Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social and Political Psychology

Programme Specification: Postgraduate

Information for students: the programme specification is the definitive document summarising the structure and content of your degree programme. It is reviewed and updated every year as part of Keele's Annual Programme Review process. The document aims to clarify to potential and current students what you can expect from the study of the subject over the course of your programme.

Names of programme(s):	MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology
Mode of study:	Full time / part time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award:	7
Duration:	One year full time / two years part time / up to five years modular

Details of professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) (If appropriate): https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/professionalstatutoryandregulatorybodies/

This course is not part of a system of professional accreditation.

External Examiner(s) names: http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/

1. What is the philosophy of the Programme?

All our psychology MSc programmes are designed to prepare you for a psychology-related career or a PhD in Psychology. Studying the MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology will help you to specialise in and learn about how social and political psychology theories and perspectives can inform understandings of community relationships, social identity, peace and conflict, crowd behaviour, discrimination, forgiveness, and much more. You will engage in research methods training, learning to design research projects, collect data using social psychological methods, and analyse it both statistically and using a range of qualitative methods. The course will enable you to become familiar with contemporary issues in Applied Social and Political Psychology, and to apply your learning either in future research projects, to progress to further study (such as a social psychology PhD) or within a professional role (such as a working for a charitable or non-governmental organisation, or in the civil service).

The programme contains modules focused on specialist content in Applied Social and Political Psychology. Students will complete PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis to get a broad overview of advanced research methods. This will be complemented in the specialist modules, where staff will introduce theoretical issues, share cutting edge research from their own fields, and apply and extend these research methods to social and political contexts. Students will also complete the PSY-40045 Dissertation and the PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship, allowing them to put their understanding of research

methods into practice. Students will work on an area of social or political psychology, usually related to their interests, in their Dissertation and Apprenticeship, in negotiation with supervisors. Additionally, students will have two optional modules to complete; these will be from other relevant Schools across the university (such as the School of Social, Political and Global Studies) or from within Psychology. Students will also have the option of taking the PSY-40089 Placement module, to gain authentic experience within a working social, community or political environment.

Specialist psychological training provided by research-active tutors is a defining feature of our Applied Social and Political Psychology MSc. The new structure for the MSc was launched in 2022/23 and provides students with more specialism than ever before. This structure has core modules in Applied Social and Political Psychology to ensure students engage with the appropriate content, as well as optional modules to give students some flexibility in their course, to allow them to choose topics that match their future study or employment aspirations.

The programme has been designed to ensure students can focus on their specialist interests and tailor their studies to suit their research interests and development goals in as many modules as possible:

- **PSY-40099 Rethinking Research: Knowledge, Power, and Diversity** (15 credits) will facilitate reflection on the social construction of knowledge within applied social and political psychology, and the ways in which different perspectives have shaped research but failed to meet diverse societal needs. You will learn ways to conduct research that is inclusive, and captures human diversity.
- **PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology** (15 credits) aims to critique mainstream psychology, and to introduce you to topics and methods that serve to increase social justice. You will be encouraged to reflect on your own assumptions and values, and those of organisations and social influencers, through perspectives offered by, for example, discourse analysis and social representation theory, around topics such as LGBTQ+, loneliness, infant feeding. This module is shared with students on the MSc Psychology and Health Inequalities course, with opportunities for you to explore topics as a larger group, but also to delve deeper into Applied Social and Political Psychology separately.
- **PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change** (15 credits) will engage you with big questions and global challenges using critical psychology; you will learn about topics such social injustice, environmental injustice, protests and activism, policing, and radicalisation and de-radicalisation.
- **PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis** (15 credits) will provide students with an overview of advanced methodologies, including both quantitative and qualitative. In addition to covering content that is core for all psychology students, students can specialise within this module so they focus on methods, design and analysis that is most useful for them in the context of the MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology.
- **PSY-40087 Action Research: Co-Creating Research to make a Difference** (15 credits) will develop students' approaches to research and how research can be carried out with diverse communities and community organisations. This module will be shared with students on the Applied Child Psychology course with some bespoke content for students on both courses, to allow students to focus specifically on issues that relate to social and political psychology.
- **PSY-40045 Dissertation** (60 credits) will provide students an opportunity to engage in designing, developing, conducting, and reporting social and political psychological research under the supervision of staff with expertise in this area.
- **PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology** (15 credits) students work with members of staff as part of their research teams on active research projects. These will complement and extend their areas of specialist knowledge and interest.

