

Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences

Programme Specification

Programme title: MSc The Psychology of Health and Wellbeing

Academic Year:	2018/19
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7] MSc The Psychology of Health and Wellbeing Postgraduate Diploma in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing Postgraduate Certificate in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	
Programme duration:	1 year full-time
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	
Date of Senate Approval:	June 2017
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	April 2018

Introduction

The scientific and empirical study of psychology at undergraduate and postgraduate levels allows the development of skills and knowledge relevant to a wide variety of careers and professions. The PG Dip/MSc in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing is aimed at graduates with a first degree in psychology, or other suitable degree, who wish to specialise in the psychology of health and wellbeing. This programme specialises in providing high quality, research-led teaching to introduce students to advanced concepts in psychology that relate to health and well-being. It contains a diverse portfolio of modules that will cover core elements, theory and practical applications of clinical psychology, neuropsychology, health psychology and cognitive neuroscience. The programme will be taught by experienced academics and researchers, drawing on their own interests and research experience, providing relevant and current information in the area of psychology, health and wellbeing. An exciting feature of this programme is its applied dimension, in the option of securing a work placement with, for example, local mental health charities.

Throughout their studies, students will have opportunities to develop research and analytical skills, problem-solving capacities, in-depth knowledge of psychological theory and the personal and interpersonal skills needed for doctoral study or pursuing a career in professional psychology.

Students will experience a range of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars, group work, and presentations, culminating in an independent empirical project. This course would be appropriate for those students who want to pursue careers in a range of health related careers, including; clinical psychology, health psychology, educational psychology, PhD training or other health related areas.

The Division of Psychology is located within the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences and offers a number of programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in addition to a buoyant research programme. Teaching excellence is a priority for the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences (FMLSS), and several divisions hold QAA subject review scores at the top of the ranking scales. Teaching is informed and supported by a commitment to research; the departmental staff consists of researchers who bring expertise from their ongoing academic studies to the lectures and laboratory classes.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- Apply psychological scientific principles generally, though specifically in understanding the mind, brain, behaviour and experience and the complex interactions between these in relation to health and wellbeing;
- present multiple perspectives and consider the inter-relationship of psychological knowledge in a way that demonstrates an ability to critically evaluate;
- evaluate the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory as well as how theory guides the collection and interpretation of data;
- apply ethical principles and a range of research skills and methods to the investigation of experience and behaviour, culminating in the ability to conduct research independently;
- critically evaluate theory, research findings and recognise the transformative nature of psychology as well as its real life applications;
- apply employability-related and personal transferable knowledge and skills to be able to progress to further advanced study in psychology, psychology-related employment or to move into employment or further study that do not require psychology subject specific skills;
- apply the principles of psychological literacy by demonstrating an awareness of self and others, developing the potential to become ethical, socially and environmentally responsible participants in their communities/society, beyond university and employment

Programme Learning Outcomes

Postgraduate Certificate in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO1 Present a systematic and critical understanding of the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline in relation to health and wellbeing, showing a comprehensive understanding that there are multiple perspectives within this field of study, and that psychology involves a range of research methods, theories and evidence.
- LO2 Draw on knowledge at the forefront of contemporary health and wellbeing related psychology, and be able to synthesise and apply knowledge originally when commenting on a range of influences on psychological behaviour, functioning and experience.
- LO3 Critically evaluate the conceptual contribution of the core domains of psychology relevant to the field, including their application, perspectives and theories, and integrate them into new contexts.
- LO4 Critically process, interpret and systematically evaluate quantitative and/or qualitative data.
- LO5 Critically consider ethical issues in psychology in relation to health and wellbeing contexts.
- LO6 Communicate effectively using a range of written, oral and visual means in order to present structured, coherent and evidence based arguments.
- LO7 Be computer literate for the purposes of furthering their own learning including an understanding and application of specialist psychological software.
- LO8 Work individually and autonomously, and as part of a team showing a critical awareness of contextual and interpersonal factors.
- LO9 Reflect critically and act autonomously in relation to academic and professional self-development.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO10 Present critical and conceptual understanding of multiple perspectives when problem solving within appropriate psychological domains.
- LO11 Demonstrate a critical awareness of the reciprocal relationship between environment and behaviour.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO12 Present a systematic and critically evaluative literature review of contemporary psychological literature within the domain of psychological health and wellbeing.
- LO13 Initiate, design, conduct and report an original empirically based research project under appropriate supervision including the generation of research hypotheses/research questions, that reflect psychological theories and concepts related to health and wellbeing, in relation to theories and concepts, and to demonstrate the ability to make decisions in complex situations.

