a broad variety of skills are developed which are vital for future employment and that your achievements are assessed against the intended learning outcomes of the individual modules and the Minor as a whole.

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## Educational Aims of the Minor

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A Minor in Psychology at Southampton is designed to ensure you will obtain up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the broader discipline of psychology as well as some in-depth specialist knowledge in chosen areas of psychology. Psychology at Southampton is taught as an empirical discipline that involves the scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience and of the complex interactions of these.

The educational aims of the Minor in Psychology are:

- To provide you with a coherent introduction across the core areas of psychology and to enable you to develop advanced knowledge in selected areas of psychology reflecting your personal interests.
- To develop an awareness of the importance of empirical research in the development of psychological theory.
- To promote an awareness of the application of psychological knowledge to everyday phenomena and to develop an interest in psychological enquiry.
- To develop subject specific analytical and conceptual skills
- To develop transferable (generic) practical and intellectual skills which can be applied in the broader employment sector including communication, problem-solving, presentation, research and enquiry, project management, team working and working independently.

## Learning Outcomes for the Minor

### Knowledge and Understanding

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Having successfully completed this Minor you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the major theoretical approaches that underpin psychological inquiry
- knowledge in a selection of the following core domains of psychology:
  - *Biological Psychology*: e.g., biological processes underlying behaviour; behavioural genetics, neuroimaging and neuropsychology, evolutionary psychology, drug addiction, and socio-biology;
  - *Cognitive Psychology*: e.g., attention, visual and acoustic perception, human learning, memory and cognition, language processing, and cognitive neuropsychology;
  - *Developmental psychology*: e.g., social, emotional and cognitive development across childhood, adolescence and the life-span, development of attachment and social relationships; communication and language development, age related changes in thinking, memory and learning, development of self and identity; and social and cultural contexts for development
  - *Individual Differences*: e.g., personality, psychodynamics, trait theories, motivation, affect, intelligence, psychological testing, mental health;
  - *Social psychology*: e.g., group processes, the self, stereotyping, social emotions, close relationships;
- the associations and overlap between these core areas in Psychology.
- ethical and practical research issues common to conducting research within these core and specialist areas.

### Teaching and Learning Methods

Core and advanced knowledge and understanding in Psychology is acquired through traditional and interactive lectures, tutorials and seminars together with coursework which can take the form of essays, presentations (oral and poster), wikis, blogs, and quizzes (e.g., multiple choice).

Throughout the Minor you are encouraged to undertake independent reading both to consolidate what is being taught and broaden the knowledge and understanding of particular topics.

### ***Assessment methods***

A Minor in Psychology will involve a combination of formative and summative assessment to evaluate whether learning outcomes have been achieved.

Formative assessment occurs in the form of course work essays, practice exam tests, feedback on essays, presentations, and a variety of individual and group work.

Summative assessment occurs via a combination of unseen (typically 2 or 3 hour) written examinations, multiple choice assessment, individual assignments (e.g. essays, wikis, posters), and group project work (e.g., oral or visual presentations).

### **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

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Having successfully completed this Minor you should be able to:

- Recognise the diversity of perspectives underpinning Psychology as a scientific discipline.
- Critically evaluate theoretical and empirical literature in Psychology.
- Make reasoned arguments in Psychology based on appropriately selected source materials.
- Demonstrate competence in using a range of electronic resources in the discipline including e-journal systems to search the relevant literature.
- Apply psychological theory to practice in selected areas of Psychology.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Intellectual skills are developed throughout your progression in the Minor, and in particular through the traditional and interactive lectures, the associated tutorials, and through your individual reading. These skills are evidenced through course work essays or other forms of written assignments, oral and visual presentations.

### ***Assessment methods***

Formative assessment of intellectual skills associated with the Minor in Psychology occurs across all five chosen modules across the three years via feedback during lectures, or on written coursework and visual and/or oral presentations. Summative assessment occurs via unseen written examinations, multiple choice tests, oral or visual presentations, and assessed written course work (e.g. essays).

### **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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Having successfully completed a Minor in Psychology you should be able to:

- show improved understanding of human behaviour and enhanced recognition of and tolerance for diversity
- communicate effectively by written, verbal, and visual means;

- retrieve and organise information effectively -- e.g., be familiar with collecting and organising information from library, electronic based search engines, as well as Internet-based sources;
- manage work with due attention to time and resource management.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Your chosen modules for the Minor in Psychology will require you to engage in written work, discussion and presentation. The feedback given will help you develop communication skills, both verbally and in writing. These skills are consolidated via different elements of the chosen taught modules as well as through independent learning. Managing work effectively and in a timely manner is achieved through meeting deadlines which are given at the outset of each taught module.

### ***Assessment methods***

Effective communication of ideas is a skill that is assessed in all areas of your work during the Minor in Psychology. All skills outlined above are formatively assessed through a variety of means including discussion during lectures, tutorials and seminars, individual and group coursework, and individual and group presentations. Summative assessment of generic and transferable skills occurs through unseen written exams and assessed presentations and coursework.

