

PSYCHOLOGY

Research Degrees

Introduction

The rapidly expanding Department of Psychology has a distinctive research profile and a long-standing record of cutting-edge, theoretically-informed research in applied aspects of psychology.

It has a strong tradition of interdisciplinary work and collaborates with other departments in the University of Bath, local and national institutions, and international networks.

Main areas of research

Twenty academic staff are augmented by staff in our research units and centres. The Department's research interests can be broadly defined under three headings:

Applied Cognition and Technology

Applying cognition to real world issues and investigating cognition in the interface between humans and machines. Cyberpsychology; children and interactive technologies; interface between psychology, engineering and computing; Multisensory Integration and developmental disorders such as autism and dyslexia.

Social Processes

Consumption, identity and sustainable lifestyles; children and young people as consumers; identities, bodies and gender relations; habits, attitudes and values; self-regulation; consumer style, ecological behaviour and health; identity formation and the role of new technologies; the psychological management of risk; science, technology and culture; economic and environmental attitudes.

Health Psychology

Stress and wellbeing, quality of life, beliefs and cultural context; pain and pain management; psychosocial influences on etiology and exacerbation of acute and chronic illness; lifestyle changes and habits.

Facilities and equipment

The Department has excellent IT facilities including a range of laboratories, and is currently developing its resources extensively.

International and industrial links

The Applied Cognition and Technology and the Social Processes research groups are supported by the Department's Science Studies Centre which covers research in science, technology and society, innovation in science, and science communication. The Department's research in communication is carried out in conjunction with the Department of Computer Science and its research on the environment with the International Centre for the Environment.

The Health Psychology Research Group is supported by the Department's WHO Field Centre for the Study of Quality of Life, and the University of Bath's Mental Health Research and Development Unit and the Pain Management Unit in the University's School for Health.

Our students are encouraged to take advantage of the Department's interdisciplinary and international links.

Careers information

For free information about careers and postgraduate training in psychology contact:

The British Psychological Society,
48 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7DR
www.bps.org.uk

You are strongly advised to become acquainted with the different career options in Psychology, so that you can make an informed choice about which degree programme, in which University, will best suit your interests.

Other resources

Regular seminar programmes encourage postgraduate participation in the Department and establish a sense of community.

MPhil/PhD

Qualifications and durations

Full-time MPhil	1-3 years
Full-time PhD	2-4 years
Part-time MPhil	2-4 years
Part-time PhD	3-6 years

Overview

Students are expected to carry out supervised research at the leading edge of their chosen subject, which must then be written up as a substantial thesis. The transfer from MPhil to PhD is subject to students passing an assessment process, which normally involves submission of written work and a transfer seminar.

The final stage of the PhD degree is the oral or viva voce examination, in which students are required to defend the thesis to a Board of Examiners.

Academic entry requirements

A first class or upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject.

English requirements

IELTS 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components).

TOEFL 600 (paper-based test) or 250 (computer-based test) with a score of not less than 4 in the TWE or 100 (internet-based test) with not less than 25 in each of the components.

Unique funding opportunities

The Department is eligible for ESRC, AHRC, ORS and University Research Studentships. However prospective research students must submit an application for a place and obtain an offer before they can be considered for most funding opportunities.

Contact Administrator for PG Research

Email psychology-research@bath.ac.uk
Tel +44 (0) 1225 383843
Fax +44 (0) 1225 386752

www.bath.ac.uk/psychology/study

Fees in 2008-9

FT	H £4000	O £10000
PT	H £2000	O £5000

Please see the advice on p15 about part-time registration for overseas fee payers.

Closing dates:

30 November 2008 (Overseas)
31 December 2009 (Home)
10 August 2009 (Self-funded)

Taught Degrees

Master of Research (Psychology)

Qualifications and durations
Full-time MRes 12 months
Part-time MRes 2-3 years

Overview

This programme equips students with a wide range of theoretical knowledge of research methods and the ability to apply this knowledge within the field of psychology or other areas of social science. Our students leave with a tool kit of methods to use in their future research projects. In addition, students will have the opportunity to develop their practical skills in specific research methods; to develop their theoretical thinking about research; and to work closely on several of their own projects with an academic who is an active and leading researcher in their field. The objective is to equip students with the skills to design, conduct, analyse and report a wide range of research projects and make themselves efficient consumers of other people's research. Students also acquire the communication skills and other key skills necessary to become an excellent researcher. It is possible to follow a Critical Social Psychology strand.

The MRes has ESRC recognition and can be taken as a course in its own right or as part of the ESRC 1+3 PhD structure. Students attend both Faculty-wide and Psychology-specific classes. Applications are welcome from students for any of the Department of Psychology's three main research areas.

Academic entry requirements

A first class or upper second class honours degree in Psychology or a field related to the research interests of the Department.

English requirements

IELTS 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components).

TOEFL 600 (paper-based test) or 250 (computer-based test) with a score of not less than 4 in the TWE or 100 (internet-based test) with not less than 25 in each of the components.

Contact Programme Administrator

Email psychology-pgt@bath.ac.uk
 Tel +44 (0) 1225 383041
 Fax +44 (0) 1225 386752

www.bath.ac.uk/psychology/study

Fees in 2008-9

FT MRes	H £4000	O £10300
PT MRes	H £2000	O £5150

Please see the advice on p15 about part-time registration for overseas fee payers.

