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Department of Psychology



Teaching
Excellence
Framework

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (July 2019) 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.

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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.

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.

You can find out more about us by reading through this brochure.

Prof. Nigel Holt
Head of Department





Psychology

BSc

This Single Honours degree 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 that you are able to apply to solve problems in real-world scenarios. The degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society and built around essential core Psychological topics, which serve as a base for a choice of varied and specialised modules we offer in the second and third years.

You will enjoy:

- studying in a department with an exceptional track record for student satisfaction and employability;
- stimulating discussions with research-active staff who have a range of expertise;
- eye tracking, EEG, Biopac and behavioural measurements equipment;
- a focus on applying psychology to the "real-world";
- fully-accredited degree by the British Psychological Society;
- the opportunity to study abroad or work in industry on a placement as part of your degree.



Degree type: BSc



UCAS code: C800



Duration: 3 years



Also available with an integrated year in industry (WF7F) and an integrated year of study abroad (N1FW).



Core modules and teaching structure on this course include:

Year 1

- > 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

Year 2

- > Cognitive Psychology
- > Psychology in Practice
- > Qualitative Research Methods
- > Quantitative Research Methods
- > Social Psychology
- > Choice of Year 2 Module Options

Year 3

- > Behavioural Neuroscience
- > Developmental Psychology and Individual Differences
- > Psychology Research Project
- > Choice of Year 3 Module Options

Psychology and Criminology

BSc

This Joint Honours degree is made up of two interrelated subjects that combine effectively together to give you the theoretical perspectives of crime with sociology, philosophy and psychology of the criminal mind.

You will enjoy:

- fully-accredited degree by the British Psychological Society;
- studying in a supportive, student-focused environment;
- interacting with our academic, support and technical staff who are here to help you;
- being able to draw on the expertise of research-active staff across two departments;
- an innovative approach to learning and teaching;
- modern, innovative research facilities and top-class student learning spaces;
- the opportunity to work in industry on a placement as part of your degree.

Core modules and teaching structure on this course include:

Year 1

- > Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- > Crime, Control and Prevention
- > Elements of Criminology
- > Foundations of Law
- > Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
- > Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour

Year 2

- > Cognitive Psychology
- > Qualitative Research Methods
- > Quantitative Research Methods
- > Social Psychology
- > Choice of Year 2 Module Options


Year 3

- > Behavioural Neuroscience
- > Developmental Psychology and Individual Differences
- > Psychology Research Project
- > Choice of Year 3 Module Options

 Degree type: BSc

 UCAS code: CM89

 Duration: 3 years

 Also available with an integrated year in industry (A1C6).



Psychology with Counselling

BSc

On this degree scheme you will combine 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 scheme provides students 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.

You will enjoy:

- fully-accredited degree by the British Psychological Society;
- learning about a range of therapeutic approaches and counselling techniques;
- person-centred, cognitive-behavioural and psychodynamic approaches to counselling;
- opportunities to develop practical counselling-related skills;
- cutting edge facilities including labs with cameras and microphones;
- studying in a department with an exceptional track record for student employability.

Core modules and teaching structure on this course include:

Year 1

- > 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
- > Personal Development and Organisational Behaviour
- > Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice in Counselling
- > Foundations of Counselling: Skills and Theory I

Year 2

- > Cognitive Psychology
- > Qualitative Research Methods
- > Quantitative Research Methods
- > Social Psychology
- > Issues in Clinical Psychology
- > Health Psychology
- > Foundations of Counselling: Skills and Theory II
- > Choice of Year 2 Module Options


Year 3

- > Behavioural Neuroscience
- > Developmental Psychology and Individual Differences
- > Counselling-focused Psychology Research Project
- > Choice of Year 3 Module Options



 Degree type: BSc

 UCAS code: C843

 Duration: 3 years

Psychology and Education

BSc

This joint honours degree in Psychology and Education, offers you the opportunity to pursue a specialist field of study, where insights from one discipline can directly enhance understanding and application of knowledge in the other. On this degree you will develop a deeper understanding of children's cognitive and social development, and you'll have the opportunity to study and critique how these are supported through educational policy and practice. Also, as long as you meet the entry requirements, you will be guaranteed an interview for Primary PGCE at Aberystwyth.

You will enjoy:

- being part of two departments, the Department of Psychology and the School of Education;
- an innovative approach to learning and teaching with support from staff with active research interests;
- modern in-house research facilities and student learning spaces;
- support from a personal tutor, throughout your degree, who will advise and guide you on a range of academic and personal matters.

