



University
of Glasgow

Psychology

Undergraduate study



In the most recent National Student Survey (2009) 96% of our psychology students said they were satisfied with the quality of their course – well above the national average.



Choose Glasgow

Introduction

The University of Glasgow is rated as one of the top 100 universities in the world (*Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings*).

All of our students study for degrees that are recognised and respected by employers throughout the world, but we can guarantee you will receive a lot more besides. Some of the key benefits of student life at Glasgow are

Satisfied students

Our students report high levels of satisfaction with their studies. According to the independent National Student Survey, an impressive 90% of the University's final-year students rated themselves as satisfied with their course in 2009, well above the national average of 81%.

Flexible course choices

We offer more than 900 degree programme combinations and our flexible system allows you to study a broad range of subjects during your time at university and, in many cases, makes it possible to delay choosing specialist subjects until the end of second year.

Teaching based on research

Glasgow is a research-led university, which means that you will be taught by academics at the forefront of knowledge in their subject areas.

A student experience worth having

You will take away more than a degree from Glasgow. Over the last 550 years our students have built up a fantastic array of initiatives to keep you engaged, entertained and energised. The result is a student experience to be proud of. We have

- four award-winning student media teams
- over 100 clubs and societies
- two undergraduate student unions
- sporting facilities for all levels of fitness
- a study abroad and exchange programme that offers opportunities to study across the world as part of your undergraduate degree.

‘Glasgow is an exciting place, rich in culture, groaning with history, but most of all I found it to be welcoming.’

Laura Sayers graduated in 2001 and is a BBC Radio 1 producer

Our campus

The University's compact main campus combines grand historical buildings with up-to-the-minute facilities. It's centred on a neo-gothic building with a spire offering breathtaking views across the city.

Come and visit us

Open Day

www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday

In June and September we hold an Open Day to allow you, your family and teachers to visit us on campus and see a little of the city.

Open Day allows you to speak to academic staff, find out more about courses, tour the facilities, visit student accommodation and see for yourself what life would be like as a student at Glasgow. If you have a long way to travel you can also stay in one of our student residences.

Alternative visiting arrangements

Open Day is the best way for you to get a comprehensive picture of what being a student here would be like. However, if for any reason you can't make it on that date, then we will be able to make alternative arrangements.

To find out more visit:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits.

Applicants' Visit Day

At Glasgow we go the extra mile. If you receive an offer of a place at Glasgow, we will invite you to visit us before making your final decision. Applicants' Visit Day usually takes place in March. Details will be sent to you together with your offer of a place.

Where can I find out more?

For more information visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/psychology. We are happy to help you with further questions. Please contact Dr Ian Bushnell, tel: +44 (0)141 330 5526, email: ibush@psy.gla.ac.uk.



A number of our staff are interested in the research of new teaching practice and have developed important initiatives such as Peer Assisted Learning, Peer Support and Extended Induction. We also consider the use of technology in learning to be very important and our students make extensive use of a portal that allows valuable communication.

www.glasgow.ac.uk/psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of people: how they think, act, react and interact. It is concerned with:

- all aspects of behaviour (normal and abnormal)
- the thoughts, feelings and motivations underlying such behaviour.

In a sense, you already are a psychologist. All of us are interested in why we do what we do, how we have become who we are and how we can help others – individuals, groups or even societies. Our courses are designed to move you from amateur psychologist status to a professional one.

In the process of learning the science behind behaviour, you will gain critical insight and a new way of looking at the world that you can put to good use in a career either inside or outside of professional psychology.

Psychology

Degree: BSc, MA, MA (SocSci)

Typical offer

Highers AABB (first sitting)
AAAB (two sittings)

A-levels AAB (first sitting)
AAA (two sittings)

IB 34 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

Psychology degrees at Glasgow are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS); our professional governing body in the UK. The BPS broadly specifies the content that any degree course must cover over a three-year period. Our programme is four years long – allowing us to establish a curriculum that teaches the main areas of psychology in increasing depth over three years and then allows you much greater choice and specialisation in your fourth year.

You can study Psychology for a Single Honours, Joint Honours or Designated degree. If you are a Joint Honours student, you complete the third year topics over two years, covering the BPS required elements, but missing out on our specialised Level 4 modules. If you are a Designated degree student, you complete most of the third year topics and then graduate.

What can I expect in first year?

