

Psychology

Essentials

What psychology degrees are there?

Psychology
Psychology with American Studies
Psychology with Cognitive Science
Psychology with Neuroscience
Psychology with Sociology

See also

Cognitive science (p46)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer: AAB

Typical IB diploma offer: 36 points

What else do I need?

GCSE (or equivalent) Mathematics, grade B

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact:

E psychology@sussex.ac.uk

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F +44 (0)1273 678058

School of Psychology, University of Sussex,

Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QH, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

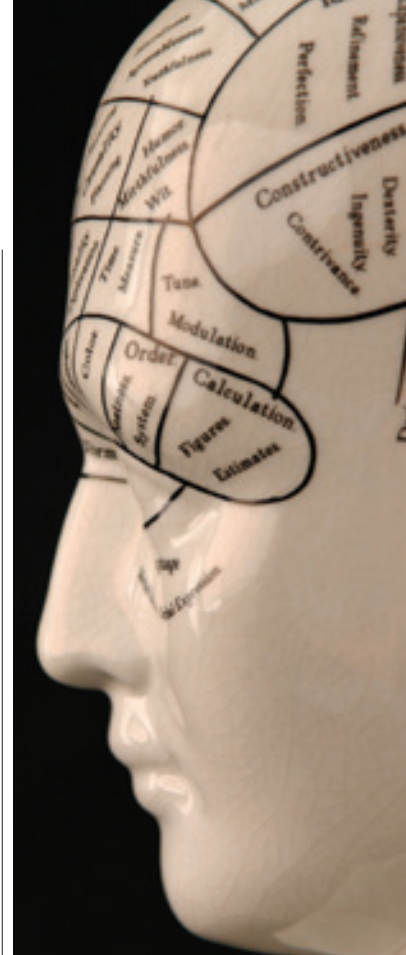
Why psychology?

Every aspect of human experience, as well as behaviours in non-human species, falls within the scope of psychology. Psychologists explore topics as diverse as individual and group behaviour, child development, personality, psychopathology, perception, emotion, learning, memory and many others. We draw on related disciplines such as sociology, philosophy and neuroscience, as well as more recently established fields such as cognitive science and artificial intelligence.

Psychology teaches you a broad range of skills, spanning those traditionally associated with both arts and science degrees, and offers you a wide range of career prospects, including becoming a professional psychologist in, for example, the health service, education, or business.

Why psychology at Sussex?

- Our students rated psychology at Sussex 1st in the UK for overall student satisfaction in the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS). Psychology at Sussex is also ranked in the top 20 in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11* and *The Guardian University Guide 2011*, and we were rated among the top universities in Europe for psychology in the Centre for Higher Education Development's CHE Excellence Ranking (2009).
- Rated 12th in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), 95 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 60 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- Our School comprises one of the largest university psychology groups in the UK, with experts in many different areas of psychology to match your interests.
- We offer a wide range of courses to choose from in your final year, and our faculty supervise projects in all areas of psychology. In your final year, you will be able to specialise in the areas of psychology that interest you most.
- Our BSc degrees offer choice and flexibility throughout the programme. As well as final-year options, in Years 1 and 2 you can also take options in areas outside psychology, or further psychology courses.
- All our programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society and enable you to undertake further training as a professional psychologist – the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) – provided the minimum standard of qualification of second-class honours is achieved. This means that you will be eligible to train to become, for example, a clinical or educational psychologist.
- You will be part of a large community of psychology students – there are over 700 psychology undergraduates at Sussex – and we have a very active, student-run, Psychology Society that organises a lively programme of talks and social events.
- All our tutors are also active in research, and you will be taught by people at the forefront of research in their field.

