

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BSc (Hons) Psychology The BSc (Hons) Psychology degree is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	BSc Psychology Diploma of HE Certificate of HE Certificate in Psychology Placement Learning
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Department of Psychology Cavendish
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Mark Gardner
Course URL:	http://www.westminster.ac.uk
Mode and length of study:	Full-time and part-time
University of Westminster course code:	Not applicable
JACS code:	C800
UCAS code:	C801
QAA subject benchmarking group:	Psychology
Professional body accreditation:	This programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved and the empirical psychology project has been passed. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.
Date of course validation/review:	May 2010
Date of programme specification:	2012/13

Admissions requirements

The admission policy conforms to University regulations, and applies to both full-time and part-time modes of study. They have been designed to allow entry from applicants coming from a wide variety of educational backgrounds and experiences.

Admission requirements for BSc (Hons) Psychology:

1. Three GCE A-level passes (minimum grade levels BBB) plus at least three GCSE passes which must include English and Maths (minimum grade level C in English and Maths).

or

2. An appropriate BTEC National Award with Distinction grades in two units at level III, and Merit grade in a third.
- or**
3. An approved Access course with 45 credits at level 3, 35 of which should be at Merit or above.
- or**
4. Other recognised equivalent qualifications such as International Baccalaureate, Scottish Highers, or Irish Leaving Certificate.

Non-standard admissions procedure

Mature applicants and other non-traditional applicants with formal qualifications can apply via UCAS, and may be invited for interview in order to discuss their relevant employment or background experiences and to assess their potential ability to benefit from the course.

All applicants other than those with standard GCE A-level qualifications will be expected to show basic competence in written and spoken English and elementary maths.

Direct entry into the programme at level 5 is possible via the assessment of Prior Certificated Learning following British Psychological Society guidelines for transfer from one accredited undergraduate programme to another. Entry via the Assessment of Prior Experiential Learning is not possible for this course.

Aims of the course

The aims of the BSc (Hons) Psychology degree at the University of Westminster are to:

1. Provide a specialist undergraduate degree programme in psychology meeting the requirements of the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).
2. Provide a firm basis of knowledge and understanding in the core areas of psychology and also in more specialised and applied areas of the discipline.
3. Enable students to follow particular subject interests in psychology through their Option module choices, allowing them to gain insight into a range of approaches and applications of the discipline.
4. Give students the practical skills in research design and analysis that will allow them to undertake under supervision a research project in their final year and to use these skills in their future employment
5. Use a range of teaching and assessment methods which facilitate the development of discipline-specific skills, independent learning, and other transferable skills.
6. Provide a learning environment which promotes the academic and personal development of students.
7. Provide opportunities for students with family, work, or other commitments, to study on a part-time basis.
8. Provide the opportunity for students to choose to spend an additional year working in a psychological setting as part of their degree studies, leading to the award of a Certificate in Psychology Placement Learning.
9. Monitor and enhance the quality of psychology provision, using information from student feedback, external examiners, and peer observation.

Employment and further study opportunities

This programme is accredited by the professional body for psychologists in the UK, the British Psychological Society (BPS). Graduates who achieve a minimum standard of a lower second class honours are eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered

Membership (GBC). This is considered the starting point to a career as a psychologist. It opens up further study opportunities because GBC is an entry requirement for all BPS accredited postgraduate courses providing specialist training for professions such as Clinical, Forensic or Educational Psychology.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses;
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students;
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision;
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

For students on BSc (Hons) Psychology:

- A member of staff acts as employability coordinator, working closely with the University's careers service (the Career Development Centre) to raise awareness of career opportunities for psychology graduates.
- A series of talks by practising psychologists organised by the Department of Psychology is provided for students in the Department;
- There is an employability section on the Psychology Virtual Learning Environment providing information and links to possible work experience and careers
- Students have the opportunity to gain experience and skills in the work place through taking the Option module: Work experience in a Psychological Setting
- Several Option modules at Level 6 relate to areas of applied Psychology, and give insights into a range of areas of Professional Psychology: Psychology of Counselling, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology. Psychology of Education and Psychology of Sport.
- Students have the opportunity to take **an additional optional one year Psychology Work Placement** and to gain a **Certificate in Psychology Placement Learning**.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Learning Outcomes for Level 4