- **PSY-40089 Psychology Placement** – this is an optional module to facilitate you in gaining work experience and reflecting on the applications of psychology within your chosen professional setting. We encourage all students to take this module if possible, but if for any reason you prefer not to, you are able to choose another option module (see below) instead.
- **Optional modules** – optional modules will be selected at the beginning of the academic year. Students will be able to choose from more content-based options or engage with more research methods modules offered from within the School of Psychology or from other relevant Schools across the university (choosing from a list of selected modules).

The programmes are taught mainly by members of the School of Psychology. Students are trained in research methodologies and in transferable employment-related skills. The overall aims of the programme are as follows:

- To develop your knowledge of different theoretical perspectives in Applied Social and Political Psychology;
- To develop your knowledge of different methodological approaches to Applied Social and Political Psychology;
- To equip you to formulate and conduct psychological research projects in Social and Political Psychology;
- To enable you to understand the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods and different forms of data, and to evaluate their appropriateness for research in Social and Political Psychology;
- To enable you to define and formulate research questions and testable hypotheses, and to design appropriate research to answer these questions using relevant methods of data collection, consistent with British Psychological Society principles of ethics and research governance;
- To provide you with knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research and data analysis techniques broadly and applied to Applied Social and Political Psychology;
- To provide you with a range of opportunities to engage with advanced research in Applied Social and Political Psychology;
- To provide you with opportunities to enhance and develop your written and communication skills, independent learning skills, and critical reflection and evaluation skills.

Intended Learning Outcomes

This MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology programme is intended to facilitate learning and development across four broad categories: knowledge and understanding of psychological research in the related fields of Applied Social and Political Psychology; knowledge and understanding of Applied Social and Political Psychology; more general intellectual skills commensurate with a higher university degree; and transferable skills such as would be required across a broad range of careers. Specific intended learning outcomes are listed below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of psychological research
   A1.   Key theoretical issues in social and political psychology research
   A2.   Empirical methodologies used to explore key issues in psychological research
   A3.   Core concerns of contemporary researchers in Applied Social and Political Psychology
   A4.   The research evidence relevant to advanced scholarship in Applied Social and Political Psychology research and practice.

B. Knowledge and understanding of Applied Social and Political Psychology
   B1. To evaluate particular methodologies in relation to research questions

B2. To conduct a literature review of a chosen topic within the specialist field of Applied Social and Political Psychology

B3. To develop a set of research questions or hypotheses for researching Applied Social and Political Psychology;

B4. To design appropriate methods for addressing a set of research questions or hypotheses

B5. To carry out an empirical study in Applied Social and Political Psychology

B6. To apply appropriate analysis of data collected in Applied Social and Political Psychology contexts

B7. To report the results of an empirical study, applying skills of presentation, interpretation and discussion of findings that are appropriate within the field of Applied Social and Political Psychology.

C. Intellectual skills

C1. To identify and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practical problems in applied social and political psychology literature

C2. To critically evaluate research literature in social and political psychology, and relate research issues to authentic problems

C3. To use scientific research principles to develop appropriate research questions or hypotheses

C4. To use scientific research principles to select appropriate techniques of experimental design and analysis to research questions or hypotheses

C5. To show appropriate intellectual and personal reflexivity through the evaluation of research experiences and by identifying strengths and weaknesses for future development.

