


# Psychology Undergraduate



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

BSc (Hons) Psychology  
MSci (Hons) Psychology





## Welcome from the Head of Department

The University of Bath is a world-class institution where Psychology is ranked 2nd in the UK in *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015*. In the Department of Psychology we now offer four high-quality undergraduate degrees - our long-standing four year BSc (Hons) degree has consistently ranked among the best in the country and came 1st for student satisfaction in the *National Student Survey 2014* with a score of 100%.

You can now choose between a four year degree (with placement) and a three year degree. We are also very excited to offer an MSci (Hons) programme in Psychology (also with a placement year option) which will provide you with the opportunity to study psychology in greater depth.

Our reputation is founded on a continuous focus on high quality teaching and a longstanding record of cutting-edge, theoretically informed research in applied aspects of psychology. Recently our department received the go-ahead for a significant expansion in numbers of students and staff, and will thus embark on an exciting new phase. In the second half of 2016 the Department will move into a brand new building.

This brochure has been specifically designed to help you understand the degree programmes we offer and the options available. You will find details of our excellent placements scheme, supported by an experienced placements team. Our focus on in-depth project work and a close connection between research and teaching ensure that a degree from Bath is the ideal starting point for a rewarding career or postgraduate study.

**Professor Bas Verplanken**  
Head of Department

Artist's impression of new building for the Department of Psychology



## Why study Psychology at Bath?

Psychology is both the science of mental life and the science of behaviour. It is a popular and broad discipline covering a wide array of topics, such as social behaviour, neuropsychology, thinking and reasoning, health psychology, psychopathology, personality and child development. A psychology degree gives you a critical appreciation of different theoretical perspectives and extensive training in research methods.

The Department of Psychology at the University of Bath is world-renowned for its excellence in both teaching and research. We currently have 38 academic staff and over 450 undergraduates as well as a thriving postgraduate community. The teaching team is enthusiastic and approachable, and undergraduate students are welcome to get involved in our lively research environment and open seminars.

League tables show that the Psychology programme at Bath is among the very best. Some of the features that contribute to our success are:

- Close association with employers and strong emphasis on developing marketable and transferable skills
- Professional placement opportunities
- Recognised by the British Psychological Society as providing the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC)
- The rigour of a science degree with insights into every facet of psychology
- Excellent reputation for teaching and learning – many of the final year units are taught by experts in their respective research fields.

### What do we offer?

Our Psychology degrees provide students with a grounding across the discipline and focus particularly on areas specified by the British Psychological Society including:

- Cognitive psychology (how we remember, learn, think, reason, perceive, speak and understand)
- Health psychology (how biological, psychological, environmental and cultural factors are involved in physical health and the prevention of illness)
- Social psychology (how human behaviour and experience are affected by social context)
- Clinical psychology (how psychological science can be applied in the understanding and management of psychological problems)

We also teach a broad range of research methods. Like all degrees we train you in experimental methodology but we also have a strong emphasis on observational research and qualitative analysis, for example using data from interviews and focus groups. In addition, the Bath programme covers distinctive areas not always found in Psychology degrees including critical social psychology and cyberpsychology.

In addition to our well established four year BSc (Hons) Psychology degree with placement, we now offer a three year degree as well as two new MSci (Hons) Psychology degree programmes.

At Bath it is possible to study

- BSc (Hons) Psychology (three years)
- BSc (Hons) Psychology (four years with placement)
- MSci (Hons) Psychology (four years)
- MSci (Hons) Psychology (five years with placement)

The MSci is an integrated undergraduate master's degree programme which will provide you with the opportunity to advance your knowledge of the field of psychology, while gaining a masters level qualification from a high-ranking university.

### The MSci programme will:

- deepen and extend your knowledge of psychology and key topics within this
- equip you with the practical, analytical and critical research skills to conduct independent research into an area that interests you most
- provide a smooth transition to master's level study; a curriculum designed to build seamlessly on your prior learning, with no need to apply for a new course after completing the BSc Psychology programme
- give you an advantage over BSc graduates when entering the competitive job market
- form an excellent foundation for doctoral level (PhD) research work or application to the professional doctoral programme in clinical psychology
- provide an opportunity to obtain a master's degree through a potentially more financially attractive route; you will be able to apply for an undergraduate student loan for the duration of your studies.

