

MSc

Research Methods in Psychology

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

12 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Develop the advanced skills needed to become a leading researcher with our research-led MSc. The programme provides rigorous training in experimental methods, statistics, and data science, delivered by internationally recognised researchers in our Department of Psychology. The department is ranked UK number 1 for Research Environment and top 10 for Research Power in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). The programme attracts students from across the world and provides internationally recognised training.

Introduction

Our research-led MSc offers comprehensive training in research methods within a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment. Through specialist modules designed and delivered by active researchers, you will develop the methodological, analytical, and critical skills required for careers in research, professional psychology training, and data science. The course also provides an excellent foundation and is recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as a key prerequisite for doctoral study, including PhD programmes in psychology and related disciplines, as well as the ClinPsyD.

Develop advanced research skills: You will gain a comprehensive and transferable methodological toolkit through training in both quantitative and qualitative methods. The

programme develops expertise in experimental design and research methodology, statistical analysis and data science, as well as data handling, interpretation, and visualisation, and scientific communication and project management. These skills are highly valued in academia, industry, consultancy, and beyond.

Advanced research tools: Learning extends beyond theory. You will gain practical experience with state-of-the-art research facilities and experimental techniques. This includes behavioural experimentation laboratories, EEG, MRI, neurostimulation (tDCS, TMS), fNIRS, eye-tracking, and psychophysics. Small-group teaching, workshops and laboratory sessions ensure you develop both theoretical understanding and practical expertise.

Specialise for your dissertation: A major component of the programme is your independent research dissertation. You will design and conduct an original research project aligned with your interests, guided by expert academic staff. Research opportunities span multiple departmental themes including Language, Cognition, and Brain Science (including Neuroscience), Clinical Psychology, Appetitive and Addictive Behaviours, Applied Forensic and Conflict, and Lifespan, Health and Wellbeing. You will also benefit from collaboration across the Institute of Population Health and other faculties, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

Research environment: Become part of a vibrant and internationally recognised research community. You will have opportunities to engage with departmental research seminars, workshops, and collaborative projects, gaining insight into cutting-edge developments across psychology. This research-rich environment allows you to interact with leading academics and develop the skills required for independent research.

Professional partnerships: The programme benefits from strong collaborations with organisations such as Unilever and Liverpool Health Partners, alongside partnerships with mental health hospitals, prisons, schools, and NHS trusts including The Walton Centre. These partnerships create opportunities to engage with real-world research environments and enhance your academic and professional development.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS (PSYC640)	30
PRACTICAL RESEARCH SKILLS (PSYC644)	30
RESEARCH DISSERTATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC646)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL METHODS (PSYC641)	30
ADVANCED STATISTICS AND METHODS (PSYC643)	30
RESEARCH DISSERTATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC646)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

You will complete your final project over the summer.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH DISSERTATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC646)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is face to face, delivered by top-class researchers from day one. You will be taught in numerous laboratories equipped with advanced technologies such as eye-trackers, EEG or fNIRS.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed using a range of assessments from research grant proposals to in-class statistical tests to essays, as well as completing your research project over the summer.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence

- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching – learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning – taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment – assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

Graduates of this programme pursue a wide range of careers. Many progress to doctoral study, including PhD and ClinPsyD, whilst others enter roles in academic research, behavioural and data science, healthcare and clinical research, public policy and government, or industry and consultancy. The advanced methodological training provided by this MSc equips graduates with highly transferable analytical and research skills. The MSc is also eligible for ESRC 1+3 studentships linked to a doctoral programme.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £13,000

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £32,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs.

[Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

- An undergraduate degree in psychology or related subject (minimum 2.1; with equivalent marks in modules focused on methods and statistics), or extensive research experience
 - Ideally some experience of working on research projects (eg, as a research assistant) or in a role that draws on research skills
 - A good understanding of research methods and inferential statistics
 - Reasonable IT skills (knowledge of SPSS would be advantageous).
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International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **University of Liverpool International College**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MSc, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 100 overall, with minimum scores of listening 21, writing 21, reading 21 and speaking 23. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 5 overall, with 4.5 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

135 overall, with writing not less than 140, speaking and reading not less than 125, and listening not below 120. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 130 overall, with no component below 120.

Pearson PTE Academic

69 overall, with no component below 61

LanguageCert Academic

75 overall, with no skill below 70

PSI Skills for English

C1 Pass in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5, for further details.

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