



<b>Course Length</b>	MSc 12 months (full-time) PGDip 9 months (full-time)
<b>Places Available</b>	Approx 20
<b>SCQF Level</b>	11

## Psychology MSc

### Key information

#### Entrance Requirements

Applicants should hold at least a lower second-class Honours degree or equivalent in any science, social science, or humanities subject.

#### Interview required ✓

#### Want to know more?

Programme Tutor:

**Dr Vera Kempe**

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### Key features

- Applied emphasis, focusing on a variety of fields and occupations where knowledge of psychological theory and findings are a distinct advantage
- Flexibility in the second semester for students to choose modules that best fit with their individual interests and future career aspirations
- Opportunity to be taught by, and work closely with, active researchers in a number of applied psychology areas
- Access to our psychology research laboratories and teaching labs - described as exemplary in our most recent independent subject review
- Opportunity to engage in enquiry-based learning and participate in problem-based learning individually and in small groups
- Abertay was rated as best modern university in Scotland for research in Psychology in the UK Research Assessment Exercise 2008

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, brain, and behaviour. Psychology is relevant to every aspect of our daily lives providing an understanding of personality, relationships and wellbeing. Psychology can also be applied to a variety of real-life settings including many careers and occupations.

If psychology is not your first degree this course will introduce you to the core areas that make up this fascinating field of study. Among other things, you will learn how we make sense of the world we live in, how we learn and use language, how our behaviour and attitudes are formed, how our individual chemical makeup can affect our behaviour, and how we develop emotionally and socially from infancy through childhood, adulthood and then old age. One of the most interesting aspects about studying psychology is that we learn information about ourselves and those around us.

The applied nature of the course means that in the

second semester you will focus on how psychology is applied to a wide range of real-life issues. You may choose to study issues surrounding how witnesses of crime are interviewed, the role motivation plays in the sporting arena and workplace, how people cope with Parkinson's Disease, and the usefulness of psychometric testing in the workplace, to name just a few of the exciting possibilities available.

Those exiting the course after successful completion of the taught component (i.e. Postgraduate Diploma) would be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) Psychology.

Our teaching is informed by staff research activity in the areas of crime investigation, law, psychometric testing, leadership, decision making, language acquisition, memory, teaching, learning styles, perception, and evolutionary and comparative psychology.

### What you study

Semester 1 (September to December) contains the first taught component of the course. Here you will be introduced to three core areas of psychology: developmental, biological and cognitive psychology.

Semester 2 contains another two core areas of psychology: social psychology and individual differences, but also applied modules that show you how psychology is applied in the real world. You will be able to choose from Technology and Security or Psychology in Practice. The core research methods module is studied in both semesters and introduces you to both quantitative and qualitative methods. These analytical techniques will provide the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to undertake your Masters project in the summer months (June to August).

### How you learn

An integrated programme of lectures, seminars, group discussions and lab work is used to enhance your knowledge and understanding of the core cognate areas of psychology. You will be provided with examples of how this knowledge can be applied in real world settings and in a variety of occupations. The supervised MSc research project is a culmination of research and analytical skills that you acquire throughout the taught part of the course. Web-based learning provides a virtual learning environment that allows you to access teaching, learning and library materials and to interact with staff and fellow students wherever you may be. We are committed to enquiry-based learning and part of your studies will therefore consist of problem-based learning in small groups.

### How you are assessed

A combination of written submissions, presentations, laboratory reports, and formal examinations are used throughout the course, with the most appropriate form of assessment being chosen for each topic. The research project is written in the style of a scientific research article.

### Career opportunities

The training you receive and the understanding you gain about human behaviour and its influences mean that you will be extremely well placed in the competitive job market. The knowledge and skills demonstrated by graduates from psychology courses have been proven to be valuable in a wide variety of employment destinations. These include careers in education, public and private social-service agencies, health services, criminal justice, and management and consulting services. Companies use psychologist's expertise in survey design, analysis, and research to provide marketing evaluation and statistical analyses. Graduates of our MSc Psychology will possess important transferable skills, such as numeracy and statistics, an ability to think analytically, and an ability to communicate complex ideas effectively. All these attributes are in high demand in the general job market. Previous Abertay psychology graduates have secured positions as crime figure analysts, care workers, laboratory technicians, retail managers, researchers, and have secured places on the civil service fast stream programme. The comprehensive training in research methods and applied topics are definitely an advantage to those students who wish to enrol on Doctorate Degrees.