Knowledge and understanding:

In order to progress from level 4 to level 5 , students should be able to:	Core module(s) in which assessed
1. Describe key theories in psychology	1PSY414, 1PSY415
2. Identify historical, methodological and conceptual issues in psychology	SPSY400, 1PSY406 1PSY414, 1PSY415
3. Describe research and theory in a range of core areas of psychology including: cognition and learning, individual differences, social psychology and developmental psychology	1PSY414, 1PSY415
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the biological bases of human behaviour	1PSY401
5. Show a basic understanding of research design and the statistical analysis of research data and show awareness of the ethical issues involved in research with human participants.	1PSY408

Subject specific skills:

In order to progress from level 4 to level 5 , students should be able to:	Core module(s) in which assessed
6. Conduct, analyse and interpret with guidance simple research studies in Psychology, have a grounding in basic research design and analysis	1PSY408
7. Report on psychology research in an appropriate format.	1PSY408

Generic transferable, intellectual and practical skills:

In order to progress from level 4 to level 5 , students should be able to:	Core module(s) in which assessed
8. Communicate ideas and research findings in a clear and concise manner, orally and in writing	1PSY408, 1PSY415
9. Show familiarity in using word processing, spreadsheets, statistical software and the internet	SPSY400
10. Show experience of working in groups and teams	1PSY415

11.	Make use of various forms of learning support including library facilities and online databases	1PSY414, 1PSY415, SPSY400
12.	Recognise the relationship between theory and evidence	All core modules
13.	Conduct and report simple research projects under appropriate supervision	1PSY408
14.	Evaluate own skill set with guidance for Personal Development Planning.	SPSY400

Learning Outcomes for Level 5

Knowledge and Understanding:

In order to progress from level 5 to level 6 , students should be able to:	Core module(s) in which assessed
1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theory and research in each of the core areas of psychology as specified by the BPS: cognitive, social, developmental and biological psychology and individual differences	1PSY502, 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, 1PSY514
2. Discuss a range of methodological and theoretical issues	1PSY501, 1PSY502, 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, 1PSY514
3. Have a sufficient grasp of both quantitative and qualitative research methods to be able to design and conduct small investigations	1PSY501
4. Discuss and apply the ethical issues involved in research with human participants.	1PSY501

Subject Specific Skills:

In order to progress from level 5 to level 6 , students should be able to:	Core module(s) in which assessed
5. (Under guidance) design, conduct, analyse and interpret empirical studies to investigate a range of psychological issues, using both quantitative and qualitative methods	1PSY501
6. Demonstrate a grasp of ethical issues in psychological research	1PSY501
7. Adopt a critical evaluative approach to Psychology Research	1PSY502, 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, 1PSY514
8. Use appropriate statistical analysis software	1PSY501
9. Retrieve information from the psychological literature, using electronic databases.	1PSY502, 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, 1PSY514

Generic transferable, intellectual and practical skills:

In order to progress from level 5 to level 6 , students should be able to:	Module(s) in which assessed
10. Effectively communicate ideas and research findings by written and oral means in a clear and concise manner	1PSY502, 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, 1PSY514
11. Undertake self-directed study with minimum direction, adopt multiple perspectives	1PSY502, 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, 1PSY514
12. Use and analyse numerical, statistical and other forms of data	1PSY501

