

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology (Clinical Psychology) (Top-up)

Module Descriptions

Advanced Experimental Methods and Laboratory Experience

In this module, you will learn about the more common advanced quantitative research methodologies and associated analyses employed in psychological experiments. The module aims to provide practical skills in research design and operationalisation, the analysis of data (using a computer package where appropriate), and the interpretation, evaluation and subsequent reporting of research findings. In addition, you will learn about research ethics and have the opportunity to apply these research skills to the core areas of psychobiology, cognitive psychology and the study of individual differences.

Advanced Qualitative and Survey Methods and Laboratory Experience

In this module, you will learn about the more common advanced qualitative research methodologies and associated analyses employed in psychological studies. You will also learn how to design psychometric survey instruments and the process this involves. The module aims to provide practical skills in research design and operationalisation, the analysis of data and the interpretation, evaluation and subsequent reporting of research findings. In addition, you will have the opportunity to apply these research skills to the core areas of social and developmental psychology and psychopathology.

Eating Disorders

This module will provide you with an understanding of the main clinical and epidemiological features of eating disorders as classified in DSM-5. You will learn about clinical management, as well as understand the variation of body image attitudes and perception, and eating habits in a normal healthy population.

The module covers topics such as the clinical presentation of eating disorders, classification, diagnosis and assessment of eating disorders, the role of dieting, the effect of culture, the physiology of appetite and obesity, body image distortion, eating disorders in children and men, and the treatment of eating disorders.

The module draws on many areas of psychology. Predisposing and precipitating factors for eating disorders are examined by considering empirical evidence from the behavioural, biological, psychological and socio-cultural domains. Specific risk factors explored include genetics, personality factors, cognitive factors and environmental

factors, including the family, peer-group relations and adverse life experiences. The role of dieting and the effect of culture, including media amongst some other things, are explored as triggers.

Mental Health, Cognition and the Brain

In this module, you will be introduced to applying knowledge about the brain and cognition to mental health. You will understand how normal cognitive processes can be used to understand mental health and dementia. It will provide you with an insight into the application of skills clinical psychologists use during case conceptualisation and devising interventions, including deepening our understanding of symptoms, the potential mechanisms which underpin them and how compromised cognitive capacities constrain day-to-day life.

Through lecture materials and workshops, you will be exposed to examples of research methods used to investigate the relationship between cognition and mental health including functional and structural imaging, cognitive task design and real-world data capture. You will be able to highlight gaps and critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches.

You will examine elements of cognition within the context of mental health and substance use disorders, as well as some dementias to appreciate what happens as cognition "breaks down". Examples will be included from dementias, mental health disorders and substance use disorders, including alcohol use, misuse and abuse.

You will be able to define cognitive processes evident in mental health and how they relate to the brain. You will recognise the inherent strengths in an interdisciplinary approach to apply cognitive knowledge to increase your understanding of mental health.

Appreciating mental health across different levels of biological/cognitive representation will deepen your knowledge of symptoms and how they might impinge upon day-to-day life. Through active learning, you will develop and apply your research skills within the clinical psychology discipline and gain skills in communication for a variety of audiences.

Mental Health Difficulties and Therapeutic Approaches

In this module, you will develop a critical understanding of the theoretical underpinning, research base and effectiveness of a range of mental health and psychological difficulties, along with associated treatment and therapeutic approaches. In addition, you will learn about, discuss and evaluate the diagnostic factors, aetiology, prognosis and factors influencing the outcome of several mental health difficulties, including anxiety, personality, mood and thought disorders.

You will explore the conceptual and historical issues surrounding the topic of mental health and how the field has changed over time, and learn how to discuss and evaluate studies that have had a particular impact on the direction of theory, research and therapeutic applications.

Mental Health Problems and Crime

In this module, you will examine the association of mental health problems with criminal behaviour. As part of this module, you will be introduced to a diverse range of topics within the field of mental health and crime. You will explore research assessing the association of mental health problems with criminal behaviour. You will also discuss the efficacy of interventions that aim to prevent people with mental health problems from engaging in crime.