## Your degree structure

Our Psychology degrees offer the choice of study over three, four or five years, depending on whether you chose to study the BSc or MSci degree, with or without a placement year. In each year you take core psychology units and can choose extra units to explore an area outside psychology. If you wish, all your units can be psychology or you can continue with your chosen options to the next level. If you study the MSci Psychology programme you will have a choice of advanced level optional units in pure and applied psychology, and you will also undertake an advanced psychology dissertation supervised by a member of staff in our Department.

### Learning and teaching

Our programmes are modular, consisting of self-contained units, taught and assessed on a semester basis. As you progress and successfully pass the examinations, you will receive credit for the units, thus providing you with a clear indication of your academic progress.

Teaching takes the form of lectures, classes and seminars, involving you in about 12-15 contact hours each week. Teaching contact is likely to be greatest in the first year. Lectures in the first year are more formal, in larger groups, whereas classes and seminars involve closer interaction between the lecturer and a small number of students for study skills and discussion.

In the first two years, practical work involves exercises in psychological research methods, collecting data in the laboratory or in the field, analysing them and writing up your findings. In the final year(s) you will be conducting your own research projects under close individual supervision.

We have designed a programme of study which will provide you with excellent analytical and problem solving skills and a sound theoretical understanding of the discipline. Additionally, you will be able to demonstrate many transferable skills which are required in the workplace. These include written, oral and visual communication skills; self-confidence and self-reliance in assimilating and appraising new information and technologies; team working; flexibility; initiative; and leadership.

### Methods of assessment

Assessment consists of a combination of coursework essays, class exercises, projects, oral presentations, examinations and final year dissertation/s. If studying the MSci (Hons) Psychology, you must achieve an overall grade average of 60% or more in your second year of study to be eligible to follow this route (transfer also depends on the availability of places). If you do not reach this level, then you can still graduate with a BSc (Hons) degree.

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*The Psychology BSc was a pivotal part of helping me decide my career path. The choice of module options in the final year was definitely a highlight for me. I chose 'health psychology' and 'stress, immunity and health' units and it was these topics that made me want to apply for the MSc in Health Psychology here at Bath. Additionally, throughout the BSc there was ample opportunity to learn about and try both quantitative and qualitative research methods which was great in helping me realise what type of research I prefer to do.*

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### Dr Karen Evans-Reeves

BSc (Hons) Psychology, MSc Health Psychology, PhD in Public Health. Now Research Associate in the Department for Health



## Psychology degree programme structure

	BSc (Hons) Psychology Three years	BSc (Hons) Psychology Four years with placement	MSci (Hons) Psychology Four years	MSci (Hons) Psychology Five years with placement
Year 1	Mind & Behaviour, Psychology Research, Applying Psychology, Controversies in Psychology 1 & 2, Quantitative Methods 1 (+ 2 Optional units in Psychology or other subjects)			
Year 2	Research Methods, Quantitative Methods 2, Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Research Project, Developmental Psychology, Personality & Individual Differences, Biological Psychology (+ 2 Optional units in Psychology or other subjects)			
Year 3	Psychology Dissertation History of Psychology (+4 Final year optional units +2 Optional units in Psychology or other subjects)  Final Year	Placement Year	Psychology Dissertation History of Psychology (+4 Final year optional units +2 Optional units in Psychology or other subjects)	Placement Year
Year 4		Applied Psychology Dissertation, History of Psychology (+4 Final year optional units +2 Optional units in Psychology or other subjects)  Final Year	Advanced Psychology Dissertation, Professional & Psychological Skills (+ 4 Advanced psychology optional units)  Final Year	Applied Psychology Dissertation (+4 Final year optional units +2 Optional units in Psychology or other subjects)
Year 5				Advanced Psychology Dissertation, Advanced Quantitative Methods, Advanced Qualitative Methods, History of Psychology, Professional & Psychological Skills (+ 4 Advanced psychology optional units)  Final Year