Core modules and teaching structure on this course include:

Year 1

- > Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- > Child Development
- > Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour
- > Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
- > Policies and Issues in Education
- > The Learner and the Learning Environment


Year 2

- > Cognitive Psychology
- > Psychology of Learning and Thinking
- > Qualitative Research Methods
- > Quantitative Research Methods
- > Social Psychology
- > Choice of Year 2 Module Options

Year 3

- > Behavioural Neuroscience
- > Critically Reflecting and Evaluating Learning and Skills
- > Developmental Psychology and Individual Differences
- > Psychology Research Project for Joint Honours
- > Choice of Year 3 Module Options



 Degree type: BSc

 UCAS code: CX80

 Duration: 3 years

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:

- o Excellent biophysiological research equipment
BioPac System
- o State-of-the-art eye tracking equipment
Tobii System
- o Brain activity recordings
64 Channel EEG System
- o Behavioural observation using cameras
Video Control System and Video Editing Suite
- o Run experiments with sound in a controlled environment
Sound-Attenuated Chamber
- o Perform psychometric tests on language in a child-friendly environment
Child Development Lab
- o Comfortable lab space with fixed recording system
Interviews and Group Discussions
- o Quiet space to write up recordings with Olympus transcription
Transcription Room
- o Prepare food for taste and smell experiments in our Bio-Kitchen
Food Preparation Space
- o Spaces for computer-based research or quiet study
Research Cubicles



Year in Industry

We encourage our students to consider undertaking our 4-year Psychology degree (WF7F) or 4-year Psychology and Criminology degree (A1C6), both with an integrated year in industry. The year in employment is a great opportunity to enhance your CV with "on the job experience" and also reflect on the career path you would like to pursue. It will also help bring to life what you are learning in a lecture or tutorial by applying theory into practice. A year's experience in the workplace could also prove very appealing to potential employers.

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 choice of modules that can be taught partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh. Students are also free to submit any piece of coursework through the medium of Welsh and can also have a Welsh-speaking tutor.

Year Study Abroad

Another option available to students is our 4-year Psychology degree with an integrated year studying abroad (N1FW). Similar to a year in employment, this is a great opportunity enhance your CV, but also to experience a new country, new contacts, new culture and new approach to studying Psychology. All of which can play a big part in your personal development and future decisions.

We have academic collaborations with many European and International locations, including Italy, Norway, Canada, Japan, Australia and the USA.





Employability

Our Psychology degree schemes will prepare you for a range of careers, ensuring you are equipped with the transferrable experiences and 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 more your preference.

The Department of Psychology has excellent figures for graduate employability or further study, with graduates entering into postgraduate study/training in specialist fields such as Clinical, Educational, Occupational and Sports & Exercise Psychology. Other areas include psychotherapy, counselling, social work and healthcare.

Student Stories

Simona
Psychology (C800) Graduate, 2017.

"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."

Samjhana
Psychology, with integrated year in industry (WF7F). Currently on placement.

"My Year-in-Industry placement is 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."

Camilla
Psychology (C800) Graduate, 2017.

"After graduating I started to work as an assistant psychologist for a Clinical Psychologist in a private practice; this role gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge in research, and in particular psychometric testing, and observe different therapeutic approaches. After this internship, I worked as an assistant Psychologist for an IAPT service, with CBT practitioners and Counselling Psychologists. I learnt about the importance of clinical assessments and the effectiveness of EMDR therapy (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy) in reducing trauma. In September 2018, I started my Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology at Regents University and work as a trainee practitioner with clients recovering from alcohol and drugs addiction, at Edgware Community Hospital, London."



Student Stories

Lisa

Psychology (C800) Graduate, 2018.

"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."

Melisa

Psychology (C800) Graduate, 2017.

Melisa Basol graduated with a BSc in Psychology from Aberystwyth University in July 2017 before going to Cambridge University to study for an MPhil. She started her PhD in Psychology at Pembroke College, Cambridge, in autumn 2018.

Melisa is one of 92 students who has taken up their scholarship after being selected from a total pool of 5,798 applicants. The Gates Cambridge Scholarships are award to the most academically exceptional and socially committed people from across the globe and is recognised as the University of Cambridge's most prestigious international postgraduate scholarship.

Melisa said: "I feel very honoured to be entering a community of like-minded and ambitious individuals who are determined to make an impact. And whilst this fund is incredibly prestigious and generous, I am aware that this would have not been possible without the trust and unconditional support of my department at Aber. My accomplishments are a mere reflection of the guidance and encouragement I have received throughout my undergraduate degree and beyond."

Conor

Psychology, with integrated year studying abroad (N1FW). Graduating July 2019.

"At the University of Bergen in Western Norway, I was able to experience and immerse myself in a different culture and educational environment; enriching both my academic and personal life skills by providing me with an entirely unique and life-changing opportunity in an exciting and beautiful country."





Research

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 forms part of one of the Department's Impact Case Studies for the upcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF, 2021) assessment exercise.

Psychology Society

Social

Our goal for our socials is to provide the perfect chilled 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! The Tuesday Socials are usually a set route of several pubs and clubs through town and therefore usually involve drinking, but non-drinkers are welcome too! We also balance this out by regularly holding Sober Socials in the form of film nights or game nights so everybody is catered for! Any suggestions are always welcome and we do try and accommodate people's wishes. We also host two meals during the year; one at Christmas and one at the end of term.

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!





How to apply

Once you have decided what course you want to study and where, you'll be able to start the university application process. Here's a brief overview of the process and our procedures here at Aberystwyth.

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Deadline 15 January. 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 offer

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Track to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within 4 weeks.

3 The offer will show on UCAS track

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 able to apply for your accommodation (April 1st onwards).

6 Results day

UCAS Track will confirm your offer of a place. If you're not clear what the offer is, contact the university directly. Make sure you're not on holiday on results day. If you don't get the grades you've hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!



