



New Student Pre-Arrival Information Pack

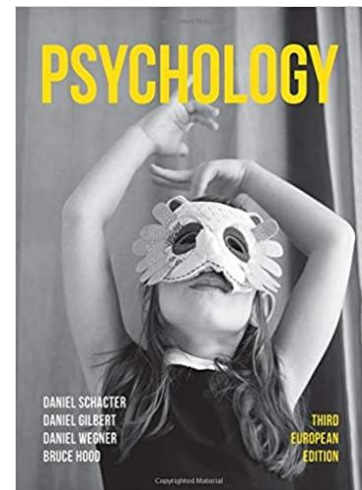
Hello and welcome to the School of Psychology at the University of Glasgow! We're delighted to have you with us and many congratulations on all the hard work you've done to get here. There's no expectation that you will do any reading or preparatory work before you join us in September, however, we know that many of you like to do so voluntarily. This information pack will give you details of course materials, information resources, and social media accounts that you may like to review whilst you're waiting to officially become a member of #TeamUofG in addition to a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

Dr. Emily Nordmann
First Year Course Lead

Textbook

The traditional course textbook for Level 1 psychology is "[Psychology: Third European Edition](#)" by [Schachter, Gilbert, Wegner & Hood](#). Chapters of this textbook will be on the reading list, but we do not require you to purchase it as part of the course – physical and electronic copies will be available in the library and there will also be alternative resources for you to read..

We recognise that many students like to have their own copy of the textbook but that it can be quite expensive. You can buy a second-hand edition if you wish, although you may not get access to some of the additional online resources that the textbook publisher makes available such as videos and quizzes. Whilst earlier editions of the book may be very similar, we cannot guarantee the relevance of the content and therefore it is at your own risk that you purchase a different edition.



In addition to the traditional textbook, we also use the Noba Project textbook which is a free online textbook that [you can access here](#).

Finally, our Level 1 practical lab course materials are all available online and [you can access them here](#). In the practical course we will teach you how to work with data and how to conduct psychological research.



Reading List

The reading list for Level 1 [can be accessed online here](#). Please be aware that this is the reading list for 2019-2020 and so there may be changes to content, however, it will give you a good idea of what to expect. Please also note that you may not be able to access some of the content until you have a UofG library account.

Social Media Accounts

When it comes to social media, we're quite an active School! Follow us on any or all of the below to keep up with what's happening before you arrive.

Instagram: [@uofgpsych](#)

Twitter: [@UofGPsychology](#)

Facebook Community Hub (for all UofG Psych students):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/uofgpsychhub>

Facebook Class of 2024 group (for new students starting in September 2020):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/psych2024>

Frequently Asked Questions

What will studying Psychology be like in 2020-2021 given the COVID-19 disruption?

Like all universities, face-to-face teaching in 2020-2021 will depend on social distancing guidelines that the Scottish government has set in place. Our promise to you is that we will give you as much face-to-face contact and teaching as is possible. However, because we don't yet know what specific guidelines will still be in place in September, it's difficult to tell you right now exactly what will be possible. We know that this uncertainty is frustrating, believe us, we miss being in the classroom with our students so much.

Despite the uncertainty we want to give you as much concrete information as we can given what we know now, rather than promise things we may not be able to deliver. Level 1 Psychology lectures involve a lot of people in a confined space, so at this point it is very unlikely that lectures can take place in person for the first semester. As the situation evolves, and depending on guidelines, this may be required for the second semester as well. Instead, our lectures will be pre-recorded to allow you flexibility, but there will also be a live watch party (think Netflix Party but with less Tiger King) at the regular lecture time so you can make contact directly with your lecturers and peers, ask questions, take part in interactive activities, and importantly to help establish a routine.

It is more difficult to give you an exact plan for labs and small-group teaching. Given that lab class sizes are smaller than lectures, for the second semester, we're optimistic that we will be able to deliver them in person as normal. However, for the first semester the exact details of the social



distancing guidelines mean we have to change how we teach labs temporarily. In both semesters you will receive labs led by a lecturer and one of our Graduate Teaching Assistants, one-to-one office hours and support, Peer-Assisted Learning (which are sessions run by students in other years to help you get support from students who have been through your course), and the opportunity to work with other students. You will learn all the content and skills and complete all the assessments that students in 2019-2020 did.

Our priority is giving you face-to-face contact to welcome you into the University community, and give you the student experience you deserve – making friends, talking to your lecturers, getting involved in community activities. We want to make sure you really *feel* like you are a part of Team UofG and so that is the type of contact we will prioritise. Depending on guidelines, we would really like to prioritise the use of campus space for things that make your university experience unique and special (like study groups, student societies, and getting to know staff and other students). How we do this will depend on the guidelines, but we want you to know what our priorities are.

What is the course structure for Level 1?

