

Why study Psychology at Edinburgh

Top 50⁺

We're consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world. We're 20th in the 2021 QS World University Rankings.

2ND

Edinburgh is ranked the second best student city in the UK and 7th in Europe.*

4TH

We're ranked fourth in the UK for research power, based on the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.†



* QS Best Student Cities 2019. † Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Philosophy, Psychology
and Language Sciences

Undergraduate Opportunities 2022
www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/psychology

Welcome to Psychology at the University of Edinburgh

Psychology is the scientific study of mind, brain and behaviour. It focuses on building and testing theories to help explain how people think, learn and interact with each other and the world around them.

Psychology is an experimental and observational science, in which evidence from research studies is used to develop and evaluate theories. Our degree programme has a strong emphasis on developing skills in research methods and statistical analysis, to support our research-led teaching.

This brochure aims to provide you with detailed information on the programme as well as the range of facilities and opportunities available to psychology students. However, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Professor Martin Corley,

Head of Psychology,
School of Philosophy, Psychology
and Language Sciences



Teaching during Covid-19

This brochure is based on a traditional campus-based teaching model. For the academic year starting in September 2021, we currently plan to deliver a mix of in-person and digital teaching. For 2022-2023, we anticipate that we will be able to return to an even greater campus-based teaching model but this will depend on Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

Why Choose Psychology at Edinburgh?

- **We're ranked 3rd in the UK and 16th in the world for psychology** (THE World University Rankings 2021 by Subject).
- **Graduates of the four-year BSc Psychology**, and most joint degree programme graduates, will have qualifications accredited by the British Psychology Society.
- **You will be taught by world-class psychologists** and get hands-on experience in psychological research. This includes lab work in Years 1 and 2, group projects in Year 3 and your original research dissertation in Year 4. We also run a Voluntary Research Assistant Scheme, which gives students experience of working on an ongoing project with a member of staff.
- **You will have access to state-of-the-art facilities** including laboratories for cognitive neuroscience, developmental science, human movement, individual differences and general experimental psychology, and will be supported by a large panel of volunteer research participants and partnerships with local nurseries. Our teaching facilities also include a private psychology library, computer suites and well-equipped teaching rooms.



Our degree programmes

Single honours

Four-year undergraduate degree programme	BSc (Hons) Psychology C802
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Joint honours

Four-year undergraduate degree programme comprising a combination of two subjects	MA (Hons) Psychology & Business CN81
	MA (Hons) Psychology & Economics CZ81
	MA (Hons) Psychology & Linguistics CQ81
	MA (Hons) Philosophy & Psychology VC58
	MA (Hons) Sociology & Psychology LC38

Single honours

Multidisciplinary degree programme incorporating philosophy, psychology informatics and language sciences.	MA (Hons) Cognitive Science (Humanities) C851
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“I have a strong drive to understand how the world works and comprehend the frameworks of the reality in which we live in, with a keen desire to understand the human mind. I felt like Psychology and Philosophy were great foundations in acquiring this knowledge and understanding. Learning about thought is the fundamental element to learning about human beings and society.”

Safeera Ahmed, MA (Hons) Philosophy & Psychology, Class of 2024

Studying Psychology as part of a joint degree programme



Joint degree programmes are a great way to study two subjects at the same time, and Edinburgh offers some key joint degree programmes with psychology. A joint degree programme with psychology can offer many benefits:

- It shows employers that you can work across a range of disciplines.
- You get to study two subjects and can choose courses from across both subject areas.

- Psychology tells us much about cognition, learning and the mind. As such it is a great companion subject to both linguistics and philosophy. Because it looks at human and social behaviour, it also offers deep insights into business and economics, and can enhance your understanding and enjoyment of both.

Watch our video on joint degree programmes at: edin.ac/joint-degrees

Introduction to your degree programme

Award/s

Single honours: BSc (Hons)

Joint honours: MA (Hons)

See page 4 for a full list of our degree programmes.

Location

Central Area.

Awarding body

The University of Edinburgh.

Professional accreditation

Single honours degree programme and most joint degree programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Duration

Four years (full-time).

Academic year

Comprises two semesters:

September to December

January to May

Timetables

These are available after your consultation with your Personal Tutor and option course selection at the start of your programme.

Scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week, but Wednesday afternoons are usually reserved for sport and cultural activity.

Reading lists

Your reading list will be available in September.

Studying abroad

We offer undergraduate students the opportunity to undertake a wide range of international experiences. Living and studying abroad can broaden your horizons, enhance your academic perspective and help make the most of your time as an undergraduate student.

All modern languages joint honours students spend a year abroad learning their chosen language, but even those not studying a language have a range of Go Abroad options open to them:

www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad

The benefits of a four-year degree programme

As a Scottish university, Edinburgh offers a flexible four-year honours degree programme. The four-year degree programme offers a range of advantages.

In years one and two, you can study subjects outside your key discipline, before specialising in years three and four. This allows you to develop a breadth as well as a depth of knowledge, expanding your academic range and enhancing your student experience.