Learning Outcomes for Level 6**Knowledge and Understanding:**

On completion of the BSc (Hons) Psychology course , students should be able to:	Module(s) in which assessed
1. Demonstrate a critical evaluative approach to a range of areas of psychology research and theory	Option modules
2. Discuss in depth how psychological methods have been applied in practice in a range of settings and fields of psychology	Option modules
3. Demonstrate their understanding of psychology as an empirical discipline by planning, undertaking and reporting on a supervised research project.	1PSY628

Subject Specific Skills:

On completion of the BSc (Hons) Psychology course , students should be able to:	Module(s) in which assessed
4. Plan, carry out, analyse and report on (under supervision) a psychological research project; demonstrate discipline specific skills in searching the psychology literature; critically evaluate published research in Psychology.	1PSY628
5. Discuss from an informed position current research in Psychology relevant to a range of issues; theoretical and applied	Option modules

On completion of the BSc (Hons) Psychology course , students should be able to:	Module(s) in which assessed
6. Effectively and fluently communicate ideas and research findings by written, oral and visual means	1PSY628, Option modules
7. Comprehend, use and analyse numerical, statistical and other forms of data	1PSY628, Option modules

8.	Be sensitive to and react appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams	1PSY628, Option modules
9.	Undertake self-directed study and project management in a supportive environment	1PSY628
10.	Carry out a comprehensive literature research of a given topic using a wide range of resources and show awareness of the validity of material collected	1PSY628,
11.	Reflect, evaluate and act on personal strengths and weaknesses	1PSY640, Psychology Work Placement Year

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning

Students learn to use a range of strategies for study and learning from the outset of their degree in weekly seminar/practical sessions associated with each module. The 30 credit Doing Psychology: History, Concepts and Professional Issues will support students' acquisition of appropriate IT and literature research skills, critical reading skills and the linking of these skills to personal development planning. Good written communication skills are fostered through feedback on written assignments. We have developed feedback sheets that indicate to students how they can improve on subsequent assignments. A number of assessments encourage students to learn oral presentation skills. As students progress through the course they develop more and more independence in their learning, culminating in the individualised research project. Students are encouraged to reflect on their learning and the skills they gain through the process of personal development planning.

For students on the Optional Work Placement Year, the opportunity for experiential learning is provided, under supervision, in a psychology-related setting.

Teaching

Most modules are timetabled as weekly three-hour slots, consisting of a lecture and a small group session, which is usually either a practical or a seminar.

Lectures are used to impart core knowledge, introduce theoretical concepts, research findings, debates and controversies, and to guide students' reading.

Seminars are used to enrich the learning from lectures and reading through participation in a planned activity or discussion forum. Sometimes videos are shown (e.g. of clinical case studies) to provide the basis for discussion.

Practical classes are used to provide students with direct experience of carrying out an experiment, and then collecting and interpreting the data obtained.

Small-group seminars and practicals encourage and emphasise active participation by the students.

Teaching on each module is supported by on-line materials on its 'Blackboard' site.

Assessment

It is the agreed strategy of the department to make use of a wide range of different types of assessment, in order to assess a diversity range of skills and knowledge. The majority of modules employ more than one method of assessment.

Exams are used on the majority of modules, in order to assess knowledge, understanding, and critical evaluation.

MCQ (multiple-choice question) and SAQ (short-answer question) tests are used to assess basic knowledge and grasp of terminology.

Oral and poster presentations are used to assess presentation skills.

Group presentations are used to assess collaborative skills and team working. Practical reports are used to assess skills in carrying out and reporting experimental procedures, and also data-handling skills. In addition, Research Methods modules include the assessment of specific data-handling skills.