For further details of specific units available, please visit our website: [www.bath.ac.uk/study](http://www.bath.ac.uk/study)

## Here is a selection of current final year options

Affective neuroscience  
Attitudes and social cognition  
Children and young people as consumers  
Clinical psychology

Cyberpsychology  
Developmental disorders  
Educational psychology  
Forensic psychology  
Foundations of psychoanalysis

Health psychology  
Organisational psychology  
Psychology of risk  
Stress, immunity and health

## Compulsory units of study

### Applying psychology

The Applying psychology unit will help you understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline, its historical origins, development and limitations. You'll become familiar with the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning and its significance, covering areas such as clinical psychology, forensic psychology, educational psychology and media psychology.

### Controversies in psychology 1 & 2

Is psychology a science and why does this matter? Is media violence harmful? Do alternative and complementary medicines really work and if so, how? These are some of the controversial issues in psychology that may be explored in these two units where you will learn to present a structured and coherent argument, to communicate your work appropriately by written and oral means, and to evaluate different sides of an argument.

### Mind and behaviour

You will be introduced to the basic concepts and current themes and debates in psychology, become familiar with some classic psychological studies, and gain an understanding of the key concepts necessary for the study of psychology. The unit explores five main areas: biological psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, individual differences (intelligence and personality) and social psychology.

### Psychology research and Quantitative methods 1

These units will provide you with an overview of research methods, statistical concepts and report writing. You will receive training in the key skills required for designing, conducting, analysing, interpreting and reporting experimental research in psychology.

### Biological psychology

This unit promotes your knowledge and understanding of the relationship between mind, brain and behaviour. You will develop an understanding of the theoretical issues surrounding the study of biological psychology and you will critically evaluate the role of historical issues and the methods employed to establish biological models of human behaviour.

### Cognitive psychology

You will become familiar with current methodological and theoretical issues in cognitive psychology. The unit explores information processing, problem-solving, reasoning, perception, and the representation of knowledge amongst other topics.

### Developmental psychology

This unit explores human development from conception to old age. You will develop your knowledge of the major theories and debates in developmental psychology and become familiar with the methodologies of developmental psychology.

### Personality and individual differences

This unit will introduce you to the area of personality and individual differences. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of different perspectives on personality. Classic as well as contemporary approaches will be highlighted.

### Quantitative methods 2

This unit gives you the skills needed to make sense of psychological data. People all vary and you need to develop the skills to measure and understand this. The unit covers the theory of measurement and statistics, as well as a strong practical component based around analysing data by computer. At the end of the unit, you should be able to choose and carry out a range of different analysis techniques to address various questions.

### Research methods and design

This unit will provide you with an understanding of methodological issues relating to quantitative and qualitative research, competence in the application of a range of research methods, and the skills to design, conduct and analyse a small-scale questionnaire-based and an interview-based study.

### Research project

Here you work with a small group of fellow students to undertake a novel piece of empirical research, usually related to your tutor's research field. Together you plan the study and collect the data before working individually to write a report of your study and its findings.

### Social psychology: traditional and critical approaches

This unit explores the relationship between individual, social and cultural psychological processes. You will become familiar with research on the individual in the social context, and gain an understanding of the major theoretical debates and recent developments in social psychology.

### Dissertation

At some stage in your chosen degree path you will have the opportunity to conduct a research project as part of your dissertation. You will carry out a literature review, develop a research question, design a project, carry out data collection and analysis, and write a report which will summarise all these processes and will include a critical discussion. At the end of semester 1, there will be an assessment of your work to date in an oral presentation.



