Undergraduate Programme Specification
BSc (Hons) Applied Psychology

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's Quality Assurance processes.

GENERAL INFORMATION				
Programme Title	BSc (Hons) Applied Psychology			
Final Award	Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology with Honours			
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University			
School	School of Health and Life Sciences (SHLS)			
Department	Department of Psychology			
Mode of Study	Full-time			
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus			
UCAS Code	C810			
Accreditations (PSRB)	British Psychological Society			
Period of Approval	From:	September 2024	To:	August 2029

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
The overall aim of the programme is to enable students graduating with an honours degree to apply for post-graduate training in a specialist area of psychology, and to meet the accreditation requirements of the British Psychological Society (BPS), provided that they take the specified modules. To confer eligibility on Honours graduates for the Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC), if the minimum standard of a Lower Second-Class Honours Degree is achieved and the Psychology Empirical Project is passed. The specified modules on the programme cover applied psychology and the main areas required by the BPS – biological psychology, cognitive psychology, individual differences, social psychology, developmental psychology, research methods, conceptual and historical issues and the empirical project. The programme also aims to: Provide an intellectually stimulating set of psychology modules with novel and real-life assessments, and with which students can become actively engaged, with a number of options with an applied orientation particularly at the later levels. Promote within the students an appreciation for, and the ability to pursue, a scientific approach to psychology, as well as a critical awareness of the strengths and limitations of such an approach. Encourage our students to recognise the importance of, and engage with issues concerning employability from an early stage; to help them develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will allow them to gain appropriate employment when they graduate, and to develop as civic-minded, global citizens.

To allow students to have the opportunity to plan for their careers with our L1 (SCQF7) module Personal and Professional Development. This will allow students to develop their CVs, application skills, and plan for gaining work experience in an applied psychology setting or in relevant employment where knowledge of psychology may be an advantage.

Across all programmes, the Department of Psychology (DoP) at GCU takes accountability for continuous monitoring and improvements in matters relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), guided in our ethical practices by our links with professional and statutory bodies. We commit to representing historically-excluded groups and addressing inequalities in our recruitment and retention processes, and across our research projects and learning and teaching practices. We are cognisant of, and deliberately embrace, the diversity of our staff, student body and the wider psychology community in terms of demographics and protected characteristics, and we seek to actively reflect that diversity throughout our work. Practically, we will transfer our EDI priorities into each module by regularly seeking perspectives from our diverse staff, student and client groups, and using these to inform the development of curricula, applied practice and engagement activities. This includes periodic auditing of our recruitment, progression and attrition rates with a focus on under-represented groups, ongoing evaluation of diversity among our invited speakers, and sharing of best practice in these areas across our programmes. In every module, we will ensure the resources and reading that we recommend come from increasingly diverse sources, and that the learning activities and applied examples provided in teaching materials and assessments explicitly reference a wide range of socio-cultural groups and perspectives.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

A1. Understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline, its historical origins, development and limitations;
A2. Recognise the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning and its significance;
A3. Demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of a range of influences on psychological functioning, how they are conceptualised across the core areas and how they interrelate;
A4. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of several specialised areas and/or applications, some of which are at the cutting edge of research in the discipline;
A5. Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of a range of research paradigms, research methods and measurement techniques, including statistical analysis, and be aware of their limitations;
A6. Demonstrate an awareness of the intervention work in a variety of domains of practice in applied psychology.

B: Practice: applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

B1. Reason scientifically, understand the role of evidence and make critical judgements about arguments in psychology;
B2. Pose, operationalise and critique research questions;
B3. Demonstrate substantial competence in research skills through practical activities;
B4. Reason statistically and use a range of statistical methods with confidence;

B5. Competently initiate, design, conduct and report an empirically-based research project under appropriate supervision, and recognise its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations;
B6. Be aware of ethical principles and approval procedures and demonstrate these in relation to personal study, particularly with regard to the research project, and be aware of the ethical context of psychology as a discipline.

C: Generic cognitive skills;
C1. Solve problems by clarifying questions, considering alternative solutions and evaluating outcomes;
C2. Adopt multiple perspectives and systematically analyse the relationships between them;
C3. Detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and experience and evaluate their significance;
C4. Apply methods and techniques learned to real life practical situations.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills
D1. Communicate ideas and research findings, both effectively and fluently, by written, oral and visual means;
D2. Comprehend and use numerical, statistical and other forms of data, particularly in the context of presenting and analysing complex data sets;
D3. Be computer literate and confident in using word processing, database and statistical software.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.
E1. Be sensitive to, and react appropriately to, contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams;
E2. Undertake self-directed study and project management, in order to meet desired objectives;
E3. Take charge of their own learning, and reflect and evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses for the purposes of future learning;
E4. Demonstrate a critical appreciation of how skills and knowledge acquired in a psychology degree can be transferred to the workplace.