Projects are used to assess a range of skills including the ability to carry out research under supervision, literature-searching skills, report-writing skills, and data-handling skills.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
SPSY400	Doing Psychology: History, Concepts and Professional Issues	Core	30	
1PSY401	Psychobiology	Core	15	
1PSY408	Research Methods in Psychology	Core	30	
1PSY414	Introduction to Social and Developmental Psychology	Core	15	
1PSY415	Introduction to Cognition, Learning and Personality	Core	15	
Plus one option module (to a value of 15 credits) from the following:				
1PSY406	Myth and Method in Psychology	Option	15	
One Free Choice module (15 credits) at Level 4 or above (e.g. Polylang).				
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
1PSY501	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	Core	30	
1PSY502	Psychobiology and Clinical Neuroscience	Core	15	

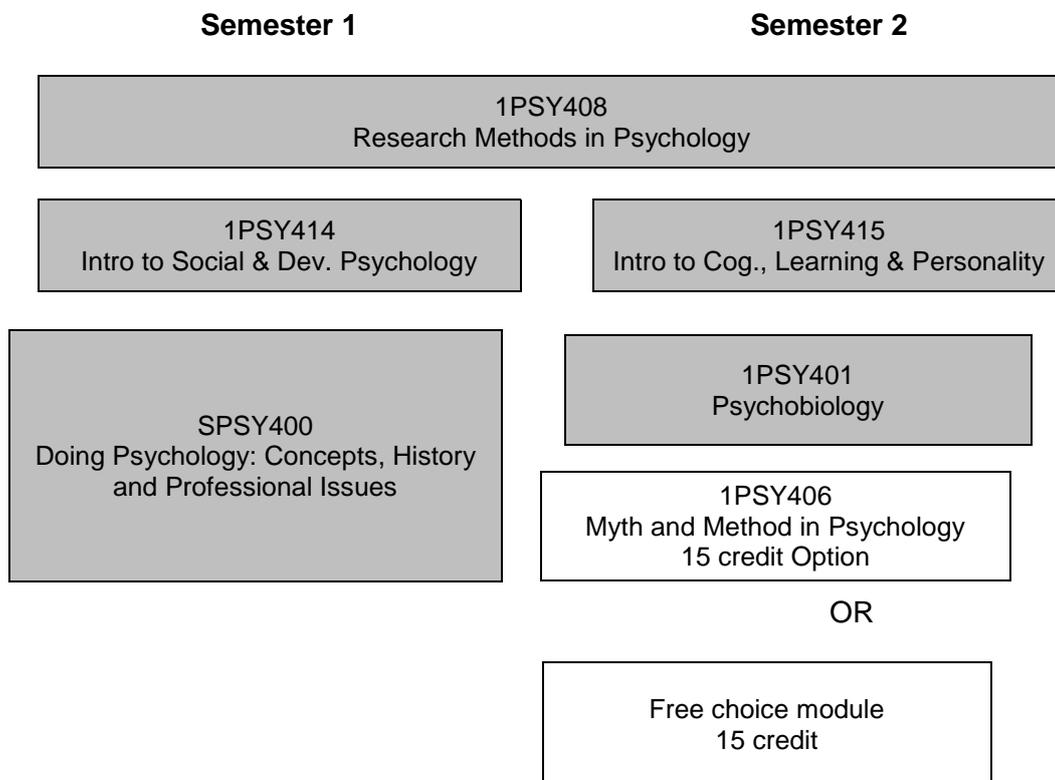
1PSY509	Cognitive Psychology	Core	15	
1PSY510	Developmental Psychology	Core	15	
1PSY512	Individual Differences	Core	15	
1PSY514	Social Psychology	Core	15	
Plus one option module (to a value of 15 credits) from the following:				
A module from the list of Psychology options at Level 6				
One Free Choice module (15 credits) at Level 5 or above.				
Art/Science Collaboration – MDPI500				
Optional Work Placement Year – 1PSY500 (no credits)				
Award of Diploma of Higher Education available				
Award of Certificate in Psychology Placement Learning available				
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
1PSY628	Project in Psychology	Core	30	
1PSY611	Health Psychology	Option	15	
1PSY614	Cognitive Disorders	Option	15	
1PSY619	Psychophysiology	Option	15	
1PSY623	Advanced Developmental Psychology	Option	15	
1PSY624	Advanced Social Psychology	Option	15	
1PSY627	Clinical Psychology	Option	15	
1PSY630	Psychology of Education	Option	15	
1PSY631	Psychology of Women	Option	15	
1PSY632	The Psychology of Counselling	Option	15	
1PSY633	Forensic Psychology	Option	15	
1PSY637	Psychology of Prejudice	Option	15	
1PSY640	Work Experience in a Psychological Setting	Option	15	
1PSY641	Critical Psychology	Option	15	
2COG610	Music and the Mind	Option	15	
2COG612	Studies on Consciousness	Option	15	
SPSY600	Psychology of Environment & Sustainability	Option	15	
SPSY601	Occupational Psychology	Option	15	
Students may take ONE option module (15 credits) from the following:				
Modules from the list of Psychology options at Level 6				
Free choice module at Level 6				