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*As a foreign student, I came to England looking for a course that would provide me with more than I could get in my home country. I got just that. I was impressed even before coming here, with the level of organisation and thought put into our course, the units, and the methods of assessment. The variety of content throughout the units and the optional units offered gives us a wide knowledge of Psychology which was precisely what I came here to get. One aspect I think really makes a difference is the quality of the lecturers. They are engaging, knowledgeable, interesting, and even funny. The fact that classes are taught by university academics who are engaged in research themselves and who link the theory being taught to their own research, makes the subjects more even more interesting and relevant.*

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**Helena Da Cunha Couto**

BSc (Hons) Psychology, first year student

Image: Students demonstrating Bandura's Social Learning Theory



## Psychology placement

The BSc in Psychology at the University of Bath is one of a small number of courses in the UK that offer a placement year. The excellent employment rate of our students is due in no small measure to the 'hands-on' experience and skills they acquire from their placement. The placement is assessed and contributes towards the final degree classification. The aim of the placement is to give you the opportunity to experience the practical aspects of psychological work, and to receive training in the skills associated with that work. Over the years, the University has built up contacts with a large number of organisations that can provide the high standard of training we expect.

### How does a placement help you?

- The placement is an opportunity to use the theory you have learnt in a practical context, working with a professional psychologist in an apprentice role
- It will enable you to learn about an organisation and its area of work, and is an excellent opportunity to evaluate future career paths
- The placement can provide the material and inspiration on which to base your final year dissertation
- You will acquire transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, planning, prioritising, problem solving, decision making and project management
- A year of professional work is highly valued by employers and gives you an advantage in the competitive job market when you graduate
- Students are sometimes offered permanent graduate jobs by their placement providers

