

Programme Specification

MSc Applied Psychology

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	N/A
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
5.	Programme title	MSc Applied Psychology
6.	Pathways available	N/A
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Taught programme, block delivery
8.	Mode of attendance	Full and part-time
9.	UCAS Code	N/A
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	N/A
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	June 2008 amended November 2010 and February 2011 Up-dated September 2013 Revision June 2014 August and October 2014 (Regulations) August 2016 (Regulations amended - Section 20)

12. Educational aims of the programme

The course aims to provide:

- a flexible, interdisciplinary, student-centred forum for the advanced study of applied psychology;
- opportunities for the systematic development of the skills of objective analysis, evaluation, and presentation to enable students to further develop confidence in effectively appraising or researching applied psychology;
- a stimulating academic environment which is based on the values of academic openness and critical appraisal;
- a critical understanding and application of different research methods, and the ability to design and implement a personal project related to applied psychology (on completion of the full masters programme only).

These aims reflect the FHEQ (2008) descriptors of the abilities and qualities of students having completed Masters Level work. In summary these include dealing with complex issues and communicating conclusion to specialists/non specialists; to be self-directed and autonomous learners required for continuing professional development; and thus advancing their knowledge, understanding, decision-making and analytical skills to a high level.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Subject specific

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. retrieve and interpret specific knowledge about Applied Psychology using established methods of enquiry and critical appraisal;
2. critique theoretical frameworks and their application to 'real world' issues in Applied Psychology;
3. develop skills in communication through a variety of methods and media, demonstrating high standards of clarity and coherence;

4. apply a range of appropriate research or scholarly techniques to the critical analysis and evaluation of issues in Applied Psychology;
5. communicate to specialist and non-specialist audiences a systematic understanding and a critical analysis of issues and new insights in applied psychology;
6. independently design, manage and evaluate a personal project relating to applied psychology through the process of advanced scholarship.

The subject specific intended learning outcomes 1. – 6. are achievable variously across the mandatory and optional modules and are mapped onto the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ, 2008). Students achieving all awards will be able to achieve 1. – 5. Only students completing the Dissertation (MPSY4000) will be able to achieve 6.

The programme subject specific learning outcomes have also been developed in accordance with the most currently available UW Learning and Teaching Strategy and the outcomes are consistent with the UW Learning Outcomes Policy.

Generic

At the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Work collaboratively and ethically to achieve personal learning goals
2. Consolidate cognitive and transferable skills, and develop independence and autonomy in learning

The generic learning outcomes 1–2 are achievable by all students on the programme. As these outcomes are fundamental to any master's level work, these are both achievable in any module.

The course is offered at three levels - as shown in the Award map and Requirements for Awards - to encourage students who simply want a taster, to give those students who, for whatever reason(s), do not complete the dissertation or other modules the opportunity to qualify at the certificate or diploma level and to allow students the flexibility to upgrade to a Masters qualification at a later date.

The MSc in Applied Psychology is modular and part of the University of Worcester's (UW) Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

In keeping with UW's Strategic Plan, the MSc in Applied Psychology makes a significant contribution to the postgraduate academic portfolio and promotes advanced scholarship and research. It also coheres with the multi-professional nature of the Institute of Health and Society within which the Psychological Sciences Unit is located.

The programme has been designed to support the key values of the UW Learning and Teaching Strategy:

- Quality of Learning
- Quality of Teaching
- Access, Equality and Opportunity
- Reflection and Evaluation

Like all Higher Education courses in the UK, this award is designed with reference to the Academic Infrastructure, a means of describing academic standards in terms of the academic level you are expected to achieve and, in broader terms, the content that will be covered.

The course aims to provide students with a clear understanding of key areas in Applied Psychology. It will provide students with a springboard for either further study in the area of psychology identified. Finally, the course should provide the opportunities for students to develop their research skills and hence move into research positions.

The Awards Map shown in section 15 illustrates the structure of the programme. There are a number of mandatory modules at each level of the programme.

14. Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies adopted in the MSc Applied Psychology reflect the aims of the course and the descriptors for FHEQ (2008) and make a significant contribution to learning. The assessment strategies are designed to develop skills and knowledge and provide evidence of the students' progress and achievement throughout the course and prepare the students for lifelong learning. Both formal (summative) and informal, developmental, (formative) approaches will be used. In order to develop the skills of advanced study identified within the course aims, students will experience a variety of assessment strategies. These include essays, seminar papers and presentations, critical review, reports and independent learning contracts. The opportunity for students to demonstrate independence in a sustained piece of work is provided in the completion of the Dissertation.

Modules and assessments have been mapped to the programme specific learning outcomes and the table below shows the different types of formal assessments used in the programme modules and how these map on the programme learning outcomes. The programme subject specific outcomes are modified in the module guides provided to reflect module specific interpretations of these outcomes.

Mapping Grid of Assignment types, Modules and Learning outcomes

Assessment types	Essay	Systematic review	Critical evaluation of paper	Oral /poster presentation Seminar/ Case report	Reflective diary and logbook	Research proposal	Report/ Case study	Analysis of data/method	Dissertation
LOs assessed*	1,2,3,4,5,	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5,6
MPSY4004			• 50%		• 50%				
MPSY4002						• 50%		• 50%	
MPSY4003		• 100%							
MPSY4010				• 40%			• 60%		
MPSY4011				• 50%			• 50%		
MAED4047	• 100%								
MPSY4000									• 100%

Module codes:

- 4004 Professional practice in applied psychology
- 4002 Advanced research analysis
- 4003 Specialist topic in applied psychology
- 4010 Psychology of mental health
- 4011 Health psychology interventions across the lifespan
- 4047 Inclusion & challenging Behaviour
- 4000 Dissertation

