



Module Descriptor

Title	Essential Skills for Psychologists		
Session	2025/26	Status	Validated
Code	PSYC08011	SCQF Level	8
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	C Longman		
Summary of Module			
<p>This module helps students understand, identify, and communicate the core skills relevant to the field of psychology that they will learn during their psychology degree. It is broadly divided into three themes: good practice and current issues in psychological science, criticism and communication of psychological research, and identifying core transferable skills found in research psychologists and practitioners of psychology. The module explores each of these themes by identifying the core principles of good practice in psychological science (e.g., literature review and development of a research question), discussing current issues in psychology as a science (e.g., replication crisis, preregistration, open science practices, ethics), examining the principles of critical analysis (e.g., limitations rather than weaknesses of published research), exploring APA guidelines on communicating psychological research (e.g., formatting, argument construction, clarity of narrative, precision/depth of analysis), identifying the core transferable skills relevant to research psychologists (e.g., numeracy, literacy, literature searching, problem identification, solution development, experiment design, written and spoken communication, digital literacy, graphic design), and training students to reflect on their own abilities in these skills including an understanding of how to improve them as they work towards a career in Psychology.</p>			
<p>This module is a core module at L8 of the BPS accredited BSc single honours Psychology degree. It would be of interest to students who want to clearly identify as a psychologist, understand what skills that requires, how to improve those skills, and where those skills might be applied.</p>			
<p>At the end of the module students will have acquired the following graduate skills and abilities: critical thinker, analytical, inquiring, collaborative, research minded, knowledgeable, digitally literate, problem solver, effective communicator, motivated, autonomous, creative, imaginative, driven.</p>			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid² <input type="checkbox"/>	Online³ <input type="checkbox"/>	Work -Based Learning⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Identify as a psychologist and demonstrate literacy in psychology as a discipline.
L2	Demonstrate an understanding of current issues in psychology as a science.
L3	Critique and communicate the outcomes of psychology research to multiple audiences.
L4	Reflect on and understand the applicability of the transferable skills learned during a psychology degree.
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF 8 Demonstrate an awareness of the current challenges faced by psychology as a science in terms of replicability of research findings Demonstrate an awareness of how to conduct open and replicable science Demonstrate an understanding of how psychology can be applied in the context of study skills
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 8 Apply knowledge and understanding to investigate problems with current research practices in psychology

¹ Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

² The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

³ Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

⁴ Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	Apply knowledge and understanding to critique papers reporting the outcomes of psychological research
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 8 Undertake critical analysis of issues relating to both research conduct and research reporting
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 8 Convey complex information in a manner suitable for the general public Use ICT to produce professional-quality science communications
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 8 Demonstrate the ability to reflect on current levels of skill attainment Exercise autonomy and initiative in the construction of a professional-quality portfolio of blog pieces

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching

In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

This module is delivered through a series of lectures and workshops.

Lectures will deliver the core material. Student understanding, integration and application of core information will be supported and developed in a series of workshops. The VLE will be used to support the presentation of course information and material. Students will be encouraged to use the VLE facilities not only to access lecture information but also to continue workshop discussions, support workshop activities and independent study, and thereby contribute to and support their reflective learning and personal development skills.

Workshops will utilize small group settings to provide fora for the discussion of central themes, hands-on experience of the principles of communication skills in psychology, and the identification, monitoring, and transferability of core skills in psychology. Workshops will be used to engage students in discussions around contemporary issues in psychological science and the application of core transferable skills, and will include writing workshops to improve communication skills. These workshops will support the portfolio (blog) coursework with dedicated sessions on each aspect of the assignment. The workshops will also offer the opportunity for formative feedback on writing practice activities relevant to the assignment.

The assessment strategy addresses the learning objectives in a number of ways. The blog portfolio provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the current issues in psychological science (e.g., an opinion piece), their ability of critique and communicate psychological research (e.g., the critical review of a paper), and reflect on their own abilities in the transferable skills relevant to a career in psychology (e.g., a professional biography).

Learning Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	12
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	24
Independent Study	164
n/a	
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Purdue Online Writing Lab (for APA writing style) https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html</p> <p>BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-code-ethics-and-conduct</p> <p>APA Introduction to Open Science https://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2019/02/open-science</p> <p>Most information will be provided to students during lectures and workshops. Students will be expected to consult additional resources/references they identify as necessary to support their understanding and inform their coursework.</p> <p>More specific information can be accessed by consultation of papers from journals (e.g., Psychological Science, Current Directions in Psychological Science)</p>
<p>(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)</p>

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
<p>In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.</p> <p>For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:</p> <p>The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. In this module, you are considered to be academically engaged if you regularly engage with scheduled live sessions on campus (and occasionally online), including engaging with asynchronous activities online, course-related learning resources, and with timely completion of assessments.</p>

Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, for you to gain the most from this programme, it is recommended that you participate in all scheduled live classes and complete your self-directed learning activities in a timely manner.

It may be difficult to pass the assessments associated with this programme if you are not regularly engaging with each module's work and classes. We may reach out to check how things are going and offer support if we observe that you have not been attending sessions or completing online activities..

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustment such as adjustable height benches or assistance of a 'buddy' or helper.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Psychology Social Work
Overall Assessment Results	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	UG/PG Psychology
Moderator	A Simpson
External Examiner	L Wright
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Professional blog

Assessment 2**Assessment 3**

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Portfolio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	100	36

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Component 3

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Minor edits to fix typos following ILR	3 rd June 2025	G Hendry
Copied to new template	28 th March 2025	G Hendry