



Department of
Psychology

Undergraduate studies in

Psychology

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (March 2025) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.



Welcome

Welcome to the Department of Psychology, here at Aberystwyth University, where we use our knowledge and enthusiasm for Psychology to offer you excellent teaching by some of the best researchers in their fields. We are rated Top 5 in the UK for Teaching Quality in Psychology (Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2024).

In a location of outstanding beauty, and with the close community relationship between the department's staff and our students, we continue to grow in size and stature. With high levels of student satisfaction, year-on-year, we delight in seeing our students learn, challenge and grow into the Psychologists of tomorrow. We provide an excellent learning environment for both your academic and personal development, alongside opportunities for a year studying abroad or a year working in industry.

Aberystwyth lies on the shores of Cardigan Bay on the west coast of Wales, set in stunning natural surroundings. The locality offers a fine coastline with expanses of rolling moorland and wooded valleys immediately inland.

What you study is also important and at Aberystwyth we are proud that all of our courses are accredited by the British Psychological Society - a mark of quality widely acknowledged by employers in the professional field and which grants the opportunity for graduates to gain graduate and/or chartered membership of the society.

The flexibility of being able to select from a range of diverse modules means you can tailor your learning to your interests.

Further information about our courses and other opportunities can be found in this booklet. Why not join us on an Open Day or Applicant Visiting Day to see for yourself what makes Aberystwyth such an incredible place to study.

Professor Charles Musselwhite
Head of Department

Our courses

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Psychology



BSc (Hons) | C800 | 3 years

Our Psychology degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society and is designed to develop and shape your understanding of the mind and human behaviour. Our ethos is to teach in a way which enables you to develop conceptual and theoretical knowledge to solve problems in real-world scenarios. The course is built around essential core topics in psychology, which serve as the basis for the varied and specialised optional modules we offer in the second and third year.

Our laboratories and research spaces provide you with an array of facilities and equipment to explore. These resources allow you to develop your interests, and engage in creative problem-solving techniques as you progress through your degree.

Employability

A degree in Psychology from Aberystwyth University will prepare you for a range of careers, and access to wide range of further training opportunities including clinical, educational, occupational, sports and exercise psychology; psychotherapy and counselling; social work; health care; human resources; careers advisory service; marketing, publishing and advertising.

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Applications of Psychology
- Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology
- Designing Psychological Research Projects
- Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology *
- Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour
- Personal Development and Organisational Behaviour.

Second year:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods *
- Social Psychology.

Final year:

- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Psychology Research Project *.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting:
40-60% coursework and
60-40% exams



Also available:
WF7F Integrated year in industry
N1FW Integrated year studying abroad
C80F Integrated foundation year

Psychology with Counselling



BSc (Hons) | C843 | 3 years

The Psychology with Counselling degree combines the study of core psychological concepts with elements of counselling-related knowledge and skills, to develop your understanding of human behaviour and approaches to providing psychological help through counselling.

The degree provides you with flexible and highly desirable skills with which to enter the workplace. It is also an ideal stepping stone towards careers within counselling, psychotherapy, clinical psychology and health psychology. Please note that this degree will not qualify you as a counselling practitioner.

Our facilities are designed to provide you with as much practical experience as possible, and include labs fitted with cameras and microphones. Assessments emphasise the practical elements of the course, giving you a taste of what it is actually like to be a therapeutic practitioner.

Employability

Our BSc Psychology with Counselling is an excellent foundation if you are considering a career in the social care or helping professions. The BPS accreditation will enable access to postgraduate and professional training in clinical and counselling psychology. Our Psychology graduates have progressed to a wide range of careers which include clinical, educational, occupational, sports and exercise psychology; psychotherapy and counselling; social work; health care; human resources; careers advisory service; marketing; publishing and advertising.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting:
40-60% coursework and
60-40% exams



Also available:
C844 Integrated year in
industry

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology
- Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology *
- Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour
- Foundations of Counselling: Skills and Theory I.

Second year:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods *
- Social Psychology
- Health Psychology *
- Foundations of Counselling: Skills and Theory II.

Final year:

- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Sex and Relationships in Psychotherapeutic Practice
- Counselling-focused Psychology Research Project *

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Psychology with Forensic Psychology



BSc (Hons) | C802 | 3 years

The Psychology with Forensic Psychology degree offers insights into critical areas of this applied area of psychology, including understanding criminal development and behaviour, courtroom dynamics and offender profiling.