The four-year degree programme offers the opportunity to study abroad – not just for language learners, but across all subjects, including psychology.

Your final ‘honours’ years three and four allow you to focus on your subject in depth, and the fourth year dissertation – comprising a piece of original research – represents the culmination of your degree programme and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.

The added experience and intellectual depth acquired over four years is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.

Everything you need to know about option courses

Because of the four-year degree programme structure, you get the chance to take a number of option courses outside your key discipline in your first and second year. For Psychology single honours you will typically take two option courses in Year 1 and two in Year 2. For joint honours, you take one option course in Years 1 and 2.

There are a wide range of courses to choose from and you might choose based on enhancing or complementing your degree programme, or choose something based on interest. It’s a good idea to consider courses you might be interested in before you begin your studies.

Your Personal Tutor can also advise you on your choices when you meet in the first semester.



Detailed degree programme content

The following is a year-by-year breakdown of the BSc (Hons) Psychology degree programme. Whilst these details are accurate at the time of printing, courses do change from year to year. For the most up-to-date course listings and course listings for joint degree programmes please visit: edin.ac/Psychology2022

Compulsory courses for Years 1 and 2 are outlined below. You will also choose from a range of option courses offered by other schools across the University.

Year 1

Psychology 1A

You will develop an integrated understanding of modern approaches to some of the core areas of psychology such as individual differences, cognitive neuroscience, perception and learning.

Psychology 1B

This course explores core areas of psychology such as developmental and social psychology, human memory, and the psychology of language.

Data Analysis for Psychology in R1

This course provides foundations in working with data, probability, hypothesis testing and the use of R statistical programming environment.

Year 2

Research Methods and Statistics

An introduction to statistical methodology, with a focus on teaching the fundamental principles of probability and statistical inference.

Psychology 2A

This course aims to further develop your understanding of individual differences and abnormal, developmental and social psychology.

Psychology 2B

You will further explore areas such as perception, cognitive neuroscience, language and memory/learning.

Year 3

Critical Analysis

This course will encourage careful consideration of the value of published research studies, facilitate critical reading and analysis of psychological research reports, and show how design principles and statistics are applied in psychological research.

Psychology Mini-Dissertation

This course provides you with experience of small-group collaborative research work.

Research Methods & Statistics 2

This course will focus on the generalized linear model (GLM).

Research Methods & Statistics 3

You will explore a number of quantitative topics and their relation to the generalized linear model, as well as qualitative methodology.

Psychology in Action

This course covers two key areas; science in practice and science communication.

As part of a small group, you will be matched with active researchers at the University and provided with structured shadowing and interview opportunities.

You will choose from a range of option courses available in Year 3 and 4.

Courses include:

- Human Personality
- Cognitive Development in Children
- Psychology of Language
- Biological Psychology
- Thinking and Reasoning

Year 4

Dissertation in Psychology

Your opportunity to conduct an experimental research project, submitted as an 8,000 word dissertation.

General Paper in Psychology

This is a synoptic exam designed to assess your ability to integrate material from different parts of the degree programme and from your own reading.

Psychology Tutorial Course

You will develop your ability to think critically about psychology and integrate your knowledge across the range of psychological topics.

Option courses include:

- Children with Language Impairments
- Working Memory
- Psychological Therapies
- Moral Judgement and Behaviour
- Debates in Current Personality

“I can safely say Psychology has taught me so much more than what I expected. I got taught early on to analyse different aspects of papers critically and the importance of statistics is something I have found invaluable. Statistics helps explain so much, and the way it is taught (by absolutely excellent lecturers, might I add!) focuses much more on understanding the need for statistics than on the maths.”

Cristina Smith, Psychology, Class of 2021

Sample Year 1 timetable

The following timetable is an example of a student studying single honours Psychology who has chosen Linguistics and Philosophy (Morality and Value) as their option courses.

Semester 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.00-09.50		● Psychology			
10.00-10.50		■ Linguistics & English Language 1A		■ Linguistics & English Language 1A	
11.10-12.00	● Psychology		● Psychology		● Psychology
12.10-13.00	■ Morality and Value				
13.10-14.00					
14.10-15.00		● Psychology		■ Linguistics & English Language 1A	
15.10-16.00	■ Linguistics & English Language 1A				
16.10-17.00					
17.10-18.00	■ Morality and Value	■ Morality and Value			

Contact hours can differ depending on the subject. Outside of class time, you will be expected to complete the relevant reading, writing and revision for each course.

This is a sample timetable only. Courses may be subject to change and availability.

Key

- Main degree programme courses
- Option courses
- Lecture
- Tutorial
- Lab

Teaching, support and facilities

Support

We have a dedicated team of student support officers who provide a range of services to ensure your experience at the University is a positive one.

When you arrive, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor who can offer assistance and advice throughout your academic journey, including advice on choosing your option courses.

edin.ac/ppls-student-support

Types of teaching

In Years 1 and 2 teaching is mostly conducted in lectures and small group meetings called tutorials, where you will have the chance to discuss topics in greater detail.