D. Transferable skills

D1. Communicate effectively using appropriate verbal, visual, graphic, IT and written means depending on the audience

D2. Demonstrate the ability to learn independently, using a range of information sources and approaches

D3. Manage time effectively and work to deadlines

D4. Use digital and electronic communication techniques, hardware and software, including word-processing, spreadsheets, email and internet

D5. Work in teams, either as a leader or as a member of a team

D6. Employ scientific methods and the analysis of evidence in the solution of problems

D7. Learn to improve work based on written feedback from tutors on drafts

D8. Sort and manipulate data

D9. Present data in a variety of ways.

Our programmes are all designed to support you to develop a unique combination of skills, related to citizenship and employability, that you can apply to your personal, professional and societal lives beyond graduation. You can find more information on the difference that we make to students and their communities through our educational practices here:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/kiite/visionforeducation/difference/.

2. How is the Programme taught?

Across the MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology programme, students experience a range of different learning and teaching methods. Each module has different prescribed learning activities, including taught classes and seminars, discussion and consultation with staff, and laboratory and practical work. Full time and part time students all study together for the taught/seminar/class discussion elements of the programmes. Attendance is expected at all teaching sessions. Students will also be encouraged to

complete work asynchronously online (for example, directed reading, quizzes, videos) as well as carrying out their own further independent study.

The most common form of teaching and learning is classroom-based teaching. Across most modules, students will attend tutor-led classes or seminars. In these classes, students gain valuable hands-on expertise of design, critical reviewing, planning, analysis and interpretation under the guidance of expert tutors. These sessions will be a mix of taught classes, discussion, practical activities, and feedback. Another common form of teaching and learning is one-to-one supervision, which forms the basis of the Dissertation module and is involved in other modules; for example, the research apprenticeships involve students working either one-to-one or in small groups with a staff member, perhaps as part of a wider research team which might include other Psychology staff, staff from elsewhere in the university or external collaborators, research assistants, research students and undergraduate students. The range of different teaching and learning contexts will ensure that students can benefit from different types of teaching.

Our students gain valuable hands-on expertise of design, critical reviewing, planning, analysis and interpretation with a combination of tutor-led lectures, group discussions, practical activities and individual feedback. For example, in Rethinking Research, students will attend small-group sessions expanding upon content learned in Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis, as well as developing skills in new research methods directly relevant to a social and political context. Students will engage with both specialist theory and research in this module. We see students as a valuable resource for one another so teaching and learning involve discussing, working closely with and listening to other students in many modules. Students will also be involved in independent study involving identifying and reading literature and published research from textbooks, academic journals and other relevant sources.

The philosophy of the Applied Social and Political Psychology MSc is to encourage students to develop independent and critical thinking skills that can be applied flexibly to a range of situations, culminating in their independent research for their Dissertation. The programme begins with more structured modules such as Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology, where regular meetings encourage ongoing processes of reflection, and expose students to a range of material such that they can identify and evaluate different approaches to studying Applied Social and Political Psychology. Group work fosters students' abilities to work in teams, manage their time effectively and communicate effectively. Teaching will enable students to focus on core topics in depth, and workshop activities in the methods modules will provide the subject specific skills identified in section A of the Intended Learning Outcomes above which students then apply in the Dissertation module.

The programmes are taught by highly qualified staff with specialist qualifications in Psychology, and Academic Support Tutors who provide learning support. All current members of academic staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in psychology or closely related areas and most hold (or are completing) qualifications in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Membership of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) is encouraged in the School; most members of staff are currently either Fellows or Senior Fellows of the HEA and one staff member is currently a Principal Fellow.

All Psychology staff are active researchers and scholars whose work has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals. This research and scholarship informs the teaching that takes place in the School. More information about Psychology Staff Members is available on the School website http://www.keele.ac.uk/psychology/people/

3. What is the Structure of the Programme?

All of the Psychology MSc programmes follow a modular structure. Part-time and full-time students will complete the same modules, but over a different time period.