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations or role play)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Digital dissemination (infographics, videos)
- Portfolio Presentations
- Class tests and online multiple choice tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The dedicated page for this course is: https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate-applied-psychology-glasgow

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the GCU Code of Student Conduct.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS[1]							
The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:							
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Core or Optional**	**SCQF Level**	**Credit Size**	**Coursework %**	**CW1 %**	**CW2 %**
M1C830653	Foundations in Psychology	**Core**	7	20	100	50	50
M1C825406	Research Methods 1A: Philosophy and Methods	**Core**	7	20	100	50	50
M1C826895	Digital Psychology	Core	7	20	100	50	50
M1C830654	Introduction to Applied Psychology	Core	7	20	100	80	20
M1C830655	Personal and Professional Development	Core	7	20	100	50	50
M1C830656	Research Methods 1B: Data Management	**Core**	7	20	100	30	70
M2C830658	Introduction to Biological, Cognitive and Developmental Psychology	**Core**	8	20	100	60	40
M2C825410	Applying Clinical, Forensic and Counselling Psychology	Core	8	20	100	60	40
M2C830660	Research Methods 2: Analysing Data	**Core**	8	20	100	60	40
M2C825413	Applying Health and Sport and Exercise Psychology	Core	8	20	100	50	50
M2C830659	Political and Cultural Psychology	Core	8	20	100	50	50
M2C830661	Social Cyberpsychology	Core	8	20	100	50	50
M3C830665	Personality and Individual Differences	**Core**	9	20	100	50	50
M3C830664	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Core*	9	20	100	50	50
M3C830667	Research Methods 3: Advanced Research Methods and Analysis	**Core**	9	20	100	20	80
M3C830662	Applied Human Cognition	**Core**	9	20	100	60	40
M3C830663	Applied Social Psychology	**Core**	9	20	100	50	50
M3C830666	Psychobiology	**Core**	9	20	100	60	40
MHC830669	Developmental Psychology	**Core**	10	20	100	50	50
MHC830670	Forensic Psychology	Optional	10	20	100	50	50
MHC830671	Health Psychology	Optional	10	20	100	30	70
MHC830672	Substance Use	Optional	10	20	100	50	50
MHC830668	Counselling Psychology	Optional	10	20	100	50	50
MHC825427	Sport and Exercise Psychology	Optional	10	20	100	50	50
MHC825420	Psychology Empirical Project	**Core**	10	40	100	25	75

[1] Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: https://www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures

BPS core modules, required for GBC, appear in **BOLD**. *A small number of students opt for Exchange in Trimester A of Level 3, this will mean they are unable to take Mental Health and Wellbeing, but will still need to complete Personality and Individual Differences and Research Methods 3: Advanced Research Methods and Analysis as these are both required for BPS accreditation (GBC).

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme as a direct entry student to Level 2 (they would miss the Level 1 modules) or to Level 3 (where Mental Health and Wellbeing would be substituted for Introduction to Biological, Cognitive and Developmental Psychology in order to satisfy professional body requirements specified by the BPS).

In order to satisfy professional body requirements (BPS) for students undertaking Exchange to another institution in Trimester A of Level 3, Research Methods 3: Advanced Research Methods and Analysis will be undertaken (via online delivery) alongside the Exchange modules. Personality and Individual Differences will need to be taken the following year at Level 4 in lieu of an optional module.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme[2]:

Certificate of Higher Education in Applied Psychology- *achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits*

Diploma of Higher Education in Applied Psychology - *achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits*

Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology - *achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits*

Bachelor of Science with Honours in Applied Psychology - *achieved upon successful completion of 480 credits*

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at: https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/services-and-facilities/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies

[2] Please refer to the GCU Qualifications Framework for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes) **Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.**			
Version Number	*Changes/Updates*	*Date Changes/Updates made*	*Date Effective From*
1.0	Updated for reapproval, new modules (PPD, CYB, SUB), new entry requirements.	21NOV23	2MAR24 for AY24/25
1.1	Swapping of programme title and exit awards, added clarity on direct entry and Exchange module substitution for BPS requirements.	24NOV23	2MAR24 for AY24/25
1.2	Clarity added on credits required for bracketed award, and old module codes removed and replace with 'new code' required. 'Level' changed to 'Year'.	31JAN24	2MAR24 for AY24/25
1.3	Agreed departmental EDI working statement inserted on page 2.	5APR24	8APR24 for AY24/25
1.4	Update to add new module codes following approval events 28FEB-1MAR24.	10APR24	AY24/25
1.5	Revised to reflect changes to programme title (removal of bracketed title options) following new accreditation standards from regulator (BPS)	13 October 26	September 2027