15. Programme structures and requirements

Awards map for MSc Applied Psychology

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional(O))		
			MSc Applied Psychology	PG Dip Applied Psychology	PG Cert Applied Psychology
MPSY4004	Professional Practice in Applied Psychology	40	M	M	M
MPSY4002	Advanced Research Analysis	20	M	M	M
MPSY4010	Psychology of Mental Health	20	M	M	
MPSY4003	Specialist Topic in Applied Psychology	20	M	M	
MPSY4011	Health Psychology Interventions Across the Lifespan	20	O	O	
MAED4047	Inclusion & Challenging Behaviour	20	O	O	
MPSY4000	Dissertation	60	M		

Students registered on to the PG Cert Applied Psychology must successfully complete 60 credits at Level 7 (MPSY4004 and MPSY4002)

Students progressing onto the PG Dip Applied Psychology must also successfully complete MPSY4010 and MPSY4003 plus MPSY4011 OR MAED4047 to successfully complete a total minimum of 120 credits at Level 7.

To be awarded the MSc Applied Psychology students must complete a total of 180 credits at Level 7 including a minimum of 60 credits for the dissertation (MPSY4000).

16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

This award is located at level 7 of the FHEQ. The MSc Applied Psychology is modular and part of the University of Worcester's (UW) Taught Courses Regulatory Framework (PRF). This programme has been developed to reflect the FHEQ (2008) descriptors, which was used as a reference for drawing up the programme and module learning outcomes.

17. Support for students

In common with other UW courses all students have a personal academic tutor who will offer support when requested by the student. In addition, all students are contacted by their personal academic tutor each semester offering dedicated tutorial support.

Students experience a wide range of learning and teaching methods. For example, lectures, seminars, practical classes, computer workshops, tutorials, visiting speakers, and directed study

In addition, there is considerable support available for students. A Student Handbook is provided to all students and is updated annually. An induction programme is also provided for all new entrants. Furthermore, library induction and information skills packages are available throughout the course if required.

18. Admissions

Admissions to the MSc Applied Psychology are considered from applicants that can demonstrate both the ability and commitment to successfully study at an advanced level. The course is aimed at those wishing to pursue a career in a psychology-related area, and/or those who wish to develop their skills and knowledge of applied psychology. The course team are committed to equal opportunities and welcome applications from people from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds and those from under-represented communities.

Entry requirements

The normal requirement for entry to this MSc is a 2(2) Honours degree in Psychology or an equivalent discipline that covers a significant proportion of psychological content. A lower level qualification together with appropriate experience or substantial related experience alone will be considered. In such cases, an advisory interview will be conducted. Professional experience within the applied psychology is not a requirement for entry to this course

Recognition of Prior Learning

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111.

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions procedures

Admissions to the MSc in Issues in Applied Psychology are considered from applicants that can demonstrate both the ability and commitment to successfully study at an advanced level. The normal requirement for entry to this MSc is a 2(2) Honours degree in Psychology or an equivalent discipline that covers a significant proportion of psychological content. A lower level qualification together with appropriate experience or substantial related experience alone will be considered. In such cases, an advisory interview will be conducted. Professional experience within the applied psychology is not a requirement for entry to this course.

Admissions/selection criteria

Please refer to entry requirements above. Prospective students, whose first language is not English, must have an IELTS score of 6.5

19. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

There are a number of methods used by the course team in order to monitor, evaluate and improve the quality and standards of teaching and learning:

- Annual review of the quality of the course
- External Examiners reports

- Mid and end of module evaluations by students
- Course Management Committee considers student and staff feedback on modules
- The Institute of Health and Society's Learning and Teaching Committee and the Academic Development and Practice Unit of the University promotes learning and teaching across the institution
- Peer learning through observation
- A PGCert Learning and Teaching in HE, accredited by the Higher Education Academic (HEA) and the Staff and Educational Development Association for staff new to teaching in HE
- Regular staff meetings have a standing item on sharing good practices, including teaching and learning
- Institute of Health and Society Learning and Teaching Working Group

20. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Some modules have attendance requirements.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance.
- Reassessment items that are passed are graded at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student who fails 60 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
PG Cert	Passed a minimum of 60 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map
PG Dip	Passed a minimum of 120 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map
Masters (MA/MSc/MBA/MTL)	Passed a minimum of 180 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map

PG Cert and PG Dip awards are unclassified. The awards of Masters may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Students registered on to the PG Cert Applied Psychology must successfully complete 60 credits at Level 7 (MPSY4004 and MPSY4002)

Students progressing onto the PG Dip Applied Psychology must also successfully complete MPSY4010 and MPSY4003 plus MPSY4011 OR MAED4047 to successfully complete a total minimum of 120 credits at Level 7.

To be awarded the MSc Applied Psychology students must complete a total of 180 credits at Level 7 including a minimum of 60 credits for the dissertation (MPSY4000).

21. Indicators of quality and standards

The University underwent a QAA Institutional Audit in March 2011. The audit confirmed that confidence can be placed in the soundness of the institution's current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students. The audit team highlighted several aspects of good practice, including the student academic representative (StARs) initiative, the proactive approach which supports the student experience for disabled students, the comprehensiveness of the student online environment (SOLE), the wide range of opportunities afforded to students to enhance their employability, the institution's commitment to enhancement, and the inclusive approach to working with its collaborative partners.

22. Employability and graduate destinations

The course aims to provide students with a clear understanding of key areas in applied psychology. It will provide students with a springboard for either further study in the area of applied psychology identified or for direct entry into the applied psychology areas. Finally, the course should provide the opportunities for students to develop their research skills and hence move into research positions.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module outlines.