There are two Level 1 psychology courses, Psych 1A runs in the first semester and Psych 1B runs in the second semester. Each course is 10 weeks long and for each of those weeks you will have three one-hour lectures per week. For Psych 1A these lectures will cover Research Methods, Developmental and Social Psychology, and Mental Health and Wellbeing. For Psych B the lectures cover Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and Research Methods 2. In addition to the lectures you will also have regular labs where we work on writing skills and working with data, and you will work as part of a small group.

What kind of assessments are there in Level 1 Psychology?

We use a range of assessments throughout your degree, including several small-stakes and continuous assessments. In the first semester you will complete an essay (25%) and a lab portfolio (25%) that consists of MCQs related to the lecture content, data skills homework, research participation, and a group presentation (which can be given as a regular presentation or you can make a video or an infographic). Finally, at the end of term you will complete an open-book exam (50%) that will assess your knowledge from the lectures.

Can I study subject X alongside psychology/as a joint-degree?

We offer a number of science and arts joint-degrees. You can find details of all the joint-degrees we offer with Psychology on our [Programme Information](#) website. Whether you can take a course as an additional subject will depend on if it works with your timetable and if there is space on the course (most courses will prioritise students who need to take the course for their main degree). Any course that is offered as a joint-degree with Psychology will work with your Psychology timetable.

How many courses will I study?

All students including single and joint-honours students will take 120 credits of courses. Psych 1A and Psych 1B are each worth 20 credits. This means that in each semester you will study an additional 40 credits and typically this means two additional courses. If you are a joint-honours



student, at least one of these additional courses will be from your joint subject. The other courses you can choose are determined by the college you are in. You can generally take any subject within your college as long as there are no timetable clashes and sometimes subjects outwith your college are possible depending on timetable clashes and space within that course. If you are a BSc student, two out of your three subjects per semester should be science courses (including Psychology).

When will we receive our timetable?

You will finalise your timetable when you enrol on all your courses in August/September and pick your labs and tutorial slots.

I have an offer for subject X but I would like to change my degree, is this possible?

It is possible to change your degree as long as you meet the entry requirements for your new subject, if you'd like to do this, please get in contact with our [Admissions Team](#) and they will be able to help you.

What is the difference between studying Psychology as a BSc or MA?

There is no difference in the Psychology courses you will take regardless of whether you are enrolled on a BSc, MA or MA (SocSci) programme. Rather, your programme will affect the additional subjects you take in Level 1 and 2, for example, if you're a science student you need two out of your three subjects to be science subjects. All of our single and joint-honours degrees are accredited by the British Psychological Society, regardless of which letters you will get after your name when you graduate.

Are there any opportunities to do research whilst studying psychology?

We have a wide variety of research studies that you can take part in as a participant when you join us but also there are summer internships on offer where you can join labs.

What jobs do Psychology students typically go on to do?

Our graduates have gone into a huge range of jobs! Some are working in more traditional psychology professional routes like Clinical, Educational, Occupational etc. but many go into a wide range of other routes. Data skills jobs are a huge area of recruitment at the moment and our graduates are working on managing big data sets, artificial intelligence and how we design the best robots for the future and others are working in voluntary sector changing the world for the better.

Is there a lot of statistics and programming in Psychology?

Data skills and programming is a big part of psychology but it's also an exciting part and in the first year we build it up really slowly to get everyone comfortable with it and you will be supported through this - we spend a lot of the first year looking at the problems of 'fake data' and why it is important to understand and be able to use data well. We don't introduce formal statistics until Level 2 until you're comfortable working with data and at all points there is a lot



of support from office hours to the Peer Assisted Learning sessions that are led by students and PhD candidates who will take a lot of time to help you wrap your head around anything that you're not sure about.

Can I go on an international exchange if I study Psychology?

Yes! As long as you achieve the grades in first and second year there is the opportunity to study abroad in third year for all psychology students. In the past this has included universities in Europe, such as Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, Netherlands, as well as further afield, e.g. University of Otago in New Zealand, University of New South Wales in Australia, and the University of California at either the Berkeley, Santa Barbara or San Diego campuses. The year abroad satisfies the requirements of the British Psychology Society. The programme has been in place for many years and the general consensus is that the year abroad is a rewarding and enriching experience.

Why should I choose Glasgow?

When considering where you should go to university, you need to think about the skills and knowledge that the degree programme will give you and how these will support you once you graduate and enter the employment market. At Glasgow you will develop collaborative and communication skills alongside data skills using open and large data sets. This will enable you to enter a wide variety of destinations following degree completion e.g. clinical, data analysis, academia. These are the types of skills that employers are looking for as they know you will be able to hit the ground running. We are fortunate not just to have international research experts on staff but we also have leading names in psychology education on staff - everything we do in relation to not just what we teach you but also how we teach you is evidence based and informed by the latest research