### **Subject Specific Practical Skills (optional)**

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Having successfully completed a Minor in Psychology you should be able to:

- Convey Psychology-specific ideas and findings in an appropriate written or oral format;
- Retrieve and record information from Psychology-specific resources;

Please note

Some of Psychology modules are linked to the Research Participation Scheme.

***Where modules have credit awarded for research participation, you should note that failure to fully participate in the research opportunities given to you (and thereby obtain maximum credit) may result in you failing a module or failing to reach a classification boundary or award. We therefore most strongly recommend that you participate fully in research opportunities.***

## **Structure of Minor**

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### **1 Typical content**

A Minor in Psychology will introduce you to theory and research across the range of core areas of Psychology (e.g., cognition and emotion, perception and learning, developmental and social, individual differences and health). The Psychology Minor requires you to take the introductory module PSYC1016 Introduction to Psychology (Semester 1) which provides a coherent overview across the breadth of psychological enquiry. You can either take this modules during year one (in

Semester 1) or you can take it during your second year (back-tracking). You will also take PSYC1018 Individual Differences or PSYC1017 Behavioural Neuroscience in year 1, Semester 2. During your second and third year you can select from a range of available modules to deepen your understanding in chosen areas of Psychology. You will have to take at least one third-year specialised module. Note that some (but not all) specialized third year options set specific second year modules as their pre-requisite.

## 2 Details of the minor

The Psychology Minor requires you to take two first-year modules, two second-year modules and at least one third-year module. Because you are required to take two first year modules as part of your Minor you can back-track PSYC1016, Introduction to Psychology, in your second year. If you selected both first year modules during your first year, you can choose any two year-two modules during your second year. You must choose at least one year-three module in your third year.

### **Part 1: 1 or 2 modules (minimum 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS, maximum 15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

*PSYC1016 Introduction to Psychology and one of the two modules: PSYC1018 Individual Differences or PSYC1017 Behavioural Neuroscience are required for the Minor as they provide an essential introduction to the core areas of psychology. You may elect to take PSYC1016 in Part 1, Semester 1, or you may backtrack taking this module in Part 2, Semester 1.*

PSYC1016 Introduction to Psychology (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

#### ***And/Or***

1 module (7.5ECTS/15CATS) from:

PSYC1018 Individual Differences (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC1017 Behavioural Neuroscience (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

### **Part 2: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

#### ***Select 1 module (7.5ECTS/15CATS) from the following:***

*If PSYC1016 was not taken in part 1 it must be selected now*

PSYC1016 Introduction to Psychology (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC2003 Social Psychology (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC2021 Language and Memory (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

*You must take EITHER PSYC2003 or PSYC2021 in either part 2 or part 3, you may NOT take both.*

*Select 1 module (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS) from:*

PSYC2007 Developmental Psychology (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC2018 Perception (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

### **Part 3: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

*NB: some of the Year 3 options may set specific Year 2 modules as prerequisites.*

***If you have not selected either PSYC 2003 or PSYC2021 in part 2 then you must select one now, you CANNOT select both modules across part 2 and 3:***

PSYC2003 Social Psychology (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC2021 Language and Memory (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

**1 (or 2) modules (maximum 15 ECTS/30 CATS) to be taken from the following list of PSYC3xxx modules:**

PSYC3010 Attachment & Personal Relationships (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3015 Social and Psychological Approaches to Understanding Sexual Health (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3024 Self-Conscious Emotions: Guilt, Shame Embarrassment, Pride and Nostalgia (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3043 Understanding Your World with Vision, Touch, Sound and Taste (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3044 Eye Movements and Visual Cognition (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3045 Perspectives in Human Animal Interactions (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3048 Human Learning (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3053 Current Topics in Developmental Psychopathology (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3056 Current & Emerging Issues in Psycho-Oncology and Pain Research (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3057 Introduction to Educational Psychology (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3059 Psychology of Advertising (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3060 Cognitive Neuropsychology and Neuroscience (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3061 Intergroup Relations and Interpersonal Influence (semester 1) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

PSYC3062 The Development of Anxiety in Children and Adolescents (semester 2) (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)

**Please note, the modules offered as options are subject to change, some modules may not be offered in a given academic year and some others may be added.**

#### **4 Progression Requirements**

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at

[http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information\\_for\\_students/find\\_your\\_degree/minors\\_available/psychology/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information_for_students/find_your_degree/minors_available/psychology/index.page)

## **Revision History**

1. Jana Kreppner 11-10-2013
2. Jana Kreppner 25-11-2013

3. Jana Kreppner 22-01-2016
4. Sylwia Cisek 28-01-2016
5. Sylwia Cisek 20-03-2016
6. Sylwia Cisek 22-06-2016
7. Sylwia Cisek 07-09-2016
8. Sylwia Cisek 31-08-2017