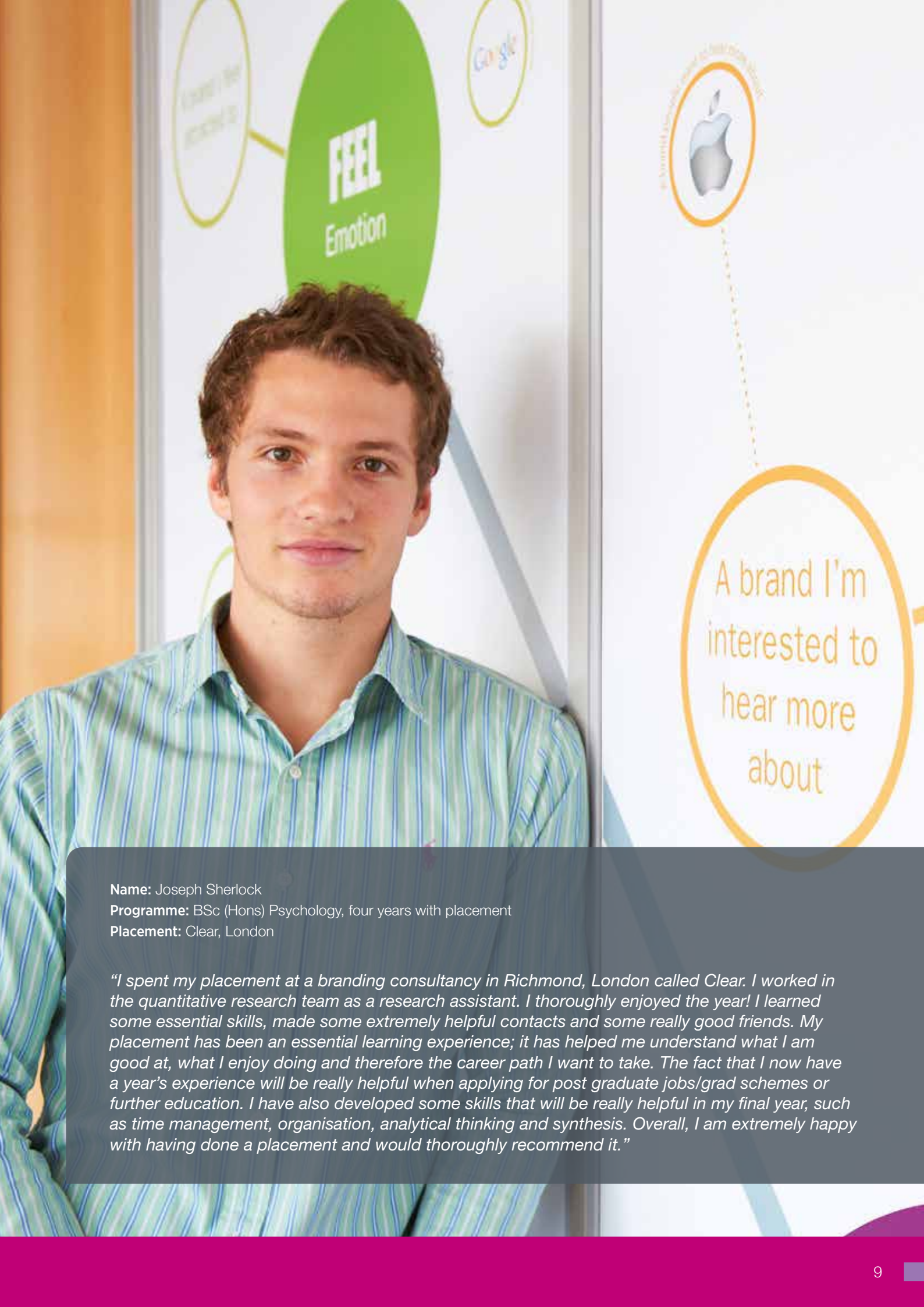
**Name:** Jonathan Williams

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Psychology, four years with placement

**Placement:** School of Psychology, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

*"On my placement I worked with Dr Richard Kemp in the Forensic Psychology Group at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. The work involved research into forensic and legal psychology, with a focus on identification evidence and eye-witness testimony. I was given responsibility for conducting my own research which gave me more confidence in my own ability as a researcher but also tested the academic skills I'd learnt in the first two years at Bath. Thanks to the skills I learnt on the placement and the great experience I had, I'm now back in Australia working as a Research Fellow in forensic psychology at Edith Cowan University, Perth."*





**Name:** Joseph Sherlock

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Psychology, four years with placement

**Placement:** Clear, London

*"I spent my placement at a branding consultancy in Richmond, London called Clear. I worked in the quantitative research team as a research assistant. I thoroughly enjoyed the year! I learned some essential skills, made some extremely helpful contacts and some really good friends. My placement has been an essential learning experience; it has helped me understand what I am good at, what I enjoy doing and therefore the career path I want to take. The fact that I now have a year's experience will be really helpful when applying for post graduate jobs/grad schemes or further education. I have also developed some skills that will be really helpful in my final year, such as time management, organisation, analytical thinking and synthesis. Overall, I am extremely happy with having done a placement and would thoroughly recommend it."*



**Name:** Michelle Tsang

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Psychology, four years with placement

**Placement:** Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, United States

*"I was fortunate to spend my placement at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, one of the many renowned graduate schools of Harvard University. I worked as a full time research assistant to a reputed professor whose work informs the field of Educational Psychology, with an emphasis on moral, interpersonal and social development research. My placement at Harvard was by far one of the most rewarding things I have done; it has provided challenges and experiences that university alone could never really bestow. The skills that I have acquired and developed have equipped me with the confidence and desire to pursue a career as a professional psychologist. I would strongly recommend any aspiring psychologists to take this placement year very seriously because not only does it teach you about the world of work beyond academia, it also equips you as an individual with transferable skills that you will need to differentiate yourself from other students and graduates."*

## What kind of job could I do?

There are placements in a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors. You could choose to work, for example, in clinical, educational, forensic, organisational, development or research settings. These may be in the UK or overseas.

Here are some of our recent placement providers:

Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation Trust  
Bethlem Royal Hospital, London  
Universities in the USA  
Universities in Australia and New Zealand  
Prisons and secure units in the UK  
Great Ormond Street Hospital  
Manchester Business School  
Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Exeter,  
Manchester, Bristol and London  
National Health hospitals, specialist services,  
and clinics  
Institute of Child Health, London  
Warneford Hospital, Oxford  
Maudsley Hospital, London  
Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust  
Institute of Psychiatry, London

### How would I get a placement?

The dedicated Placements Team in the Department of Psychology will support and guide you through the recruitment process to gain your placement:

During the first year you will be given briefings and information about the placement and what choices are likely to be available.