Closing date 30 June (of year of entry)

Staff Profile

Prof Suzanne Skevington

PhD, C Psychol, FBPsS

Professor of Health Psychology,
University of Bath

Suzie Skevington holds a Personal Chair in Health Psychology at the University of Bath where she is also Director of the World Health Organisation Centre for the Study of Quality of Life. Since 1991, she has been a consultant to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNAIDS in Geneva. She is a lead in the work of the WHOQOL Group* which is a WHO collaboration, dedicated to the cross-cultural understanding of quality of life in health and health care. This project now operates in 58 countries world-wide. She has interests in public health psychology; as a Fulbright Scholar in 1995, she was resident in the School of Public Health, Univ. of Washington and in 2004 she was academic visitor at the Univ. of Oxford Department of Public Health. She has been Chair/Deputy of the British Psychological Society, Division of Health Psychology (2000-3), and represented the Society at ministerial meetings to discuss the funding of postgraduate training in health psychology at the Department of Health, and at 10 Downing Street. The University of Bath is known for its scientist-practitioner training in health psychology through its programme at Masters level which has thrived since 1996.

She is well known for her research in international health, the assessment and conceptualisation of quality of life and well-being in health and health care and cross-cultural psychology. As part of a European Union funded collaboration between 22 countries, the WHOQOL-Old group investigated how active ageing can affect quality of life in the UK. The Alzheimer's Society has supported two studies on how best to assess quality of life in early dementia which presented interesting methodological challenges. Other lifespan research with postgraduates includes quality of life in young children and adolescents. In work with WHO and UNAIDS, 9 countries have investigated how HIV and AIDS affect health-related quality of life, and modelling has indicated which aspects are most important. Recent publications are on social inequalities, and on the quality of life of poor people in 4 countries (ESRC funded). Professor Skevington has a growing interest in positive psychology and has looked at the impact of spiritual, religious and personal beliefs on quality of life and how these different cultural models are constructed. In contrast to ongoing work on large data sets, she is currently interested in how quality of life information can be used by patients and health professionals to better inform health care decision-making. She has long-standing interests in the reporting of symptoms, particularly chronic pain and breathlessness, and is author of 'Psychology of Pain' (Wiley, 1995/2009). She is co-author of 5 other volumes and has published around 120 peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters and official reports.

* www.bath.ac.uk/whoqol



The University is actively working to establish a Doctoral Programme in Health Psychology which is designed to complete the training of Chartered Health Psychologists. Interested applicants who have completed a Masters programme in Health Psychology could contact Professor Skevington at S.M.Skevington@bath.ac.uk for further information.

Postgraduate Profiles

MSc in Health Psychology

Qualifications and durations	
Full-time MSc	12 months
Part-time MSc	24 months

Overview

This successful BPS accredited programme, drawing on a multi-disciplinary approach to health, covers the main areas of sickness and health psychology, as well as the methodologies for conducting research in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare settings.

The course is recognised by the ESRC for 1+3 funding, and is one of the only accredited MSc Health Psychology programmes offering a placement.

Units include: introduction to health and health beliefs; biopsychosocial mechanisms in health; health, communication and context; managing ill-health; health psychology in practice; research design and statistics in health; and a dissertation.

Academic entry requirements

- UK graduates will normally be expected to have been awarded a good honours degree in Psychology (upper second class or above) from a course recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as providing Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR).
- Overseas students with equivalent qualifications MUST obtain GBR from the BPS.
- Some experience of working in health settings.

English requirements

IELTS 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components).

TOEFL 600 (paper-based test) or 250 (computer-based test) or 100 (internet-based test) with not less than 25 in each of the components.

Contact Programme Administrator

Email psychology-pgt@bath.ac.uk
Tel +44 (0) 1225 383251
Fax +44 (0) 1225 386752

www.bath.ac.uk/psychology/study

Fees in 2008-9

FT MSc	H £4000	O £10300
PT MSc	H £2000	O £5150

Please see the advice about part-time registration for overseas fee payers.

Closing date 30 June (of year of entry)



MSc Health Psychology

Ricardo Alves Soares

Full time student, from Portugal

“ Bath is the perfect city to come to for your first visit to the UK – it is really historical with great architecture and parks, and the people are really friendly. One of the reasons I came here is that Bath’s is the only course in the UK that includes a placement. I’ve been doing a sexual health placement, and it’s been going really well. Practically everything I’ve done on my placement will be able to go on my CV, and I will be able to get some published articles out of it too. ”

Alison Llewellyn

Part time student, from the UK

“ Studying at Bath is ideal for me. It is close to where I live and I can study part time, which fits in well with my work and family commitments. The course is very challenging – definitely not an easy option – but I am thoroughly enjoying it. My supervisor and the other staff are fantastic; they are very approachable. After the MSc, I plan to do a PhD – my main interest is using quality of life information as a coaching tool. ”

Sanaya Pardiwalla

Full time student, from India

“ I chose Bath over London because I wanted to experience campus life. Wherever you look, there is something scenic, or something exciting going on. The University is ranked very highly in the UK, and the course has a really good reputation. As well as my academic placement, I have really enjoyed the group work we’ve done. And the 24 hour library access is great – most of us have used it during the night! There is very little going on in Health Psychology in India – doing the course gives me a really good opportunity to take knowledge back. ”

The Department of Psychology is planning a new suite of Masters programmes designed to promote an understanding of communication from a psychological perspective as it relates to a number of contemporary issues. Check our website at www.bath.ac.uk/psychology