

## Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

### For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	MSc Applied Child Psychology
<b>Award type</b>	Taught Masters
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time Modular Part-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 7
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	One year full time / two years part time / up to five years modular
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<b>UK students:</b> Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £9,250  Part-time fee for 2023/24 is £5,000 per year*

**How this information might change:** Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

\* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

#### 2. Overview 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 Child Psychology will help you to specialise in the psychology of child development, thinking about how psychology can be applied in various settings, including educational settings such as schools, or forensic settings, such as courts (among others), and to engage in research methods training. The course will enable you to become familiar with contemporary issues in Applied Child Psychology, and to apply your learning either in future research projects, or within a professional role with children.

The programme contains modules focused on specialist content in Applied Child 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 a child psychology context. 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 Child 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 educational or broader child-focused environment.

Specialist psychological training provided by research-active tutors is a defining feature of our Applied Child 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 Child 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-40091 Childhood Relationships** (15 credits) is dedicated to exploring social development, such as relationships with caregivers, siblings, peers, teachers, and parasocial relationships too - such as with imaginary friends. You will be asked to think critically about research methods, and how our understanding of relationships can inform practice in applied practice settings, such as schools.
- **PSY-40101 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology** (15 credits) is focused on applying research methods and analysis to a child development context. This module will explore both research design and research execution considerations that need to be made when working with children, as well as ethical and pragmatic considerations associated with working with children.
- **PSY-40083 Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice** (15 credits) will explore how research can be used to influence policy and practice, a common area when working with children. This module will be shared with students on the Psychology and Health Inequalities course with some content for students on both courses, to allow students to focus specifically on policies that relate to children and young people, if they choose. You will gain experience of writing for a policy setting in the assessment for this module.
- **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 children and those who work with children as partners. This module will be shared with students on the Applied Social and Political Psychology course with some bespoke content for students on both courses, to allow students to focus specifically on issues that relate to children and young people.
- **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 Child Psychology.
- **PSY-40045 Dissertation** (60 credits) will provide students an opportunity to engage in designing, developing, conducting, and reporting developmental 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).

### 3. Aims of the programme

The programmes are taught by specialist members of the School of Psychology, and where appropriate, by experts from relevant supporting disciplines. 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 Child Psychology;
- To develop your knowledge of different methodological approaches to Applied Child Psychology;
- To equip you to formulate and conduct psychological research projects with children;
- 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 with children;
- 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 approaches to research and data analysis

- techniques broadly and applied to children;
- To provide you with a range of opportunities to engage with advanced research in Applied Child Psychology;
- To provide you with opportunities to enhance and develop your written and communication skills, independent learning skills, and critical reflection and evaluation skills.

## 4. What you will learn

This MSc Applied Child Psychology programme is intended to facilitate learning and development across four broad categories: knowledge and understanding of applied psychological research with children; knowledge and understanding of Applied Child 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.

### Subject knowledge and understanding

#### A. Knowledge and understanding of psychological research

- A1. Key theoretical issues in applied child psychological research
- A2. Empirical methodologies used to explore key issues in psychological research
- A3. Core concerns of contemporary researchers in applied child psychology
- A4. The research evidence relevant to advanced scholarship in applied child psychology research and practice

#### B. Knowledge and understanding of Applied Child Psychology

Successful students will be able to:

- B1. evaluate particular methodologies in relation to research questions
- B2. conduct a literature review of a chosen topic within the specialist field of applied child psychology
- B3. develop a set of research questions or hypotheses for researching developmental topics
- B4. design a child-appropriate method for addressing a set of research questions or hypotheses
- B5. carry out an empirical study in applied child psychology
- B6. apply appropriate analysis of data collected in applied child psychology contexts
- B7. report the results of an empirical study, applying skills of presentation, interpretation and discussion of findings that are appropriate within the field of applied child psychology

### Intellectual skills

Successful students will be able to:

- C1. identify and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practical problems in developmental psychology literature
- C2. critically evaluate research literature in developmental psychology and relate research issues to developmental problems
- C3. use scientific research principles to develop appropriate research questions or hypotheses
- C4. use scientific research principles to select appropriate techniques of experimental design and analysis to research questions or hypotheses
- C5. show appropriate intellectual and personal reflexivity through the evaluation of research experiences and by identifying strengths and weaknesses for future development

### Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- 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

## **Keele Graduate attributes**

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

## **5. How is the programme taught?**

Across the Applied Child 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 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology, students will attend small-group sessions expanding upon content learned in Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis and applying these in a child-focused way. 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 Child 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 Childhood Relationships and Applications and Research Methods with Children where regular meetings encourage ongoing processes of reflection and expose students to a range of material such that they are able to identify and evaluate different approaches to child development problems. 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 provide the subject specific skills identified in section A of the Intended Learning Outcomes above which students then apply in the Dissertation module.

## **6. Teaching Staff**

The programmes are taught by highly qualified staff with specialist qualifications in Psychology, and Academic Skills 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/>

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 7. What is the structure of the programme?

*All 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 Child Psychology students complete the Childhood Relationships and Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology modules. They also complete two further modules shared with other programmes; Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice (shared with Psychology and Health Inequalities students) and Action Research: Co-Creating Research to make a Difference (shared with Applied Social and Political Psychology students). 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 Child 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; Policy and Practice; and Action Research.

We select optional modules from other programmes on an annual basis, these are selected for their appropriateness for students on this programme. Whilst we strive to offer students the opportunity to study within different schools, we cannot guarantee the availability of optional modules.

*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).*

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 7	150	30	30	0	0

## Module Lists

### Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Childhood Relationships	PSY-40091	15	Semester 1
Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis	PSY-40095	15	Semester 1
Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology	PSY-40101	15	Semester 1
Dissertation - Psychology	PSY-40045	60	Semester 1-3
Research Apprenticeship in Psychology	PSY-40038	15	Semester 2
Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice	PSY-40083	15	Semester 2
Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference	PSY-40087	15	Semester 2

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Critical Approaches to Health, Social and Political Psychology	PSY-40085	15	Semester 1
MSc Placement	PSY-40089	15	Semester 1
Re-thinking research: knowledge, power and diversity	PSY-40099	15	Semester 1
Enhancing Reproducibility in Research	PSY-40107	15	Semester 1
Advanced Computational and Statistical Approaches to Behaviour	PSY-40103	15	Semester 2

## **Level 7 Module Rules**

PSY-40089 can be taken in semester 1 or semester 2

Example optional modules may include selected modules from the MA Education (e.g. Issues in Inclusive Education; Global Education Issues; Education, Employment and Professional Identity; Global Citizenship Education).

### **Part time study**

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 Methods, Design and Analysis (Semester 1)

PSY-40101 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology (Semester 1)

PSY-40091 Childhood Relationships (Semester 1)

PSY-40087 Action Research (Semester 2)

PSY-40038 Research Apprenticeship (Semester 2)

PSY-40083 Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice (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.

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## **Learning Outcomes**

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

### ***Level 7***

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Key theoretical issues in applied child psychological research	Childhood Relationships - PSY-40091 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045
Empirical methodologies used to explore key issues in psychological research	Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095
Core concerns of contemporary researchers in applied child psychology	Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087
The research evidence relevant to advanced scholarship in applied child psychology research and practice	Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice - PSY-40083 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Childhood Relationships - PSY-40091

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Evaluate particular methodologies in relation to research questions	Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101
To conduct a literature review of a chosen topic within the specialist field of applied child psychology	Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice - PSY-40083 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Childhood Relationships - PSY-40091
Develop a set of research questions or hypotheses for researching children	Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095
Apply appropriate analysis of data collected in applied child psychology contexts	Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087
Report the results of an empirical study, applying skills of presentation, interpretation and discussion of findings that are appropriate within the field of applied child psychology	Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045