In Years 1 and 2 you will receive guidance on writing CVs and application letters, and interview skills from the Placements Officer and the Careers Service.



In your second year you will start applying for placements. These are advertised online by our full-time Placements Officer. The recruitment process is competitive, giving you good practise for the graduate job search. Throughout your second year you will receive briefings preparing you for your placement.

### What support would I get whilst on placement?

- You will be in regular contact with the Placements Officer who will provide you with information, advice and support throughout
- You will be guided by your supervisor at the workplace
- You will have regular contact with your personal tutor and dissertation supervisor
- If you are on placement in the UK, a member of our staff will visit you
- During the middle of your placement you will return for a Placements Conference giving you the opportunity to meet staff, discuss your placement and dissertation, and to meet other students

### How will my placement be assessed?

- You will need to satisfactorily complete the required number of weeks and submit a number of supporting reports during the placement
- You will give a poster presentation at the Placements Conference
- You will also need to submit a final report which will be assessed
- Credits are awarded for the placement year accounting for 8% of your final degree mark
- In addition, the Placements Supervisor will write an appraisal of your performance on placement

### Will I be paid?

- Most placements are unpaid but some offer a small allowance
- When calculating your financial position you should work on the basis that placements will be unpaid. If you do go abroad please take into account visa costs and travel expenses.
- Students are usually eligible for the full maintenance loan if they are on an unpaid placement in the public or voluntary sector. Students on paid or unpaid placements in the private sector may only be eligible for a reduced amount of maintenance loan.
- You will pay reduced fees for the placement year



## Careers and destinations

Because of the wide range of generic skills and the rigour with which they are taught, training in psychology is widely accepted as providing an excellent preparation for a number of careers. A psychology degree is highly marketable in communications, counselling, health, human resources, management, market research, police work, the prison service and social research, in addition to its traditional place in clinical, educational, and organisational contexts.

Much professional work in psychology requires further specialist training and many of our Bath graduates in psychology go on to graduate training in psychology. We are consistently ranked highly in the UK university league tables for graduate prospects (*2nd in the Complete University Guide 2015*). Our department is also a training centre where select, experienced graduates study for doctorates in clinical psychology, and we have a well-established Masters course in health psychology.

### Dr Amanda Laffan

BSc (Hons) Psychology,  
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

*"I loved my time as a Psychology undergraduate at Bath and I was thrilled when Bath began offering a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme. It was during my placement year (at the Research Institute for the Care of Older People, RICE, in Bath) that I realised I wanted to specialise in clinical psychology. Competition for assistant clinical psychologist posts (a necessary step before being accepted on a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme) is fierce, and the experience I gained on my placement year gave me an obvious advantage over graduates from other universities.*

*I was able to get a research assistant post at RICE as soon as I finished university. From here I obtained an occupational therapy assistant post in a psychiatric unit, and then went on to gain assistant clinical psychologist posts in an older adult community team and a pain management unit. The academic, research, and placement experiences I obtained during my undergraduate degree have enabled me to progress through different assistant posts and ultimately to be successful (on my first application) in getting a place on the Doctorate course."*

### Dr Graham Blackman

BSc (Hons) Psychology  
Now medical doctor, Birmingham City Hospital

*"I spent four very enjoyable years studying psychology at the University of Bath. After graduating I spent a further year conducting research at the MRC Institute of Hearing Research before commencing on a four year Graduate Entry Medicine course at Birmingham University. I have recently graduated and am now in my first post as a doctor, working on a surgical ward at an inner city hospital in Birmingham. In the long term, I plan to follow a career in neurology, with a view to remaining active in research.*

*Although my route towards becoming a doctor has been a little longer than some, studying psychology at Bath has been a fantastic preparation towards my intended career as a neurologist as I have a firm background in the way the mind and brain works. Also, the placement opportunity has been a valuable asset to my curriculum vitae and has given me a fantastic foundation in performing research of the highest standard."*



Department staff and affiliates are involved in a diverse range of fields in psychology. Here are details of a few staff members to show how our research and teaching interests overlap:

**Dr Chris Ashwin**

Chris conducts research into normal social neuroscience processes and how they are different in various psychiatric disorders. He teaches the undergraduate units Biological psychology and Cognitive neuropsychology.