Award of BSc available/Award of BSc (Hons) Psychology available

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Level 4 BSc Psychology Module Diagram

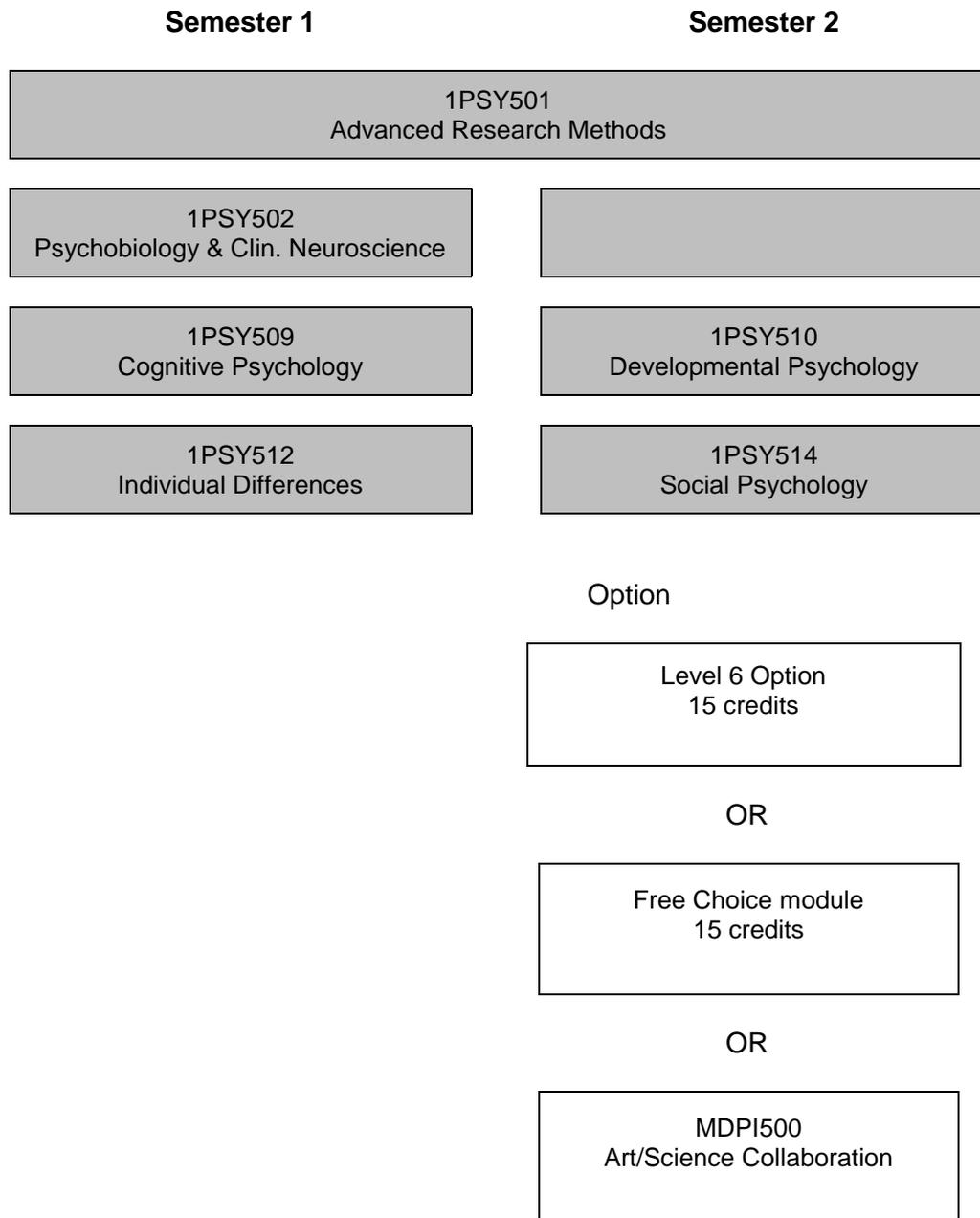
All core modules at Level 4



Note: some students take 1PSY414 and 1PSY415 in the reverse order

Level 5 BSc Psychology Module Diagram

All core modules at Level 5



Note: The semester in which students take 1PSY509, 1PSY510, 1PSY512, and 1PSY514 varies depending upon timetabling constraints, but two from this set are taken each semester. Therefore, the option should be taken in Semester 2

Award

To qualify for the award of BSc (Hons) Psychology, a student must have:

- obtained at least 360 credits including:
 - passed 75 credits at credit Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4; and
 - passed a minimum of 120 Credits at credit Level 5 or higher; and
 - passed a minimum of 120 credits at credit Level 6 or higher.
- attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at credit Levels 5 and 6; and
- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant course scheme.

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria, the average of the best 105 credits passed at credit Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded, and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at credit Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

Academic regulations

BSc (Hons) Psychology and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called *Essential Westminster*, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with the *Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses* and relevant sections of the current *Handbook of Academic Regulations*, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

A pass in a module is achieved when the overall mark is greater than or equal to 40%; with at least 30% in the final assessment and any qualifying marks and/or sets achieved as detailed in the module handbook.

Support for students

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

Student Affairs provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The Student Affairs Hub is located at 101 New Cavendish Street, Cavendish House (1st Floor), with an additional office located at the Harrow Campus.