Level-1 is an introductory year taught over two courses (1A and 1B). We have designed the courses to make them suitable for those of you wishing to study psychology in depth, as well as those who simply wish to try it for a year out of interest. We use continuous assessment to some extent and have an excellent pass rate.

To study, we use a set text. In 2007-8 it was Gleitman H, Fridlund AJ & Reisberg D (2007) *Psychology* (7th Edition), Norton & Co. Samples of this and similar introductory texts can probably be obtained from your local library. Most lecturers also provide detailed handouts.

Courses in Level-1 currently include:

- Introduction – scope of psychology
- Biology – brain, learning and motivation
- Experimental design and statistics
- Cognitive neuroscience
- Memory, language and thinking
- Perception and visual cognition
- Abnormal psychology
- Human development
- Individual differences

- Social I – biology and social cognition
- Social cognition and social interaction.

Apart from attending lectures, you will also have a tutorial each week, and there is a practical element involving a series of experiments that are mostly carried out within a suite of dedicated computer spaces in our well-equipped labs. There are always assistants on hand to help out with these projects.

What can I expect in second year?

Level-2 is also taught over two courses (2A and 2B) and is designed to add new areas of learning as well as taking the topics of Level-1 to a greater depth. It is still suitable, however, for those of you who intend to take psychology no further. There is no single text, but each lecturer will recommend appropriate reading material.

Current courses include:

- Applying psychology
- Cognitive psychology
- Developmental psychology
- Individual differences
- Experimental design
- Perception and visual cognition
- Psychobiology
- Social psychology.

Once again, there are regular tutorials and a practical course where experiments are carried out and reported on.

What happens next?

If you successfully meet our criteria for success in the courses in first and second years, you may progress to Honours (years three and four). Level-3 is the first part of a two-year Honours programme that provides a strong background to important areas within psychology and allows us to build on our research strengths. The first part of your final degree exams will be taken at the end of this year.

The current courses are:

- Cognition
- Concepts and historical issues in psychology
- Human development
- Perception and visual cognition
- Individual differences
- Professional skills (employability)
- Social
- Statistics
- Physiological psychology.

In small groups you will take tutorials and complete substantial research projects. As individuals you will complete two critical reviews of research literature. Early in the session there is also a residential reading party, which provides an excellent opportunity to meet your fellow students in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere while undertaking interesting activities.

'I took a placement as a summer play leader with Capability Scotland as I hope to qualify as an educational psychologist.'

Ruth Muir, Psychology

In fourth year your level of choice increases markedly. You will choose from a large list of in-depth, advanced undergraduate strands in psychology. While these change from time to time, some examples have been:

- Adolescent brain development
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Basics of joint attention
- Brain oscillations in action
- Child abuse
- Cognitive and social neuroscience of visual perception
- Cognitive neuroscience insights
- Cognitive neuroscience of ageing
- Cognitive neuroscience of executive processing
- Colour
- Concepts and empirical results in education
- fMRI in biopsychology
- Forensic psychology
- Human motion perception
- Interaction and communication
- Language and meaning
- Leadership
- Networks of attention and working memory
- Neuropsychological deficits
- Positive psychology
- Psychological interventions
- Psychology of abnormality
- Psychology of will
- Social cognition
- Syntactic processing in language
- Comprehension and production.

You will also complete a critical review of research literature in an area of your choosing, and a major piece of research. This research may be lab-based (eg using one of our eye-trackers or specialised computer software) or carried out in the 'real world' of organisations, schools or hospitals. The second part of your final degree exams will be taken at the end of this year.

Can I study abroad?

Each year a number of our students choose to study abroad through our exchange programmes with North American and Australian universities. This mostly occurs in the third year of study for Honours.

Students who have studied abroad describe it as a life-changing experience – 'the best year of my life'.

The University holds a Study Abroad Fair every November. Information is also available on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange

What are my career prospects?

For many years psychology has been successfully applied to real-life situations. Various branches have grown to make a significant contribution to modern life. These include:

Clinical psychology

Assessing and treating abnormal behaviour and mental functioning in areas such as schizophrenia, anxiety, sexual dysfunction, dementia and stress.

Educational psychology

Helping children with special educational needs, designing curricula and supporting school management practice.

Occupational psychology (industrial/organisational)

Helping organisations and their people become more effective by designing ways of selecting, motivating, developing and leading staff. Also contributing to man-machine interface design.

