Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2012-13

Programme Title	Psychology and Sociology
UCAS/JACS Code	CL83
School/Subject Area	Life and Health Sciences, Psychology, in conjunction with Languages and Social Sciences, Sociology
Final Award	BSc (Joint Hons) in Psychology and Sociology
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma in Higher Education
Mode(s) of Study	Sandwich
Normal Length of Programme	4 years
Total Credits	480 credits
Programme Accredited By	The British Psychological Society
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Written July 2011: Dr Liz Moores with Dr Pam Lowe Updated Oct 2011: Dr Liz Moores Updated Nov 2011, April 2012: Dr Carl Senior Updated September 2012: Dr Elizabeth Peel

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff. • To produce graduates with skills and abilities in research and enquiry, information literacy, personal and intellectual autonomy, ethical, social and professional understanding. • To produce graduates who can bring qualities of critical judgement and reasoning to their chosen occupation and who are capable of applying and disseminating knowledge. • To provide students with an intellectually rigorous and up-to-date education in psychology and Sociology which will help them to identify and achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. • To provide a good understanding of the history of sociological thought, and sociological theories and methods • To provide students with the ability to analyse and understand social problems, social change and social structures; • To ensure familiarity with key concepts in sociological theories and key issues in contemporary societies; • To provide training in research methods and analysis. • To deliver a programme of a standard which satisfies the accreditation requirements of the British Psychological Society for eligibility for Graduate Membership and Graduate Basis for Chartership • To provide a programme which responds to the needs of a wide range of entrants from a variety of routes.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmarking statements • Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) • School of Life & Health Sciences Quality Committee • The British Psychological Society accreditation requirements

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage I**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Research Methods and Statistics	20	4	PY1124	Core
Cognitive Psychology Ib	10	4	PY1120	Core
Social Psychology I	10	4	PY1118	Core
Developmental Psychology	10	4	PY1109	Core
Introduction to Psychology	10	4	PY1129	Core
Classical Social Theory I	10	4	LY1009	Core
Classical Social Theory II	10	4	LY1017	Core
Identities and Inequalities	20	4	LY1020	Core
Sociological Research methods	10	4	LY1003	Core
Issues in Welfare	10	4	LB1011	Core
TOTAL	120			

*Module versions being designed specifically for this programme

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage II**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Advanced Statistics	20	5	PY2224	Core
Language & Communication	10	5	PY2236	Core
Psychological Research Methods	10	5	PY2238	Core
Social Psychology II	10	5	PY2229	Core
Cognitive Psychology IIa	10	5	PY2218	Core
Contemporary Social Theory	20	5	LY2018	Core
Global Society b	10	5	LY2022	Elective
OR Sociology of Racism	10	5	LY2017	Elective
CSI: Crime, Subversion and Injustice	10	5	LY2023	Elective
OR Technology and Social Theory	10	5	LY2021	Elective
Birmingham in the World	20	5	LY2020	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage III**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Placement	120	P	PYPL06	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage IV**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Final Year Project (Psychology)	30	6	PY3314	Core
Personality and Intelligence	10	6	PY3354	Core
Cognitive Neuropsychology	10	6	PY3356	Core
Child Development	10	6	PY3351	Core
Health Matters	20	6	LB3019	Elective
Risk, Environment and Society*	20	6	LY3010	Elective
Sociology of Work and Society*	10	6	LY3012	Elective
Racism, class and gender*	10	6	LY3018	Elective
Sociology of Education*	10	6	LY3009	Elective
Contemporary Social Movements*	10	6	LY3021	Elective
Sport, Politics and Culture*	10	6	LY3023	Elective
Sociology of Human Reproduction *	10	6	LY3024	Elective
TOTAL	120			

*Not all electives will be available every year.