**Professor Julie Barnett**

Julie has a range of research interests including the perception and communication of risk. She is interested in the role of health technology and how health issues can be addressed both by patients and health professionals in the online world.

**Dr Mark Brosnan**

Mark mostly studies cognitive processes in autism and related conditions. He is the author of the book 'Technophobia' and teaches Developmental disorders.

**Dr Jeff Gavin**

An expert on how people form and maintain relationships online, Jeff teaches Personality and Cyberpsychology.

**Professor Christine Griffin**

Christine is an expert on young people's identities and how these relate to real-world activities like drinking and clubbing. She teaches research methods and design.

**Professor Paul Salkovskis**

Paul is the Director of our Clinical Psychology Doctorate Programme. Paul is internationally renowned for his expertise and research in cognitive behavioural factors in the understanding and treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder, health psychology, health anxiety, specific phobia, panic disorder and agoraphobia.

**Dr Laura Smith**

As a social and organisational psychologist, Laura has an established programme of research examining how behaviour is shaped by social interaction, and the implications of this process for social and organisational behaviour. She teaches the units Applying psychology and Organisational psychology.

**Dr Paula Smith**

Paula has research interests in managing chronic illness and issues of loss and bereavement in end of life care. She teaches on these topics in both the undergraduate programme and on the postgraduate MSc in Health Psychology.

**Dr Ian Walker**

Ian uses psychological theories to study road safety and travel behaviour. The author of 'Research Methods and Statistics' and 'Research with People', he teaches Statistics and Traffic and transport psychology.



## About Bath

Bath is a great place in which to be a student. The University occupies a purpose-built campus which is safe and friendly with a vibrant international community, excellent student services, outstanding arts facilities and a first-class sports complex.

The campus has open views across the beautiful hills of the West Country but is less than 2km from the World Heritage City of Bath - one of the most elegant and interesting cities in the UK, famous for its Roman baths, medieval Abbey, Georgian squares and sweeping crescents. Bath offers some of the best shopping and cultural attractions outside of London. There is a great selection of restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs and clubs. The city has three theatres, cinemas and many fascinating museums and galleries.

Frequent bus services link the campus, city and major student residential areas. Bath is not far from Bristol International Airport, providing rapid access to international destinations. By train, London is approximately 90 minutes and Bristol only 15 minutes away. You are always connected to your work, your home and your social life when studying.





## Contact us

For more information about this programme, entry requirements and admission, please visit our website: [www.bath.ac.uk/study](http://www.bath.ac.uk/study)

For further enquiries on entry requirements and admission to the programme, please contact:

Undergraduate Admissions  
Tel: +44 (0)1225 383019  
Email: [admissions@bath.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bath.ac.uk)

### Key facts

BSc (Hons) Psychology C801 Three years  
BSc (Hons) Psychology C800 Four years with placement  
MSci (Hons) Psychology 8C82 Four years  
MSci (Hons) Psychology 8C92 Five years with placement

### Typical offers

A\*AA  
165 places available  
1300 applicants



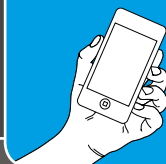
Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, but as courses and personnel change over time, this information may also change. It should therefore be treated as a guide rather than a definitive statement.



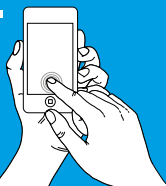


See what our students have to say about studying psychology  
and about the placement year

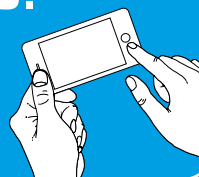
1.




2.



3.



#### Getting started with Augmented Reality

1. Download the free **Aurasma** App from the App store or Google Play store
2. Open your web browser and enter the following **URL: [bit.ly/bathchannel](http://bit.ly/bathchannel)**
3. With the camera view displayed on the screen (click on the  icon), hold your device over one of the images above and **watch the video come to life!** Tap the image to play, double-tap to close.

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