The programme has a mix of exclusive and shared modules; all MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology students complete the Rethinking Research and Global Issues modules. They also complete further modules shared with other programmes; including the Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis. This structure is designed to foster a vibrant and heterogeneous peer culture amongst our MSc students. It enables students to engage with the pluralistic nature of the psychology and the wide range of specialisms found in most academic Psychology departments. However, we also recognise the importance of helping our students develop the advanced specialised skills they will need to pursue careers in their chosen fields. Within the shared modules, students on this programme will be supported and encouraged to focus their work to help them conduct in-depth explorations of Applied Social and Political Psychology. For example, assessments in the following modules all provide students flexibility around the topics of their assessments: Dissertation; Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis; Action Research; and Research Apprenticeship.

Full time: In order to obtain an MSc degree, students are required to obtain 180 Level 7 credits, including a 60-credit dissertation. Full time students complete the course in 1 year (51 weeks). Credit value for each module is given in brackets.

Semester 1 - Sept to Jan	Semester 2 - Feb to May	June to Sept
PSY-40045 Dissertation (60 credits)		
PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis (15 credits) + PSY-40099 Rethinking Research: Knowledge, Power and Diversity + PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political psychology (15 credits) + Option module (15 credits)	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship (15 credits) + PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change (15 credits) + PSY-40087 Action Research: Co-Creating Research to Make a Difference (15 credits) + Option module (15 credits)	

Example optional modules may include:

PSY-40089 MSc Placement (can be taken in semester 1 or semester 2)
PSY-40107 Enhancing reproducibility in research (semester 1)
PSY-40083 Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice
Selected modules from the MA Politics or Politics and International Relations programmes (School of Social, Global and Political Studies) (e.g. Foundations of Human Rights; The Changing International Agenda; Equality, Discrimination and Minorities; Race and Justice).

<u>Part time</u>: In order to obtain an MSc degree, students are required to obtain 180 Level 7 credits, including a 60-credit dissertation. Part-time students complete the course in 2 years (103 weeks), taking 90 credits in each year within the modular structure.

Year 1 – 90 credits

PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis (Semester 1)
PSY-40099 Rethinking Research (Semester 1)
PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology (Semester 1)
PSY-40087 Action Research (Semester 2)
PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship (Semester 2)
PSY-40105 Global Issues (Semester 2)

Year 2 – 90 credits

PSY-40045 Dissertation (Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer Term)
2 x 15 credit option modules (one in each semester)

Modular registration is also available, spread over a maximum of 5 years with students taking modules as and when availability permits. A Postgraduate Certificate is available for students who have completed 60 credits of their programme and a Postgraduate Diploma is available for students who have completed 120 credits of their programme. There are no restrictions on which modules need to be passed.

The table below details how the Intended Learning Outcomes for the MSc programmes map onto the different modules that are available.

[#] - Learning outcome addressed in full or in part depending on the nature of the apprenticeship undertaken

Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered	Principal forms of assessment used to assess ILO
A. Knowledge and understanding of psychological research		
Key theoretical issues in social and political psychology research	PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change	Presentation Dissertation Reflective essay Case study
Empirical methodologies used to explore key issues in psychological research	PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship PSY-40087 Action Research	Lab report Dissertation [#]Apprenticeship report Report Reflective essay
Core concerns of contemporary researchers in Applied Social and Political Psychology	PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40087 Action Research PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change	Presentation Report Case study Job application
The research evidence relevant to advanced scholarship in	PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40099 Rethinking Research	Dissertation Report