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
	A. Knowledge and Understanding		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	The scope and nature of psychology as an academic discipline, conceptual, ethical and historical issues and the contributions of different perspectives	These are developed through lectures and seminars, associated handouts and visual presentations, together with individual supervision in preparation of the student's final year project. • lectures (A1-7) • tutorials (A1, A5-7) • seminars (A4-7) ▪ individual work (A1-7) ▪ guided reading (A1-7) ▪ individual supervision (A1-2) ▪ placement work (A3)	Seen and unseen exams, class tests, essays, on-line quizzes, practical reports, projects, portfolios, posters and presentations. • assignments (A1-7) • end of teaching period examination (A2,4,5-7) • essay (A4-8) • individual project (A2,4) • presentation (A2, 4) • placement reflective log/reports (A3)
2	The scientific method, a wide range of research designs and quantitative and qualitative methodology, descriptive and inferential statistics, including parametric, non-parametric and meta-analyses.		
3	practical applications of subject knowledge and the links between theory and practice.		
4	A wide range of issues in and theories of cognitive, developmental, biological and social psychology and in individual differences		
5	the nature of modern societies (social structures, social problems, and social change)		
6	theoretical concepts and traditions relevant to the study of modern societies		
8	the importance of comparative and historical approaches within Sociology		

B. **Intellectual Skills**			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	gather, organise, deploy and analyse evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources	• lectures (B1-6) • tutorials (B1, 3, 5-6) • seminars (B1, 2, 3, 4) ▪ group work (B1, 4) ▪ individual work (B1-7) ▪ guided reading (B1-6) individual supervision (B1-5, 7)	• assignments (B1-7) • end of teaching period examination (B2,3,5,6,) • essay (B1, 2, 3, 5, 6) • individual project (B1,2,3,4,5,7) • group project (B1-5) • presentation (B1, 3, 5, 7)
2	Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence.		
3	Think critically and question received wisdom.		
4	Show competence in research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis.		
5	Present arguments that are clear, structured and sustained.		
6	understand sociological concepts and theories and apply them to the analysis of social problems		
7	Carry out a sustained piece of independent research.		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Specialise in areas of particular interest and relevance to their chosen career path	• Placement experience (C1-2) • Individual supervision (C3, 4) • Lectures (C1, 4)	• Placement essay, log book and report: (C1,2) • Final year project report (C3, 4)
2	Apply their key skills and competencies within a real work-based situation (via placement experience)		
3	Identify a research question and from this design, execute and report an empirically-based research project		
4	Understand the ethical context of psychology as a discipline.		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Good written communication skills.	Communication skills are developed through seminars, study skills essay feedback, poster presentations and oral presentations. Effective use of information sources, analytical ability, independent and group work are all developed through study skills classes, problem-based tasks and independent supervision.	• presentations (D1,2,3) • individual project (D1,2,3) • group project (D1,2,3,4,) • Placement log book/report (D5)
2	Competence in the use of information technology for word processing, data handling, communication and information gathering.		
3	The ability to undertake self-directed study and project management.		

4	The ability to work effectively in teams, reacting appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors.	Self-reflection is developed through the placement log book (placement students only) and through the use of self-assessment forms. Work experience is gained through the placement year • tutorials (D1,4) • seminars (D1, 2, 3, 4) • group work (D2,4) • individual work (D1,2,3,5,6)	
5	The ability to reflect upon own learning and development.		

Entry Requirements	*In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must also satisfy the entry requirements determined by the School Board and approved by Senate*
Programme Regulations	This programme is governed by the University's current General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes (reference REG/12/376), except where they are modified by the following Programme Regulations. Normally, students are required to undertake an integrated programme of professional training of at least 30 weeks duration, not including any periods of vacation. The placement shall be undertaken at times approved by the Associate Dean for Taught programmes. **FAILURE IN MODULES** 1. PY3314, the final year project module cannot be condoned. 2. Normally, where a module requires the completion of a portfolio of assessments or completion of research credits students must pass both portfolio and/or research hours components of the module. 3. All modules in the Psychology programme require an element of reflective practice. To this end students in the first and second years are required to complete two feedback surveys by the end of each term. Final year students will be required to complete these surveys at the end of each module. Failure to complete these surveys will result in students receiving no marks for that module.

Further Information	In order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC), students must gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree or equivalent thereof.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.