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/new-students/when-you-arrive>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University: <http://www.uwsu.com/>.

Key Reference points for the course

Internally

BSc (Hons) Psychology degree course handbook
University Quality Assurance Handbook
Staff Research
University Teaching and Learning Policy Statement

Externally

QAA subject benchmark statement for psychology
British Psychological Society Quality Assurance Policies and Practice for First Qualifications in Psychology.

Professional body accreditation

As BSc (Hons) Psychology is accredited by the British Psychological Society for eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) **provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved and the empirical psychology project has been passed.** This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist. The curriculum and the resources provided for the course are reviewed regularly by the Society's Undergraduate Education Committee. The course undergoes a re-accreditation process every five years.

Quality management and enhancement

Course management

Course Leader (Full-time degree): Dr Mark Gardner, responsible for day to day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum,

Course Leader (Part-time degree): Dr Sanjay Joban;

Admissions Tutor (Full-time degree): Carol Pearson;

Admissions Tutor (Part-time degree): Dr Sanjay Joban;

Head of Department: Dr Kathryn Waddington holds overall responsibility for the course, and for the courses run by the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Science and Technology;

Dean of Faculty: Professor Jane Lewis, holds overall responsibility for the course and for other courses run by the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 1992. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other

universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

Admissions Office and Marketing Office – Cavendish House, 101 New Cavendish Street.

For full-time study: Admissions Tutor: Carol Pearson – pearsoc@westminster.ac.uk

For part-time study: Sanjay Joban – sanjayj@westminster.ac.uk

More information about the course can be obtained at

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/psychology/undergraduate-courses/full-time/u09fupsy-bsc-honours-psychology>.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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