Professional qualifications often require a firm grounding in the background to forensic psychology, and this BPS accredited undergraduate pathway is a building block to later postgraduate study, an advantage for those considering Forensic Doctorates and Chartered Forensic Psychology status.

Studying Psychology with Forensic Psychology will allow exploration of key concepts and applied research through dedicated modules and supervised forensic-themed final year projects. You will study forensic psychology along with additional allied modules, such as Drugs and Behaviour and a forensic-themed dissertation. Many staff in the department conduct research in forensic settings, and include funded projects with the Youth Justice Board, Police and Home Office, in topics such as serious and organised crime, restorative justice and cybercrime.

Employability

The main employer of forensic psychologists is HM Prison Service. However, there are also opportunities in the broader criminal justice field and elsewhere, including the Home Office, NHS (in special hospitals and rehabilitation units, local forensic services and secure hospitals), the police, social services, research, lecturing and private consultancy.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting:
40-60% coursework and
60-40% exams



Also available:
C803 Integrated year
in industry

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour
- Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology *
- Designing Psychological Research Projects
- Introduction to Forensic Psychology
- Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology.

Second year:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Social Psychology
- Applied Forensic Psychology
- Quantitative Research Methods *.

Final year:

- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Drugs and Behaviour
- Forensic Psychology Dissertation *.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Psychology and Sociology

BSc (Hons) | LC38 | 3 years

The Psychology and Sociology degree will enable you to engage with psychological theory and research and explore how psychology is applied to real-world personal and social issues. The course will also enable you to explore both the personal and social nature of human experience from different perspectives.

On this degree you will learn how to critically evaluate ideas, concepts and approaches across the whole of the subject areas and within particular branches of Psychology and Sociology. The course will also draw attention to the connections between human behaviour and the wider social systems (including communities, cities and nations) within which we live. You will learn how to conduct independent research and will become acquainted with a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, digital data sources, and modes of data collection, analysis and presentation. You will also learn how to apply the key concepts associated with psychology and sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills.

Employability

The study of Psychology and Sociology provides a solid foundation for you to consider a wide range of careers including the media, social work, international development, community engagement and the Civil Service, to name a few. Our graduates have progressed on to careers in the Police force, health and social care, social work, social policy (including public housing, social work, local government administration and the voluntary sector), management, journalism, public relations, teaching and research.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting: 40% coursework, 60% exams

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour
- Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology *
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Place and Identity
- Thinking Sociologically.

Second year:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Sociological Theory
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods *
- Social Psychology
- Genders and Sexualities.

Final year:

- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Psychology Research Project
- Everyday Social Worlds.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Psychology

BSc (Hons) | Joint Honours | 3 years

CM89 | Psychology and Criminology †
CX83 | Psychology and Education
NC58 | Psychology and Marketing

Psychology may also be combined with three other subjects: education, criminology or marketing. The psychology components of the joint honours degrees are accredited by the British Psychological Society and are designed to develop and shape your understanding of the mind and human behaviour in conjunction with another subject.

Your time will be split equally between the two subjects, with 50% of your studying taking place in Psychology. You will engage in the essential core topics in psychology that are required for accreditation by the British Psychological Society, and our ethos is to teach in a way which enables you to develop conceptual and theoretical knowledge to solve problems in real-world scenarios. Our laboratories and research spaces provide you with an array of facilities and equipment to explore. These resources allow you to develop your interests, and engage in creative problem-solving techniques as you progress through your degree.

Employability

A degree in Psychology, combined with your other subject, will prepare you for a range of careers, and access to wide range of further training opportunities including clinical, educational, occupational, criminal, sports and exercise psychology; psychotherapy and counselling; social work; health care; human resources; careers advisory service; marketing, publishing and advertising.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting: 40% coursework, 60% exams

Module list

Below is an indicative list of psychology modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology *
- Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour.

Second year:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods *
- Social Psychology.

Final year:

- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Psychology Research Project *.

For more details on the modules available in the other subjects, see the current list on the relevant department's website, or contact us.

† Psychology and Criminology may be taken with an integrated year in industry (A1C6; 4 years).