<b>Intellectual skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Identify and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practical problems in developmental literature	Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice - PSY-40083 Childhood Relationships - PSY-40091
Critically evaluate research literature in developmental psychology and relate research issues to developmental problems	Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice - PSY-40083 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Childhood Relationships - PSY-40091
Use scientific research principles to develop appropriate research questions or hypotheses	Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087
Use scientific research principles to select appropriate techniques of experimental design and analysis to research questions or hypotheses	Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101
Show appropriate intellectual and personal reflexivity through the evaluation of research experiences and by identifying strengths and weaknesses for future development	Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Communicate effectively using appropriate verbal, visual, graphic, IT and written means depending on the audience	All modules
Demonstrate the ability to learn independently, using a range of information sources and approaches	Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Childhood Relationships - PSY-40091 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087
Manage time effectively and work to deadlines	All modules
Use digital and electronic communication techniques, hardware and software, including word-processing, spreadsheets, email and internet	All modules
Work in teams, either as a leader or as a member of a team	Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 # Apprenticeship report Pre-registration report Reflective essay Lab report Dissertation
Employ scientific methods and the analysis of evidence in the solution of problems	Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology - PSY-40101 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095 Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 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
Learn to improve work based on written feedback from tutors on drafts	Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 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.
Sort and manipulate data	Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038
Present data in a variety of ways	Action research: Co-creating research to make a difference - PSY-40087 Research Apprenticeship in Psychology - PSY-40038 Dissertation - Psychology - PSY-40045 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis - PSY-40095

## 8. Final and intermediate awards

<b>Master's Degree</b>	180 credits	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
<b>Postgraduate Diploma</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
<b>Postgraduate Certificate</b>	60 credits	You will require at least 40 credits at Level 7

## 9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The diversity of assessment is included to ensure that students get the opportunity to develop skills across the board within the MSc Applied Child 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-40087, Action Research)
- Pre-registration of research (e.g. PSY-40101, Applications and Research Methods in Child Psychology)
- Presentations (e.g. PSY-40091, Childhood Relationships)
- Research reports (e.g. PSY-40045, Dissertation; PSY-40038, Research Apprenticeship; PSY-40095 Advanced Research Skills, Design and Analysis)
- Policy brief (e.g. PSY-40083, Using Research to Influence Policy and Practice).

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.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

## 10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## 11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

## 12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

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 Child Psychology is open to students with a background in Education, Childhood and Family Studies, Working with Children and Families, Child and Youth Studies, Early Years and Childhood Studies (this is a non-exhaustive list, applicants from other similar backgrounds will be considered). If students have a background in practice (e.g. as a teacher) 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.

The programme allows students to follow either a qualitative or quantitative (or both) research methods training stream. Whilst we welcome students from a variety of backgrounds, in order to be able to fully engage with the masters level research training provided we require students wishing to pursue the quantitative research methods stream to have a working knowledge of: descriptive statistics, t-tests, ANOVA, correlation, and simple regression. We require students wishing to pursue the qualitative stream to have a

working knowledge of conducting research with qualitative data.

If you did not study a British Psychological Society accredited undergraduate degree, we may request to see a sample of your academic writing as part of the application process. 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](mailto:psychology@keele.ac.uk)).

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

### **13. How are students supported on the programme?**

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 Child Psychology is responsible for:

- Handling admissions and enquiries for MSc Applied Child Psychology;
- The overall operation and coherence of MSc Applied Child 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 an Academic Mentor, normally their Programme Lead or the Programmes Director. The Academic Mentor 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.

### **14. 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 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.

## **15. 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 students and postgraduate research students.

## **16. Additional Costs**

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

## **17. Quality management and enhancement**

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external

examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

## 18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: *Psychology*, QAA, 2019: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-psychology.pdf>

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

## Version History

### This document

**Date Approved:** 18 April 2023

### Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2022/23	CHRIS STREET	02 September 2022	