We have 191 new students on our 3-year dual honours psychology programme, and 15 on the four-year applied psychology programme.

First year students have been talking to us about their first few weeks studying psychology with us......

Rose: “So far my experience of psychology at Keele has been amazing! It is everything I wanted, expected and more. It’s refreshing how seriously Keele approaches psychology and it’s also refreshing how scientific and academic the psychology is. The lecturers are fantastic, the lectures have been engaging and interesting and I have learnt so much from the lectures and self-study so far. I like how in psychology a lot is up to you, yet, there is always a friendly face willing to help you!”

Della: “The experience so far has been very rewarding. I have enjoyed all aspects of psychology, especially the seminars and the practical sessions...... The tutors all seem friendly and the help we’ve received with what seems like the hardest part of the course, the research methods, has been amazing. The sessions held by teaching fellows are so helpful and help you to realise where you’re going wrong and where you might improve. Seminars have helped me to make friends as well as helping educationally. Having that small group of people around and being able to talk and realise that nearly everyone is in the same boat as you in terms of the fears they’ve had about the course or uni life itself has helped with self-confidence.”

Fritha: “I really enjoy psychology as a subject, the lecturers are always entertaining, they’ve jumped on tables...... and constantly reminded us that we don’t need to be terrified of statistics. The content is engaging, ...... The seminars are always fun as well, we’ve developed a real group identity and regularly have a bit of a giggle. The amount of recommended reading did at first come as a shock, but when I got down to it, it was actually really interesting. All together I can say that psychology ...... was definitely the right choice for me.

We want to enhance our students’ learning experience. This is a serious commitment and we want to tell you how we intend to deliver on it. Over the past year we’ve made some concrete changes to improve the learning experience of our students. But we want to do more.

The changes we have made, and are planning to make, are based on the things that you have told us are important. We are committed to making those things real. We don’t expect to achieve all of them immediately, and we know that we have work to do, but we will be open about our progress. It’s why when you told us you wanted to study only Psychology for your final year, we developed a major route (open to students for the first time in 2011). It’s why we’re dedicating professional development planning of our staff to enhancing feedback given to students on their work.

STAFF RECOGNITION!!!!!!!

The Ig Noble Awards for 2010 have been awarded in a recent ceremony at Harvard University. Among the winners are included: Peace prize Awarded to psychologist Richard Stephens (pictured) for confirming that swearing relieves pain. Stephens, who began the study after striking his thumb with a hammer, found volunteers could tolerate more pain if they repeated swearwords rather than neutral words. He suspects that “swearing induces a fight-or-flight response and nullifies the link between fear of pain and pain perception.”

Best Psychology Second Year Award
This is awarded to the second year student with the highest overall aggregate mark over second year in psychology. The award consists of a £20 book token. The winner of the prize this year is Jacqui Tickle, with an aggregate mark of 296.

Award for Best Improver in Psychology, 1st to 2nd Year
This is awarded to the second year student with the greatest increase in psychology core module aggregate mark from first year to second year. The award consists of a £10 book token. There are two winners this year. Benjamin Shuker and Cherene Nicolla Aziza Jackson both improved by 41 aggregate marks from year 1 (2008/9) to year 2 (2009/10).

Preparing our students for life after graduation: What are we doing?

Careers information Opportunities for postgraduate study in psychology – take a look at our masters programmes. We offer MScs in clinical psychological research, child social development, psychology of health and wellbeing, applied psychology, psychological research methods.

For more information see Piloting the University’s initiative of embedding graduate attributes in our programme.

......I'm really worried about what I'd do when I leave......