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Resources and facilities

Admin support: for all queries, big and small

Library resources: access to online and offline psychology learning resources, books and journals

Career guidance: receive help and advice at each stage of your career planning journey with departmental talks, workshops and drop-in sessions

Technology, equipment and rooms:

- **Excellent biophysiological research equipment** - BioPac System
- **State-of-the-art eye tracking equipment** - Tobii System
- **Brain activity recordings** - 64 Channel EEG System
- **Simulate research situations relating to transport, aging, behaviour change, etc** - Driving Simulator Lab
- **Behavioural observation using cameras** - Video Control System and Video Editing Suite
- **Run experiments with sound in a controlled environment** - Sound-Attenuated Chamber
- **Perform psychometric tests on language in a child-friendly environment** - Child Development Lab
- **Comfortable lab space with fixed recording system** - Interviews and Group Discussions
- **Prepare food for taste and smell experiments in our Bio-Kitchen** - Food Preparation Space
- **Spaces for computer-based research or quiet study** - Research Cubicles



Employability

Our Psychology degree schemes will prepare you for a range of careers, ensuring you are equipped with the transferrable skills that are required in the workplace. All our degree schemes can also provide a stepping stone to further study opportunities – Masters or PhD – if that is your preference.

The Department of Psychology has excellent figures for graduate employability or further study, with leavers entering into specialist fields such as Clinical, Educational, Occupational and Sports & Exercise Psychology. We provide excellent opportunities for employment development in areas such as Psychotherapy, Counselling, Social work and Healthcare.

Further opportunities are available for our psychology graduates in a wide variety of industries such as Advertising/marketing, Banking and insurance, Business management, Charity work, Education, Health-related fields, Local and national government, Market research, Media Administration, Politics, Retail and sales, Survey writing, Teaching, Therapy, and Tourism.



Year in industry

Our four-year degrees with an integrated year in industry (available in Psychology, Psychology and Criminology, Psychology and Counselling or Psychology with Forensic Psychology) offer a great opportunity to enhance your CV with first-hand experience and also reflect upon the career path you would like to pursue after graduating. By putting theory into practice it will help bring to life what you have already learned on your course, and will allow you to gain valuable experience in the workplace, improving your career prospects after university. The year in industry takes place during your third year, after which you will return to Aberystwyth to complete your degree in your fourth year.

Year in industry placements can be held in a range of sectors including health, education, forensic, government and business. Placements take place across the UK (and further afield) but our local volunteering partners include: Hywel Dda University Health Board, Ysgol Llwyn yr Eos Primary School, Ceredigion Youth Justice and Offending Service and a range of local charities.

Study through the medium of Welsh

We are pleased to offer a number of modules that can be studied partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh. Students at Aberystwyth may also choose to submit any piece of coursework through the medium of Welsh and can have a Welsh-speaking tutor.



Student profiles

Simona

Psychology (C800)

"I studied Psychology BSc at Aberystwyth University and I loved every second of it. It is a great University, the teaching quality is at a very high standard and the lecturers enjoy teaching their modules. I also had help with finding a good volunteering experience which gave me a great start when looking for a job. After I graduated, I went straight into doing my master's degree in Clinical and Health Psychology, where I graduated with a distinction. Now I am working as a full-time support worker helping people to acquire new skills which will allow them to be more independent and live their life with dignity. Also, I have a part-time job as a psychology lecturer in a Japanese centre preparing Japanese students for university. My experience in Aberystwyth has definitely prepared me for my further education and career by giving me all the knowledge and practical skills that I needed."

Lisa

Psychology (C800)

"I am employed by the Local Health Board to plan and commission substance misuse services and I was accepted to undertake a BSc in Psychology at Aberystwyth University. As I was working full time I studied on a part-time basis over several years.

During this time I gained not only knowledge about my chosen subject but also skills that I have found extremely useful such as a better and more detailed understanding about data and statistics and an improvement of my own skills in research and presenting information.

My dissertation topic was directly related to my work and was accepted as evidence in a regional substance misuse commissioning strategy which will be used to determine a direction of funding over a period of 3-5 years."

Samjhana

Psychology, with integrated year in industry (WF7F)

"My Year-in-Industry placement was with Bedfordshire Police in the Continuous Improvement Department. My project work exposed me to areas across the force, completing attachments with different departments to learn more about what they do.