Of course, psychologists are probably best known for their work in the health and education services, but psychology graduates can be found in almost any area of life. A psychology degree opens up a wide range of career opportunities, and new areas such as sports psychology and environmental psychology are being developed all the time.

The main career areas are:

- clinical psychologists, working in health and care settings
- counselling psychologists, in private practice and commercial settings
- educational psychologists, in local education authorities, schools and special schools
- forensic psychologists, working in penal establishments, special hospitals and with young offenders
- health psychologists, working in hospitals, health authorities and health research departments
- neuropsychologists, helping people with brain injury
- occupational psychologists, in management, personnel, training, selection and careers services
- research and teaching in institutions of higher education.

A third of our graduates who go into permanent employment as psychologists enter public services such as the health service, education, the Civil Service and the Armed Forces. A third go into industry or commerce to work on market research and personnel management. Of the remainder, about a tenth will teach and research in schools, colleges and universities.

The skills that you learn over the course of your degree can help you in a very varied range of employment opportunities, whatever your intended career.

All our Honours degrees are all accredited by the British Psychological Society, allowing you to pursue a professional career in psychology after appropriate further training and experience.



A new Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging (CCNi) has been established at Glasgow, bringing together many of the world's top cognitive neuroscientists and creating a research environment unique in Scotland and highly competitive with the rest of the world. With a total of £7.5 million funding from UK research councils, CCNi scientists have embarked on the ambitious interdisciplinary programme of understanding the workings of the mind from brain imaging measurements.



‘Scotland at its artsy, riotous, high-octane, good-time best.’

Lonely Planet



City of Glasgow

What is it like living and studying in Glasgow?

Named as one of the world’s top ten cities by independent travel guide *Lonely Planet*, Glasgow attracts the largest student population in Scotland. The city’s reputation for friendliness means that wherever you come from, you’ll soon treat it as your second home.

Music and nightlife

In an average week Glasgow hosts 123 bands, 72 classical composers, 49 choirs, 38 orchestras and 21 jazz bands. Renowned for discovering acts from Franz Ferdinand to Primal Scream, the city has fantastic venues for live music including King Tut’s Wah Wah Hut – voted UK’s best live venue by listeners of Radio 1 three years in a row.

More than 700 bars, pubs and nightclubs mean no two nights in Glasgow are the same. Whether you’re after a record-breaking 100-foot long bar where everyone can be a barfly (the Horseshoe), or a pub with a log fire, stuffed stags’ heads and kilted staff that’s as appealing as it is unpronounceable (Uisge Beatha), Glasgow has a venue to suit. Dance until you drop at the Subclub, or travel back to 1920s America at the Vegas clubnight on the Renfrew Ferry, it’s up to you.

Festivals

At least one festival every month of the year shows Glasgow loves to celebrate. Some of our favourites include Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Celtic Connections folk music festival, Glasgay, Piping Live!, Glasgow Film Festival and Aye Write!, the city’s book festival.

Culture

The city of Glasgow owns one of the richest collections in Europe, displayed in 13 museums and art galleries – and admission is free. You are spoilt for choice, with the city’s famous Burrell collection vying for attention beside Scotland’s most visited attraction, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, located next door to the University.

Sport

The city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Across the world people know Glasgow as home of Celtic and Rangers football clubs, but with no fewer than 27 public fitness centres including swimming pools, running tracks, 11-a-side pitches and tennis courts, you’re guaranteed to find something to get involved with, whatever your level of fitness.

Campus culture

Are you craving cosy campus living or do you prefer big city excitement. Whichever is your style, you’ll be impressed by the University’s excellent location in the compact West End. Just two miles from the city centre, with great bus and underground links, the West End has a reputation as the bohemian, trendy and cosmopolitan quarter of Glasgow.



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What our students say

‘Glasgow is such a diverse and vibrant city with lots to offer and a great social scene with a fantastic range of bars, clubs and music venues.’

Alexander Hutchison

‘I chose Glasgow because compared to the other cities I visited it just seemed like a much more lively place. I think the high student population makes it a very young city.’

Elizabeth Ritz

‘The campus at Glasgow is unbelievably beautiful. It’s hard to believe sometimes when walking down busy Byres Road and turning into University Avenue, that this Hogwarts is situated right in the heart of the West End.’

Beverley Simpson

‘Glasgow is very vibrant. The West End is like the village within the city.’

Sarah Gibson