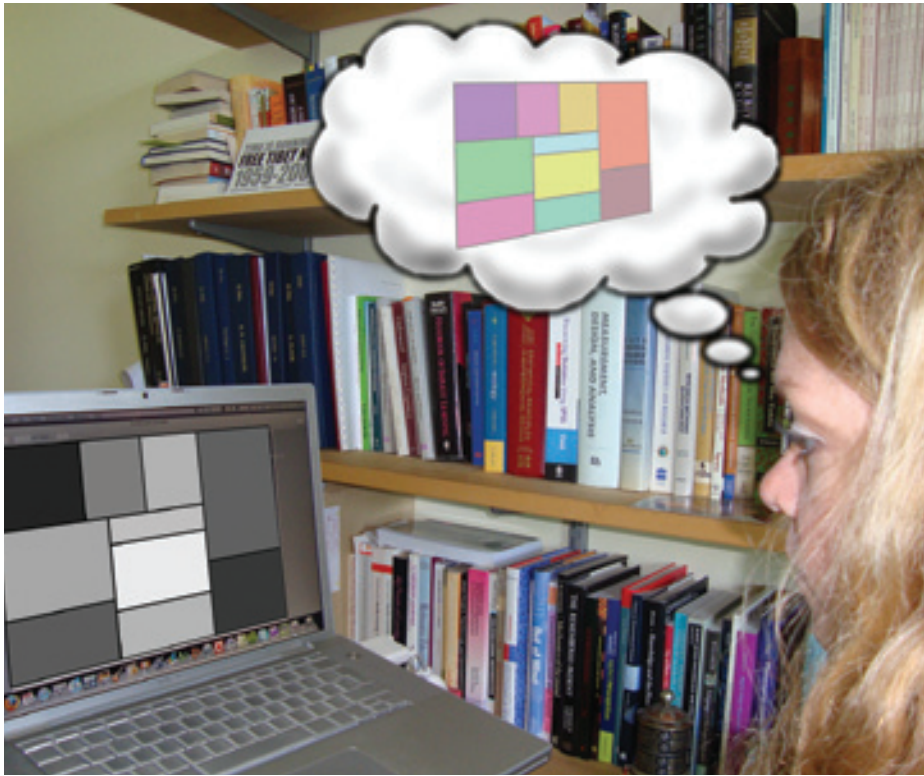


Alene's career perspective

'What I really valued about Psychology at Sussex was having the opportunity to specialise in areas that interested me as I progressed through the degree. The sheer size of the School of Psychology meant that there were so many diverse courses to choose from, underpinned by a solid grounding in the fundamentals of psychology, excellent training in research methods, and the opportunity to conduct your own empirical research project. I've taken this forward into my career as a research executive at a global market research agency, where I design, implement and manage research projects for big brand names such as IKEA and Pernod Ricard. I use the research and analytic skills I gained at Sussex every day in my job, and really enjoy applying psychology to a business environment, analysing consumers' opinions and behaviour. I'm even lucky enough to get to travel to some great places in the process!'

Alene Nasra
Senior Research
Executive, GfK NOP





Psychology researchers investigate how highly hypnotisable people can hallucinate black-and-white images as brightly coloured. When a person hypnotically hallucinates a coloured image, the parts of their brain that code colour become more active

What sort of career could I have?

Studying psychology will provide you with a variety of skills that are highly sought after by a wide range of employers. You will be familiar with scientific methods of enquiry, and will have developed a critical approach to evaluating evidence. You will also have learned how to communicate complex information effectively, both in writing and orally. And you will also know about people – how and why they behave as they do.

Our graduates have gone on to careers in:

- professional psychology, eg as clinical, educational, health, occupational or forensic psychologists. (Visit www.bps.org.uk/careers for further information)
- academic research: postgraduate degrees such as PhDs at Sussex and other top institutions
- communication and media
- advertising and market research
- teaching at both primary and secondary level
- business and management.

How will I learn?

We use a variety of teaching methods. There is a lecture series for all courses in the first two years, supported by seminars and practicals. Courses in research methods use laboratory work, practical classes, audiovisual and internet resources. Final-year courses are mainly taught by a combination of lectures and seminars, and you will also carry out your own research project with the help of your supervisor. Assessment is by a combination of unseen exams, essays or dissertations, and coursework (including seminar presentations and practical work).

Classes will normally be timetabled between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. In addition to taught sessions, you will also be expected to undertake independent study.

What will I achieve?

- specific knowledge in the core areas of psychology, and an understanding of the scope, methods and relevance of psychological enquiry
- key research skills including experimental design and observational techniques
- research skills in different methods of enquiry, including experimental design and observational techniques
- the ability to assess how results from research studies provide evidence for and against theoretical positions
- skills in literacy, numeracy, IT, critical thinking and creative problem-solving
- skills in both oral and written communication, in data and information analysis (in particular the use and interpretation of statistics) and in computing
- enhanced interpersonal skills through small-group projects and seminars.

Michael's perspective

'The fact that I didn't get the opportunity to study psychology formally until I came to Sussex wasn't a problem as the staff here are so supportive and willing to help that I quickly caught up with other students who had studied psychology at A level. The courses offered cover a wide range of fascinating topics, from social psychology, covering theories of personality acquisition and crowd behaviour, to the course Brain and Behaviour, which delves into the way synapses communicate with each other and allow information to reach the brain for processing, and the chemical changes in the brain that can lead to the expression of particular behaviours. Many courses have practical classes, in which you take part in – or even run your own experiments to illustrate the topics discussed in lectures. This allows you to evaluate theories for yourself, and discover how they can be improved or applied to everyday, practical situations.'

Michael Broughton
BSc in Psychology



Developmental psychologists at Sussex use video cameras to monitor an infant's eye gaze during a 'False Belief' task. This research aims to determine how children begin to understand that other people's beliefs may not match their own



Core courses

In the first two years, you will spend 75 per cent of your time studying core courses that provide an excellent grounding in research methods and the key areas of psychology. The courses you take in the remaining 25 per cent of your time will depend on the degree programme. If you are taking single-honours Psychology, you can choose to take either further psychology courses or courses offered by a variety of other disciplines, including a foreign language. If you are taking Psychology with a minor subject (eg Psychology with Neuroscience), 25 per cent of your time will be spent on courses offered by the minor subject

Courses currently include:

Year 1

Core courses: Cognition in Clinical Contexts • Cognitive Psychology • Individuals and Groups • Psychobiology • Psychology of Childhood and Adolescence. You will also take a year-long course in Research Skills in Psychology. **Options:** Contemporary Issues in Psychology • Psychology and Social Issues

