Foundation in Psychology Programme Handbook

Academic Year 2025–26

Department of Psychology

School of Mind, Body & Society

Goldsmiths, University of London

FOUNDATIONS '26

Programme Director: Dr. Gordon Wright

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Welcome

Welcome to the Foundation in Psychology programme at Goldsmiths for the academic year 2025-26!

Programme Contacts

Programme Director: Dr. Gordon Wright
⬚ g.wright@gold.ac.uk
⬚ Office Hours: TBC
⬚ WB 200/2 (Whitehead Building)

Programme Structure

You will complete **4 taught modules**:

- PS50005B – *Social & Developmental Psychology*
- PS50006B – *Psychology & Life* (Personality & Psychopathology, Applications)
- PS50007B – *Psychobiology & Cognitive Psychology*
- PS50008A – *Research Methods in Psychology* and
- Personal Tutoring

Teaching Calendar

- **Week 1 (w/b 30 Sep 24)**: Introductory Week
- **Week 2 onwards (w/b 07 Oct 24)**: Formal teaching begins
- **Teaching days**: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
- **All teaching is in person**

Assessment Summary

- 10 summative coursework submissions
- 3 in-house exams (Term 3), except PS50008A
- Coursework: Essays, reports, MCQ, plan
- **Pass = 50%, Progression = pass all + 60% average**

Coursework Deadlines

#	Assignment	SEM	Due	FB
1	Practice essay (xx%)	W1	Fri 24 Oct '25 W4	W6
2	Personality essay (xx%)	W3	Fri 21 Nov '25 W8	W10
3	Social Psych essay (xx%)	W5	Fri 28 Nov '25 W9	Winter
4	Psychobiology essay (xx%)	W8	Fri 16 Jan '26 W11	W14
5	Developmental essay (xx%)	W10	Fri 16 Jan '26 W11	W14
6	Applications essay (xx%)	W11	Fri 13 Feb '26 W15	W18
7	Research plan (xx%)	NA	Fri 27 Feb '26 W16	W20
8	EDS MCQ test (xx%)	NA	Mon 09 Mar '26 W18	Spring
9	Cognitive essay (xx%)	W14	Fri 13 Mar '26 W18	Spring
10	EDS Home assign. (xx%)	NA	Fri 20 Mar '26 W20	Spring
11	Research report (xx%)	NA	Fri 01 May '26 W22	W24

Module Information

PS50005B – Social Psychology - Term 1 (Autumn)

Lecture	Topic
1	Social Influence I: Conformity
2	Social Influence II: Obedience
3	Prosocial Behaviour
4	Intragroup Processes
5	Intergroup Processes
6	Attitude & Attitude Change
7	Interpersonal Communication
8	Aggression
9	Social Psychology Across Cultures

PS50005B – Developmental Psychology

Lecture	Topic
1	Intro & Theories of Development
2	Attachment
3	Perceptual Abilities in Infancy
4	Cognitive Development
5	Parenting
6	Gender Development
7	Adolescence
8	Adulthood and Old Age
9	Summary and Revision

PS50006B – Personality & Psychopathology - Term 1 (Autumn)

Lecture	Topic
1	Personality I: Trait Theories
2	Personality II: Biological Theories
3	Personality Assessment I
4	Personality Assessment II
5	Psychopathology: Definition/Classification
6	Obsessive-compulsive Disorder
7	Personality Disorders
8	Panic Disorder
9	Summary and Revision

PS50006B – Applications of Psychology - Term 2 (Spring)

Week	Date	Time	Location
24	Mon 23 Jan	12–1pm	RHB 143
25	Mon 30 Jan	12–1pm	RHB 143
26	Mon 06 Feb	12–1pm	RHB 143

PS50007B – Psychobiology - Term 1 (Autumn)

Lecture	Topic
1	Brain Anatomy I
2	Brain Anatomy II
3	Synaptic Transmission
4	Psychobiology of Emotions
5	Sleep
6	The Visual System
7	Somatosensory Systems
8	Psychobiology of Psychiatric Disorders
9	Module summary / Revision

PS50007B – Cognitive Psychology - Term 2 (Spring)

Lecture	Topic
1	Major Approaches to Cog Psych
2	Multi-store Model of Memory
3	Working Memory
4	Attention
5	Perception
6	Long-term Memory

Lecture	Topic
7	Cognition and Emotion
8	Judgement and Decision Making
9	TBA
10	Summary and Revision

PS50008A – Research Methods & Experimental Design Lectures - Term 2 (Spring) ONLY

Lecture	Topic
1	Intro to Designing Good Experiments
2	Reporting Your Findings
3	Correlational Designs
4	Probabilities & Distributions
5	Significance Testing & Research Plan Briefing
6	Practice Assignment
7	Practice MCQ Test
8	Running Experiments Ethically and Effectively
9	In-class MCQ Test
10	MCQ Feedback + Lab Report Briefing

PS50008A – Research Methods & Experimental Design Labs - Term 2 (Spring) ONLY

Lab	Topic
1	Observation of Human Behaviour
2	Descriptive Statistics
3	Correlational Analysis
4	Plotting Data with R
5	Running T-Tests with R
6	Project Groups: Literature Review
7	Project Groups: Methodology
8	Project Groups: Procedure
9	Lab Groups 1 & A: Live Data Collection
10	Data Analysis and Reporting

Mitigation, Feedback & Progression

- **Submit coursework via learn.gold**
- **MCQ and Exam results** via MyGoldsmiths
- **Pass all modules** (50%+), and average ≥60% to progress

- **Mitigation requests** via MyGoldsmiths within 7 days (unforeseen) or 14 working days in advance (foreseen)

Personal Tutors

- Assigned in Week 1
- 1-to-1 and group sessions scheduled each term
- Details posted on the programme Learn.gold page

Final Tips

- Stay organised

- Ask for help early

- Attend all sessions (they're in-person!)

- Use Learn.gold regularly

Good luck!