Curriculum

Students will study key areas in the psychology of health and wellbeing. They will develop not only a strong theoretical background in health and wellbeing psychology but also a variety of practical skills required for working and/or further study in the field. Within a broadly biopsychosocial framework students will study key theories and concepts within health and wellbeing psychology, applications of and professional issues in clinical psychology, health, eating behaviour, neuropsychology, as well as studying a range of research methods relevant to the field. A key feature of this programme is that students will have the option to choose between the two employability modules of *Psychological Life Skills and Employability* and *Advanced Professional Applications of Psychology*. In *Psychological Life Skills and Employability* students will have the option to secure a work placement, for example, with local mental health charities. Alternatively, students can take *Advanced Professional Applications of Psychology*, where critical issues of different employment roles in the area of psychology, health and wellbeing are explored. Here psychologists and other professionals, external to the University and from different areas of psychology, health and wellbeing will discuss their role and current issues in the role, in relation to theoretical psychology. External speakers from the field of psychology, health and wellbeing will also be invited to talk to students within, for instance, the *Putting Health into Context* module. This will provide students with a broad knowledge of roles, research and theory in a number of areas within the field. There is also an option to undertake an elective module from another Division within the University, should they choose to. Furthermore, students will undertake an independent empirical project under close supervision, in an area specific to the psychology of health and wellbeing. Throughout their studies, students will have opportunities to develop research and analytical skills, problem-solving capacities, in-depth knowledge of psychological theory and personal and interpersonal skills.

For the final exit award of masters, students will complete this programme in one full year (12 of months study), undertaking 6 modules totalling 120 credits between September and May, and completing the 60 credit MSc Research Project module over the summer, submitting their dissertation in September.

Postgraduate Certificate:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Advanced Psychological Research Methods	Core	20	Sem 1	PSY7021-B
7	Food and Behaviour	Core	20	Sem 1	PSY7015-B
7	Topics and Theoretical Issues in Clinical Psychology	Core	20	Sem 2	PSY7014-B

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Postgraduate Diploma:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
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		Elective			
7	Putting Health into Context	Core	20	Sem 2	PSY7017-B
7	Neurocognitive Health	Core	20	Sem 1	PSY7018-B
6	Psychological Life Skills and Employability	Option	20	Sem 1 and 2	PSY6011-B
7	Advanced Professional Applications of Psychology	Option	20	Sem 2	PSY7019-B
6/7	Elective module	Option	20	Sem 2	

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Degree of Master:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option/Elective	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	MSc Research Project in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing	Core	60	Sem 3	PSY7020-E

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The teaching, learning and assessment strategies are based on the programme and module learning outcomes and the need for appropriate independent study at this level. Teaching on the programme includes lectures, small group seminars, workshops and laboratory-based practicals. For instance, during lectures students will be encouraged to actively engage with the learning materials by taking part in group discussions, debates and problem solving activities. Furthermore, in practical sessions students will take part in a number of activities, for example in Advanced Psychological Research Methods students will process and analyse quantitative and qualitative data. Whereas in Topics and Theoretical Issues in Clinical Psychology, practical sessions will involve taking part in experiential tasks to better understand clinical psychology. Throughout all the modules, students will be encouraged to work collaboratively in groups and individually to enhance their learning. Modules are assessed by a variety of means including essays, exams, practical assessments, laboratory reports, workbooks, peer assessment, presentations (oral and poster) and a supervised placement. Formative assessment, for instance, feedback on lab work or group discussion, in every module will give students the opportunity to reflect upon and develop academic skills. In addition, an element of informal peer assessment will also take place during activities, which require group work, such as presentations, simulations and debates. In conjunction with the module tutor, the programme leader and in their personal tutoring sessions, students will be encouraged to reflect on assignment feedback and improve their techniques.

For the 60 credit MSc Research Project in the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing students will be able to choose a topic within the area psychology of health and wellbeing they wish to research. This will reflect the diversity of the core psychology curriculum and staff expertise. This research project offers students the opportunity to carry out an empirical and independent piece of research investigating one area relevant to the field of psychological health and wellbeing in depth, using theoretical understanding and research method skills developed during the programme. This independent research study will also help to further develop their skills to work independently and rigorously, whilst benefiting from the support of a member of staff with experience in a similar area.

Students will explore theories that underpin current debates, and develop experience and confidence in making a considered contribution to an argument. Assessment will usually foreground written expression of their skills, through essays, examinations or workbook writing. Students will also develop skills in presenting research findings and in the production of article writing. Assessment criteria are transparent and published. Students will develop discipline skills that can be applied to either their personal or professional expertise. Throughout the programme, students will acquire further employability related skills in knowledge acquisition, presentation, discussion and debate that will be useful in their career progression.

Also built into the programme are opportunities for students to feedback to the staff on their experience of the programme and for students to help enhance the content and running of the MSc. Students will be encouraged to actively engage in feedback with staff during Staff Student Liaison Committees, through module review and through their tutors.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

We are continually reviewing and developing our practices and policies to make the University more inclusive, but if students are disabled we may need to make some adjustments to make sure that they are not disadvantaged. We would advise students to contact the programme leader before applying to discuss these.

A typical successful application would have one of the following:

- A degree in Psychology which has or has not been accredited by the BPS
- A degree in a subject related to Psychology, Health or Social Sciences
- GCSE maths and English at grade 4 (old grade C) or above (or equivalent)

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1	Swapped semesters for PSY7018-B and PSY7014-B for 18/19 only	August 2018
2		