



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification MSc Psychology (Conversion Award) Distance Learning

Course Code: MPSYD

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Psychology (Conversion Award) Distance Learning (MPSYD)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed October 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Science Psychology (Conversion award)
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma Psychology (120 Credits) Postgraduate Certificate Psychology (60 Credits)
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	<p>Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full-time)• 24 months (part-time)
Part Time Study	<p>PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.</p> <p>Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.</p>
Location(s) of Delivery	Distance Learning Delivery
Entry Requirements	<p>Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here:</p> <p>https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</p> <p>Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.</p>

Course Fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett).
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app.

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

British Psychological Society

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

To be eligible for the British Psychological Society's (BPS) Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC), students must pass the empirical psychology project (Dissertation) and gain at least an overall pass mark of at least 50% across the entire course. In addition, all distance learning students must physically attend the Summer School held at Leeds Beckett University in the summer following completion of Semester One and Semester Two (for full-time students) and between the first and second year of study for part-time students.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- iii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett).
- iv) The Leeds Beckett app.

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr Lydia Windisch: l.e.windisch@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Course Administrator

You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the admin team is: psychologyadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

Psychology degrees in the UK are sought-after as the starting point for a diverse array of careers. While employers from a range of sectors value the skills and competencies that psychology students develop, many students seek a career in a Chartered area of Psychology such as Health Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Educational Psychology, Occupational Psychology Sports Psychology, Neuropsychology, or Forensic Psychology. To gain entrance onto the specialised training programmes for these Chartered pathways, students need a psychology qualification offering the Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC) from the British Psychological Society (BPS).

The MSc Psychology (Conversion Award) Distance Learning provides the opportunity to qualify for the GBC via a condensed programme of study for people who have not studied Psychology previously or who have completed an undergraduate degree with a psychology component not accredited by the BPS.

The programme aims to:

- Provide students with a thorough knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and frameworks in the BPS core curriculum areas of psychology.
- Equip students with detailed knowledge and skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Provide students with skills in critically evaluating psychological theories, concepts, and research, with a consideration of different theoretical, epistemological, ethical, cultural, and global perspectives.
- Explore understandings of the diversity of psychological functioning and the global and sociocultural context of human mind, brain, behaviour, and experiences.
- Enable students to communicate research findings to others in a variety of formats, both academic and non-academic, written and verbal.
- Develop independence and employability through increasing evaluative and reflective skills.
- Prepare students for a career in psychology or cognate areas.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Critically and systematically evaluate current research, practice and advanced scholarship in the core areas of psychology, namely cognitive, social, developmental, biological, individual differences, research methods and conceptual & historical issues.

2. Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application of knowledge including an understanding of how new knowledge is created and synthesised across core psychology areas, and culminating in an extensive piece of independent empirical research.
3. Show competency in the analysis and interpretation of statistical and other forms of data, including employment of digital literacy skills in accessing, processing and evaluating information, ideas and evidence from a wide range of psychological sources.
4. Critically evaluate and apply, with due regard to ethical considerations, a range of methodological techniques applicable to research in psychology and make a reasoned judgement regarding the implications of that critique for assessing the validity of research findings.
5. Demonstrate effective collaboration with others in academic settings and communicate complex issues and ideas in ways appropriate to specialists and non-specialists in diverse settings.
6. Engage in employability activities and accept responsibility for subsequent career and continuing professional development.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The MSc Psychology (Conversion Award) Distance Learning utilises a range of teaching methods and learning activities to disseminate knowledge and facilitate students' learning. The emphasis is on students to engage with these support activities and take responsibility for gaining the knowledge needed to successfully complete the course.

Students receive an on-line course handbook detailing the course and assessment structure, expectations of students, and links to relevant University information (such as regulations and policies). Prior to the commencement of the course, students can undertake a non-credit bearing pre-course activity with details for how the modules will be delivered, types of teaching elements, a walk-through of module site layouts, how assessments will be undertaken, and other material relevant to the modules.

Each module scaffolds students through each topic, with all readings, voiced lecture slides, videos, and discussion platforms integrated into a continuous flow. All teaching is provided online; lectures will be delivered asynchronously. Assessments, both individual and group, are embedded alongside the learning content. The MSc Psychology, in accordance with Leeds Beckett University policy, uses Turn-it-in for students to audit their work and submit assignments prior to formal submission to avoid plagiarism and to learn improved referencing and citation skills.

The Summer School is a practical and research-intensive face-to-face experience that is contextualised with knowledge gained within modules. Attendance at the Summer School is one of the requirements to gain GBC eligibility.

All members of staff are aware of the need for all teaching and learning contexts to be:

- i) Non-discriminatory and appropriate for each student;
- ii) Respectful and valuing the perspectives and experiences everyone can offer;
- iii) Promoting the values and practices associated with inclusive attitudes and behaviours in others.

We expect students to also be aware of these needs. Further information can be found on the MSc Psychology course site on MyBeckett.

The course also makes extensive use of the VLE to disseminate information about the course, the professional body (BPS), the discipline of Psychology, and Leeds Beckett University. Communications from the VLE will include information about students' studies and any changes to practice, changes to the timing of the return of coursework etc.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.

Level 7 Full-time

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Research Methods & Analysis A	20	1
Social Psychology	20	1
Research Methods & Analysis B	20	1
Neuroscience of Behaviour	20	1
Developmental Psychology	20	2
Cognitive Psychology	20	2
Dissertation for Masters	40	2
Summer School (<i>attendance required for GBC Eligibility</i>)	0	Summer after Semester One and Semester Two
Number of credits of compulsory modules	160	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Biopsychology of Stress and Health	20	2
Clinical and Counselling Psychology	20	2
Educational Psychology	20	2
Consumer Psychology	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

Level 7 Part-time

Year 1 compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Research Methods & Analysis A	20	1
Neuroscience of Behaviour	20	1
Developmental Psychology	20	2
Cognitive Psychology	20	2
Summer School (<i>attendance required for GBC Eligibility</i>)	0	Summer between Year one and year two
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

Year 2 compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Research Methods & Analysis B	20	1
Social Psychology	20	1
Dissertation for Masters	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

Year 2 option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Biopsychology of Stress and Health	20	2
Clinical and Counselling Psychology	20	2
Educational Psychology	20	2
Consumer Psychology	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

On this course students will be assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations. The summer school includes practical sessions.

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	59 hours
Independent Study	1741 hours