Applied Social and Political Psychology research and practice	PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology	Presentation Case study Reflective essay
B. Subject-specific skills		
Evaluate particular methodologies in relation to research questions	PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology PSY-40099 Rethinking Research	Lab report Reflective essay Presentation Report
Conduct a literature review of a chosen topic within the specialist field of Applied Social and Political Psychology	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Reflective essay
Develop a set of research questions or hypotheses for researching Applied Social and Political Psychology	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40087 Action Research	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Lab report Reflective essay
Design appropriate methods for addressing a set of research methods or hypotheses	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40087 Action Research PSY-40099 Rethinking Research	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Lab report Reflective essay Presentation Report
Apply appropriate analysis of data collected in Applied Social and Political Psychology contexts	PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40038 Research apprenticeship PSY-40087 Action Research	Dissertation #Apprenticeship report Reflective essay
Report the results of an empirical study, applying skills of presentation, interpretation and discussion of findings that are appropriate within the field of Applied Social and Political Psychology	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40087 Action Research	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Reflective essay
C. Intellectual skills		
To identify and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practical problems in applied social and political psychology literature	PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change	Reflective essay Case study

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Critically evaluate research literature in social and political psychology, and relate research issues to authentic problems	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40087 Action Research	#Apprenticeship report Reflective essays Dissertation Report Presentation
Use scientific research principles to develop appropriate research questions or hypotheses	PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Lab report Report Presentation
Use scientific research principles to select appropriate techniques of experimental design and analysis to research questions or hypotheses	PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship PSY-40087 Action Research	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Lab report Presentation Report Reflective essay
Show appropriate intellectual and personal reflexivity through the evaluation of research experiences and by identifying strengths and weaknesses for future development	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40087 Action Research PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology	Apprenticeship report Reflective essays Presentation Report
D. Transferable skills		
Communicate effectively using appropriate verbal, visual, graphic, IT and written means depending on the audience	All modules	All assessment methods
Demonstrate the ability to learn independently, using a range of information sources and approaches	PSY-40105 Global Issues: How to Organise for Social Change PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40087 Action Research PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology	Essay Dissertation Reflective essays
Manage time effectively and work to deadlines	All modules	Every assessment type
Use digital and electronic communication techniques, hardware and software, including word-processing, spreadsheets, email and internet	All modules	Every assessment type
Work in teams, either as a leader or as a member of a team	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40087 Action Research	Apprenticeship report Reflective essay

Employ scientific methods and the analysis of evidence in the solution of problems	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40099 Rethinking Research PSY-40087 Action Research PSY-40085 Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology	#Apprenticeship report Lab report Presentation Report Reflective essays Dissertation
Learn to improve work based on written feedback from tutors on drafts	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation Where possible, we will endeavour to incorporate these opportunities into all modules. Note that feedback from semester 1 modules will also facilitate development for semester 2 modules.	Apprenticeship report Dissertation
Sort and manipulate data	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40087 Action Research	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Reflective essay
Present data in a variety of ways	PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology PSY-40045 Dissertation PSY-40087 Action Research PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis PSY-40099 Rethinking Research	#Apprenticeship report Dissertation Reflective essay Lab report Report

The university regulations on taught postgraduate masters degrees are given as:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationc7/

4. How is the Programme assessed?

The diversity of assessment is included in order to ensure that students get the opportunity to develop skills across the board within the MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology. Most modules have at least one substantial piece of assessment to enable focus and concentration rather than spreading effort thinly. For example, students generate a research report for their Research Apprenticeship and Dissertation modules. However the variety of assessments used across the programmes is extensive:

- Essays and reflective essays (e.g. PSY-40095, Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis; PSY-40087, Action Research; PSY-40085, Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology)
- Presentations and job interviews (e.g. PSY-40099, Rethinking Research; PSY-40105, Global Issues)

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- Research reports (e.g. PSY-40045, Dissertation; PSY-40038, Research Apprenticeship; PSY-40099, Rethinking Research)
- Case studies (e.g. PSY-40105, Global Issues)

For the first piece of work assessed at Level 7 and for any unfamiliar or novel forms of assessment in the programmes, students are given a formative attempt at the work or the opportunity to seek feedback on drafts. In addition to formal formative assignments, students are encouraged to seek staff input on student work at earlier stages of completion and drafts of dissertations are read in their entirety (except discussion section) and formative feedback given, to agreed deadlines.