This first-hand experience of working in the Police has been an incredible learning experience, supporting me to improve and develop skills to help after university, and has encouraged me to think more about what interests me and what I would like to do in the future."

Global opportunities

Aberystwyth's Global Opportunities team offer an exciting range of options for you to go overseas as part of your degree: from short courses and volunteering opportunities in the summer, to a full semester or year abroad studying your chosen subject at one of our partner universities.

The University also offers a number of courses which include an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to study at one of our European or international partner universities for one or two semesters during your third year, returning to Aberystwyth for your final year and graduation.

Reports have shown that students who study abroad are more attractive to employers and earn more than their peers. Take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime while improving your critical skills by choosing to study abroad.



Research

Most of our research is applied in nature and can make a difference to real life issues in society.

For the Department, 'Community' and 'Health' are key areas of research. Both can be flexibly defined, but include all aspects of our community here in West Wales, as part of Wales more widely and with our ambitions globally. 'Health' is a key development and focus at the University, and the Department has a concentration of health psychologists working in a number of areas, from wellbeing and rural health to behaviour change. Our research plays a vital role in how individuals and communities interpret and use scientific knowledge.

County Lines

- **Protection for Vulnerable Young People in Wales**

Dr Gareth Norris (Senior Lecturer in Psychology)

Many people may have seen or heard coverage about 'County Lines' in the news. Dr Gareth Norris, from Aberystwyth University's Psychology Department, has recently submitted a report to the Home Office after evaluating an intervention with young people in Ceredigion, Wales, who are at risk of becoming involved in Serious and Organised Crime.

Despite the relatively low crime rate in Ceredigion, many vulnerable young people can be at risk of exploitation by drugs, gangs and other organised crime groups; this intervention was aimed at young people in school years 6 and 7 to provide them with the skills to recognise and resist potential victimisation.

Sessions included dealing with emotions, social media and internet safety, and substance misuse. The work formed part of one of the Department's Impact Case Studies for the Research Excellence Framework (REF, 2021) assessment exercise.

Older driver safety

Charles Musselwhite
(Professor in Psychology)

Driving has become both such a necessity and a desire that giving up driving has been linked to loneliness and isolation and an increase in depression and health-related problems. Some studies show a direct link to mortality. But are older drivers safe to continue driving?

A range of cognitive and physiological changes as we age can hamper our driver behaviour, but my research suggests we compensate well for that. Of course, some older drivers are dangerous, but the majority are very safe. How do we tell who is safe and who isn't is a more difficult question. Research on giving older people tests - whether cognitive, medical or on road - suggests that they don't work. Training and education has better outcomes, but at the moment it is often those who are more safe that take up such opportunities. Overall, we need to help older drivers be safer through earlier planning and focusing on their driver behaviour and encouraging them to take up training opportunities.



Psychology Society

Social

Through the well-established student-led Psychology Society, our goal for our socials is to provide the perfect relaxed environment to meet and make friends with like-minded individuals. Our committee members are full of ideas, and our socials are typically held on Tuesdays. Each one is themed differently, and we will post an event on the Facebook group in advance in addition to emails to give everybody time to prepare! Tuesday Socials involve a wide varieties of activities, with new suggestions and newcomers always welcomed.

Academic

As a society we have very close ties to the Psychology department. As a result of this, we are able to host study groups around deadlines and exams, and often members of the department stop by to offer support. We also have a dedicated Facebook group full of helpful people who are more than happy to answer any questions you might have during the course of your studies!

The application process

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40. **TOP TIP:** You'll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you'll be asked for it many times.

2 The University will consider your application

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.

3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub

The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.

4 Decide where to go

Once you've received all your offers, you'll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you'll need to note which universities will be your Firm and Insurance choices.

5 Accommodation

Once you've chosen your Firm/Insurance choice you'll be invited to apply for accommodation.

6 Results day

UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!

Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.



Department of Psychology,
Penbryn 5,
Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth University,
Ceredigion, SY23 3UX

+44 (0) 1970 62 8444

psychology@aber.ac.uk

/PsychAtAber

/psychataber

@PsychAtAber

✈ = International airport

🚂 = Train station

⚓ = Ferry port



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