Psychology Graduate Attributes

Keele’s distinctive educational programmes and learning environment prepare graduates for their futures. For some psychology students this might be a future involving further study and a career in psychology. However, psychology is a far reaching discipline and graduates can go on to a wide variety of careers. As part of your undergraduate degree you will develop ten graduate attributes; these are skills which will be of value in your life and career, whether or not this is in the field of psychology. It is useful for you to consider these attributes as you progress through the course, and being able to talk about them to potential future employers will help make you distinctive!

On this page we emphasize some of the direct links between Keele's Graduate Attributes and the specific characteristics of Keele Psychology students. For more information about the Distinctive Keele Curriculum and Keele's Graduate Attributes please look at the University's web pages at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/distinctive/

Keele Graduate Attribute 1

An open and questioning approach to ideas, demonstrating curiosity, independence of thought and the ability to appreciate a range of perspectives on the natural and social worlds

Psychology students:

- encounter a wide range of ideas as they explore different approaches to the study of the human mind and behaviour
- assess the merit of contrasting theories and opinions making critical interpretations of data and text
- are explicitly taught to pose, operationalise and critique psychological research questions
- have the opportunity to become involved with research projects within the school

Keele Graduate Attribute 2

An appreciation of the development and values of Psychology, awareness of its context and links with other disciplines, and awareness of the provisional and dynamic nature of knowledge

Psychology students:

- learn explicitly about the history, development and applications of Psychology
- are rewarded for recognising, making sense and developing a critical perspective of the development of the discipline and its relationship to other disciplines.
- are encouraged to critique the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of psychological knowledge
- develop a sufficient level of conceptual understanding to enable the development of arguments and analysis that comment on advanced scholarship at the forefront of some areas of psychology
- during their third year carry out their own independent research, based upon existing knowledge, but answering a research question close to the forefront of the discipline.
Keele Graduate Attribute 3

Information literacy skills: the ability to locate, evaluate and synthesis large amounts of frequently conflicting information, ideas and data

Psychology students:

- learn explicitly how to search for and locate relevant primary and secondary sources
- are rewarded for abstracting information from a variety of primary and secondary sources and synthesising this information into a coherent understanding
- comprehend and use data effectively by interpreting complex sets of numerical, statistical and qualitative data

Keele Graduate Attribute 4

The ability creatively to solve problems using a range of different approaches and techniques, and to determine which techniques are appropriate for the issue at hand

Psychology students:

- are specifically taught skills in a range of research methods
- carry out group and independent project work; developing their own research questions, identifying and developing suitable research design, collecting, analyzing and presenting data
- are rewarded for solving problems by clarifying questions, considering alternatives and evaluating outcomes

Keele Graduate Attribute 5

An appreciation of the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and other activities, including recognition of any ethical implications

Psychology students:

- study human behavior with awareness of diversity
- are taught about the variability and diversity of psychological functioning
- are explicitly trained to recognize ethical issues, and are required to demonstrate knowledge of ethical requirements when conducting research

Keele Graduate Attribute 6

The ability to communicate clearly and effectively in written and verbal forms for different purposes and to a variety of audiences

Psychology students:

- learn to effectively communicate ideas and research findings by written, oral and visual means to a variety of audiences
- work to a clearly articulated academic standard that encourages rigor and discipline
Keele Graduate Attribute 7

The knowledge, skills, self-confidence and self-awareness actively to pursue your future goals

Psychology students:

- are offered challenges within a supportive environment, and gain confidence in meeting them
- are encouraged to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and identify appropriate courses of action, in order to fulfil long-term ambitions.
- in their third year have the opportunity to develop real expertise in their chosen option and to carry out their own piece of high quality research
- are provided with tools and training to record their progress and achievements

Keele Graduate Attribute 8

The ability and motivation to participate responsibly and collaboratively as an active citizen in the communities in which you live and work

Psychology students:

- learn to work effectively within a group setting to achieve an end goal through pooled effort which involves recognizing and using appropriate material from others
- have very clear career opportunities linked to the wellbeing of the community

Keele Graduate Attribute 9

A professional and reflective approach, including qualities of leadership, responsibility, personal integrity, empathy, care and respect for others, accountability and self regulation

Psychology students:

- undertake self-directed study and project management
- have the opportunity to develop leadership skills through group work
- are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by reflecting on their strengths and weaknesses
- are taught by staff who value and exemplify these characteristics

Keele Graduate Attribute 10

The flexibility to thrive in rapidly changing and uncertain external environments and to update skills and knowledge as circumstances require

Psychology students:

- learn explicitly about the provisional and dynamic nature of knowledge
- gain confidence both in their expertise and in their own flexibility by tackling difficult challenges
- within their work