Year 2

Core courses: Brain and Behaviour and a second Cognitive Psychology course • Developmental Psychology • Personality and Individual Differences • Social Psychology. In addition, you take a year-long course Research Methods in Psychology. **Options:** Abnormal and Clinical Psychology • Applied Cognitive Psychology

Final year

An important part of your final year will be your research project, in which you carry out your own research on a topic of your choosing, with the help of your supervisor. You take Philosophy of Psychology and, in addition, you will choose four options from courses such as: Animal Vocal Communication • Biological Bases of Mental Disorders • Clinical Psychology • Cognitive Neuroscience • Communication in Infancy • Economic and Consumer Psychology • Organisational Psychology • Psychobiology of Addiction • Psychology of Appetite • Psychology of Art • Psychology of the Family • Reading Development and Reading Difficulties • Social Cognitive Development • The Social Psychology of Prejudice. Those taking Psychology with a minor subject take two options from Psychology and two courses from those offered by their minor subject

Degrees

Psychology

BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: C800

Psychology encompasses questions as diverse as: how can we reduce racial prejudice and ethnic conflict? How do children learn to speak a language? How do we perceive the world as a three-dimensional space? What are the effects of alcohol on brain function? These are just a few examples of the kinds of question you will address in this programme. This BSc aims to provide you with a broad grounding in the core areas of psychology, and an understanding of the different techniques psychologists use to understand the mind. It enables you both to specialise in areas of psychology that particularly interest you and to take courses in other subjects.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for more details.

Psychology with American Studies

BSc (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: C8T7

The development of psychology has been greatly influenced by North American scholars such as Thorndike, Watson, Skinner and Hull, and North America continues to lead the world in research in the discipline. An obvious attraction of this four-year programme is the opportunity to spend the third year at a North American university.



In Years 1 and 2, the core courses are the same as those for the Psychology programme, and you take a course each term in American studies, covering areas such as history, literature and social issues.

You will spend your year in North America at one university, and there is a good deal of flexibility about the programme of courses that you will follow while there.

In Year 4, the range of options is the same as those available to Year 3 students on other psychology programmes.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of psychology courses; refer to the American studies subject entry on page 29 for more information on these courses.

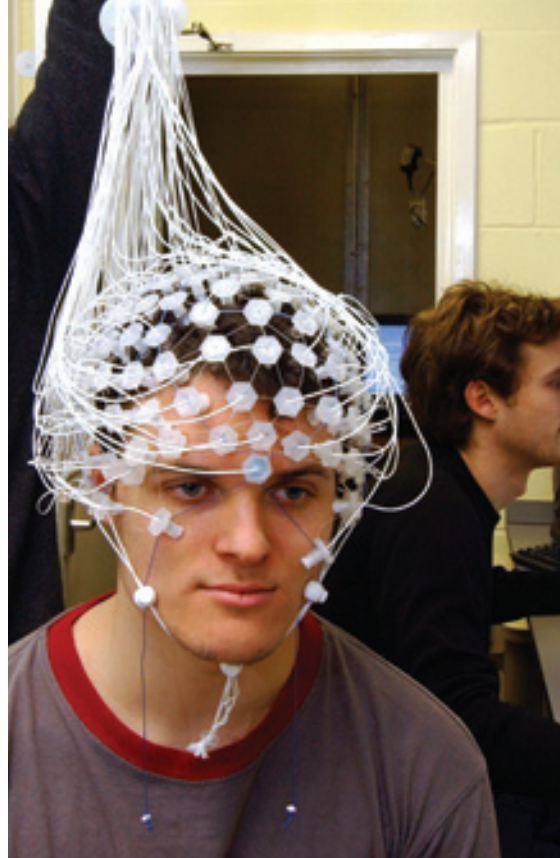
Psychology with Cognitive Science

BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: CG87

The discipline of cognitive science has emerged in the last 30 years or so, drawing on the insights gained from computer modelling of the human mind. It brings together the disciplines of psychology, linguistics, philosophy and artificial intelligence, and hence provides an excellent complementary programme to psychology.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of psychology courses; refer to the cognitive science subject entry on page 46 for more information on these courses.

During their empirical research project, final-year undergraduate students investigate whether horses can understand human-given cues in an object-choice task



You will have access to a wide range of equipment for your research project. Here one of our students uses EEG equipment to understand changes in neural activity according to what a person is thinking about

Psychology with Neuroscience

BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: CB81

Neuroscience involves the study of brain mechanisms and how neural activity underlies perception, thought and action. It provides a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the relationship between mind and brain. The programme is taught jointly by neuroscientists and psychologists.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of psychology courses; refer to the neuroscience entry on page 102 for more information on these courses.

Psychology with Sociology

BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: C8L3

This degree programme combines the core elements of the psychology degree with a thorough grounding in core themes in sociology. Psychology and sociology share a focus on social influence, and this degree allows you to compare and contrast the methods and perspectives of each of these disciplines.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of psychology courses; refer to the sociology subject entry on page 120 for more information on these courses.