5. What are the typical admission requirements for the programmes?

This programme is open to graduates with a first or upper second-class degree in psychology (or a relevant discipline) or equivalent. The MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology is open to students with a background in Sociology, Politics, International Relations and other social sciences (this is a non-exhaustive list, applicants from other similar backgrounds will be considered). If students have a background in practice (e.g. working in a policy environment) we would encourage you to apply. International students are very welcome. We accept IELTS 6.5 overall with 6.0 in each subtest. This ensures that students have the requisite skills in basic research, including design, analysis, and interpretation as well as the breadth of knowledge in the discipline to inform the more advanced work they do in the Masters. For students who may lack these basic research skills, or who feel that a refresher would be useful, we offer a free online summer course on basic research skills, covering ethics and basic quantitative and qualitative analysis, which is available on an optional basis to all students. If applications are received from students who have never studied these elements, we may request them to take this course as a condition of entry. All applications are carefully considered; if you are not sure if you meet the admissions requirements, please do contact us for a discussion (email: psychology@keele.ac.uk).

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications are considered on a case-by-case basis for students who have already studied at Level 7, depending on the ability of the applicant to demonstrate that they have already met specific learning outcomes at an appropriate level. The Programmes Director reviews such cases. As the programmes are academic in nature it is extremely unlikely that students would have gained relevant experience appropriate to be accredited towards their MSc outside a university setting. Further information can be found at
https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

6. How are students supported on the programmes?

The MSc Programmes Director is responsible for the following:
- Overseeing the general operation of all the programmes and chairing the Programmes Committee, preparing the Examination Boards;
- Representing the MSc programmes at other School committees such as the School Education Committee;
- Strategic issues to do with the programmes, resources, facilities and so on;
- Giving general advice on problems or personal difficulties at any point during the programme;

Constructive suggestions on any aspect of the course are also welcome.

The programme lead for MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology is responsible for:
- Handling admissions and enquiries for MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology;
- The overall operation and coherence of MSc Applied Social and Political Psychology;

- Giving guidance and general advice on any aspect of the programme overall (with the exception of module-specific information where the module leader should be consulted);

The module leaders are responsible for:
- Organisation, delivery and assessment of the module;
- Ensuring that feedback is given on assessed work (and informal verbal feedback if required);
- Being available for student consultations.

All staff are available to see students during advertised weekly student appointment slots.

Students will be allocated a Personal Tutor, normally their Programme Lead or the Programmes Director. The Personal Tutor is available to discuss academic progress in the MSc and to deal with matters of general welfare advice and guidance.

All modules are supported by learning materials that are accessible to students online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE). The School supports the University's policy on module support on the KLE. In addition the School Academic Skills Tutors design and run study support workshops in each semester and are available to students by appointment for one-to-one advice. Additionally, all modules also utilise Microsoft Teams as a platform for any online sessions and communication between tutors and students outside of the classroom.

Students with disabilities or medical problems will meet with a member of the University's Disability Services Department and the School of Psychology Disability Liaison Officer where appropriate, at the start of the programme to discuss any special requirements they may have. Procedures will then be implemented according to the nature of the student's disability or medical problem. These procedures can range, for example, from allowing extra time in examinations to allocating additional support staff in classes.

In addition to the University's central careers service there is a designated School of Psychology careers tutor. Students are encouraged to consult with the careers tutor for any assistance in deciding upon postgraduate research, funding opportunities, career options and for assistance in applying for jobs and placements. Briefing sessions are organized for students interested in continuing to a PhD or a doctorate in clinical psychology. The Psychology Noticeboard on the KLE also contains a 'Careers' folder with a range of resources for students.