Lectures audiences comprise up to 480 students and tutorials normally comprise around 12 students. Usually you will have around four or five contact hours per week in psychology courses.

In Years 3 and 4 the emphasis shifts to more specialised, smaller lectures, seminar-based courses and independent study.

Assessment

In Years 1 and 2, you will be assessed by a mix of continuous assessment and exams. In Years 3 and 4 you will be assessed by a mix of essays and exams. In your final year you will conduct your own research and produce an 8,000- word dissertation, with one-to-one supervision.

Facilities

Psychology is based in the Central Area so you will be located in the heart of the city.

You will have access to:

- School Psychology Library
- Well-equipped labs
- Computer suites
- Neuroimaging facilities
- Eye-tracking equipment
- Developmental research labs in partnership with local nurseries
- The University Main Library with 2,300 study spaces and 24-hour access
- Some of the best university sports and gym facilities in the UK.

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The Careers Service

The University's Careers Service looks to enhance your university experience from the moment you arrive, not just in your final year, so use us from day one.

We're here to inspire and empower you to be the best you can be and fully develop your potential. We support you to gain experience that will enhance your personal development and employability, alongside your academic studies.

In an increasingly competitive employment environment, we offer many opportunities to gain the skills and experience that will ensure you are as well prepared as possible to achieve a satisfying and rewarding future.

Our services

- A dedicated careers consultant for your School offering targeted information resources, newsletters and one-to-ones.
- Information and advice; in person via our drop-in centre in the Main Library, and available 24/7 via our websites, blogs and social media: www.ed.ac.uk/careers
- Careers consultations.
- CV and applications advice.
- Careers events: job fairs, themed events, volunteering, creative careers, sustainability, IT, and much more.

Information and advice

- Volunteering opportunities within the University and beyond it.
- Go Abroad opportunities.
- The Edinburgh Award - get recognition on your final transcript for additional work and extracurricular activities you've been part of during your time with us.
- Part-time and vacation jobs, internships, graduate jobs and more, via our dedicated job site:

<https://mycareerhub.ed.ac.uk>



Graduate profile

Cara Wase

Psychology, Class of 2015

"I chose Psychology at Edinburgh because of the statistics component.

I always knew I wanted to work with statistics because I could see that there was a real future in those kinds of number crunching skills. The highlight for me was all the help I got from the academics. Staff were so receptive, I asked for help and they gave me so much more than I ever expected.

Psychology is a great degree; it helps you find what you are really interested in. I wish everybody got a chance to study psychology because it's the study of humans and it's so hard for us to understand ourselves."

Since graduating, some of our students have been employed in the following roles:

- Charity Project Worker
- HR Consultant
- Social Worker
- Evaluation Officer
- Project Manager for a financial institution
- Supporter Relations Manager for a charity
- Summer School Director
- Marketing Executive

Find out more about the experiences of our psychology graduates:

edin.ac/ppls-alumni



Getting ready for Psychology

We've put together a list of resources to get you thinking about psychology before you arrive:

Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century by Lauren Slater (W.W. Norton & Company)

The author sets out to describe some of the psychological experiments of the twentieth century through a series of accounts which can be both witty and shocking.

Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman (Penguin)

This best-selling book, summarises research the author conducted over many years and is concerned with two modes of thought: 1. fast, instinctive and emotional; and 2. slow, more deliberative and more logical. The book describes cognitive biases associated with each.

Silver Linings Playbook (2012)

Adapted from the novel by Matthew Quick, this film follows its two main characters' road to recovery from their psychological breakdowns.

Forward Thinking

Our own podcast. Find out what our psychologists and other academics have been researching:

<https://forwardthinking.ppls.ed.ac.uk>

Please note these resources are for interest only. Your reading lists will be available in September



Quick links

Where do I find degree programme listings?

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/

Where can I find out about my psychology degree?

edin.ac/Psychology2022

Where can I find out about accommodation?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation

Where can I take a virtual tour of campus and the City?

virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/ug

Where can I chat to students about their experience at Edinburgh?

edin.ac/student-chat

Where can I find out more about Student Life?

edin.ac/student-life

Where do I apply and track my application?

ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university

What financial support can I apply for?

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding

What information can I get about facilities and support services?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/facilities

Where can I find out about sports facilities?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/sport

Where can I find out more about transport in and around the city?

<http://transportforedinburgh.com>

Where can I find out about Covid-19 disruptions?

edin.ac/covid19



For further information about studying psychology at Edinburgh, email: PPLS.UG.Offerholders@ed.ac.uk

For further information about your application, email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

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 [school/ppls](https://www.linkedin.com/company/schoolofppls)  [/blogs.ppls.ed.ac.uk](https://blogs.ppls.ed.ac.uk)

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We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure before going to print. However please check online for the most up-to-date information: www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/psychology

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact: ppls.marketing@ed.ac.uk

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