As part of this module, you will be introduced to key debates within this field. Moreover, this will be discussed from a clinical and forensic perspective. Therefore, this module will incorporate elements of both clinical and forensic psychology.

Neuropsychology and Cognitive Science

The module is designed to introduce you to theory and empirical research into the study of neuropsychology and advanced cognitive science. You will learn how traditional behavioural methods and neuroscience methodologies can be used in tandem to explore key issues and concepts. You will learn to consider and evaluate theory, and develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of methodologies. Importantly, you will explore and develop knowledge related to the application of neuropsychological and cognitive research to a range of psychological processes.

For the neuropsychology component, the module will sample from the following topics: attention deficits, developmental neuropsychology, emotion processing, face and object recognition, hemispheric lateralisation, language disorders and neuroimaging.

For the cognitive component, the module will sample from the following topics: cognitive modelling, concepts and categorisation, decision-making, language learning and comprehension, methods of studying cognition, musical cognition, reasoning and social cognition.

Positive Psychology

The module is designed to introduce you to the basic principles regarding the study, investigation and explanation of optimal human functioning and well-being. In this module, you will be introduced to theories and models of well-being within the context

of positive psychology. You will learn about the core issues involved in the study of well-being through the understanding of the historical and contemporary development of the concepts and an evaluation of theories.

Methods of measuring well-being and happiness, and the challenges associated with this will be explored. Strategies for increasing positive emotions, engagement, positive relationships, meaning in life and accomplishment will be explored by focusing on empirical validation of interventions and exercises to try out in the context of your day-to-day life.

Through workshop discussions and formative group exercises, you will develop communication skills and begin to understand the role of teamwork.

Through your understanding of applications of positive psychology interventions to the real world, such as by clinical psychology professionals, you will begin to be aware of career interests. Similarly, by critically evaluating research in the field of positive psychology, you will begin to develop your skills for real-world career opportunities.

Psychobiology, Cognition and Individual Differences

You will learn about the psychobiological basis of human behaviour, memory and cognition, and individual differences, covering the conceptual and historical development of the area, as well as contemporary literature and debates. You will apply basic concepts of biological psychology to complex human behaviours like aggression, drug addiction and stress. You will also learn about a range of theoretical and applied topics within memory and cognition, such as memory and attention, memory disorders and applied memory research. In addition, the module will cover the nature and dynamics of intelligence, the reasons why people differ in intelligence and personality, and where individual differences in intelligence and personality originate.

These three perspectives will be contextualised through the use of case studies and/or expert opinion embedded into the lecture series which will form the basis for points of discussion in the lectures. Towards the revision stage of the module, you will be provided with guidance on critical thinking skills, essay writing skills and literature searching.

Psychology Project

In this module, you will individually conceptualise, plan and execute an original piece of research. You will, through reading, understanding and critically appraising relevant psychological literature, formulate and operationalise a research question, and select and implement research methodologies and statistical techniques appropriate for answering your research question. You will also have the opportunity to disseminate your research findings via presentation at a conference.

You will, as part of applying for ethical approval for your proposed research, consider relevant ethical issues associated with your research, and you will highlight ways of addressing these issues.

The module will allow you to develop a range of generic skills such as effective use of computers (ie. for analysis, data entry and word processing), effective oral and written communication skills, evidence-based reasoning and problem-solving, self-management and timekeeping, as well as liaising and engaging in dialogue with other people related to your research (eg. your supervisor and, where necessary, outside organisations).

Social and Developmental Psychology and Psychopathology

In this module, you will learn about core theories and approaches used, and the issues in social and developmental psychology and psychopathology. The relationship between psychopathology, society and development will be explored by focusing on context and culture.

In addition, you will learn about different methods and approaches used to investigate and report problems from a social, developmental and psychopathological perspective, and relate theory to practice by providing you with knowledge of different research techniques.