7. Learning Resources

Almost all of the teaching in Psychology is carried out in the same building, which contains three lecture rooms, two teaching laboratories and a number of seminar rooms. These rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups. All of the rooms are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. There is a psychology Learning Resources room with computers and internet access which is available to postgraduate students for independent study and also a number of student project rooms and research laboratories that are available to be used to carry out project work.

Other learning resources available to students on the MSc Psychology programmes include:

- Academic Skills Tutors who run learning support workshops (e.g. essay-writing, literature searching, APA referencing sessions) outside of the planned curriculum. The Academic Skills Tutors are also available by appointment to provide students with one-to-one support.

- Technical support is available from technicians and university IT services in terms of access to equipment that might be required for research (e.g. audio and video recording) and access to software.
- Students can access the undergraduate Research Participation (RPT) Scheme if they need undergraduate student participants for their research (for research apprenticeship and dissertation). This is a scheme where all undergraduates are required to participate in a certain amount of research to gain experience of different approaches. There is an RPT co-ordinator who has to approve access to the scheme, and full information is provided on how to access this in the Programmes Handbook.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE), which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources and support materials in electronic format. In accordance with the Keele Education Principles, students will be provided with asynchronous materials (such as short videos, quizzes, reading, etc.) for them to engage with in their own time in order to enhance learning that takes place in the classroom.
- Microsoft Teams is used to complement teaching and facilitating the development of a learning community, with online sessions, question and answer threads, peer-to-peer communication and resource sharing.

Students also have the opportunity to hear from, and talk to, a range of guest speakers who are invited by the School to present the findings from up-to-date research they are currently carrying out in their own area of psychology. Students will be invited to join the research group for their route, which will hold informal research meetings at which they can hear about other staff and student research and give presentations of their own work.

8. Other learning opportunities

All MSc Psychology students have extensive opportunities to engage with the research life of the School of Psychology. For example, many of our Research Apprenticeships are also offered as extra-curricular volunteering opportunities, students can attend research groups meetings relevant to their interests, and staff are always keen to support students to write the research up for publication where appropriate.

We are also keen to help our MSc students integrate with our postgraduate research students and students from other schools. We encourage joint social events between Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research students.

9. Quality management and enhancement

There is an MSc programmes committee, chaired by the Programmes Director and including all staff teaching on the MSc programmes as well as student voice representatives. This committee discusses issues relating to course design and delivery, future course directions, strategic and practical issues.

The MSc Student Staff Voice Committee provides a forum for discussion between student representatives and staff about programme issues, and is held three times in the academic year. The meetings are chaired by one of the student representatives and act as the principal means for staff to be made aware of the collective opinion of students. The Senior Personal Tutor attends these meetings and reports back to the Programmes Director.

Every module on the MSc is evaluated every year as part of an ongoing process of reflection. A summary of formal feedback is discussed at the Student Staff Voice Committee and at the Programmes Committee. We also welcome informal feedback on any module at any stage, which should be directed to the module

leader or the Programmes Director. All forms of evaluation and feedback are carefully discussed at the Programmes Committee and feed through into our internal quality audit procedures. The Programmes Committee and the Student Staff Voice Committee provide the main formal mechanism for considering module evaluations and actions taken as a result of them and guarantee a constant process of reflection and accountability.

10. The principles of programme design

The MSc programmes have been developed with reference to the following benchmarks and statements:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/quality-code/Pages/default.aspx

QAA Subject benchmark statement: Psychology, QAA, 2019:
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-psychology.pdf

Keele University Learning and Teaching Strategy to 2020:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/aboutus/strategicplan/learningandteachingstrategy/

11. Programme Version History

Version History	Date	CHANGES / NOTES
Date first created (if known)	29th July 2021	Portfolio Review 2020/21 – refresh all Psychology MScs.
Date last reviewed / revised		
Last reviewed by ?		
Date last approved at SEC	12th August 2021	
Date last approved at FEC		