MSc

Research Methods in Psychology

Study mode	**Duration**	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026** Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Unlock your potential in psychological research with our MSc, offering advanced research training. Learn from world-leading experts within our esteemed Department of Psychology – the UK's number 1 Research Environment and top 10 for Research Power (REF 2021).

Introduction

Our MSc is more than just a programme; it's a gateway to unlocking your full potential in a supportive and dynamic environment. Embark on an exploration of advanced experimental methods, statistics, and research skills, where our dedicated academic staff deliver modules carefully designed for success as a researcher. In the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021), we were placed 1st in the UK for our world-leading Research Environment and ranked in the top 10 for Research Power.

Discover Practical Research Skills: Engage in a vibrant exploration of quantitative and qualitative research, statistics, and project management. Immerse yourself in a bespoke curriculum, equipping you with a comprehensive and transferable skill set that forms the cornerstone for a successful academic journey and beyond (e.g., research, practice, industry, consultancy).

Harness the Power of Advanced Research Tools: We don't just teach theory; we help you put it into practice. Work with state-of-the-art research facilities and techniques including behavioural experiments, specialised laboratories, EEG, MRI, neurostimulation (tDCS, TMS), fNIRS, eye-tracking, and psychophysics – tools that set you apart in the world of research. Through a blend of lectures, interactive tutorials, and hands-on laboratory work, see your knowledge come to life.

Specialise Your Research Dissertation: Conduct an extensive research project of your choosing, guided by our expert academic staff. Our cross-cutting research groups include Brain, Cognition, and Language (incorporating Neuroscience); Clinical Psychology; Appetitive and Addictive Behaviours; Forensic and Conflict; Lifespan Development and Health. Broaden your perspective and cultivate synergies across Departments in the Institute of Population Health, and Faculties of Health and Life Sciences, Science and Engineering, and Humanities and Social Sciences.

Forge Partnerships: Join our collaborative community and connect with impactful partners including industry leaders (e.g., Unilever, Liverpool Health Partners), mental health hospitals, prisons, schools, and neurological and neurosurgical NHS trusts (e.g., The Walton Centre). Foster valuable relationships that enhance not only your academic but also your professional pursuits.

Who is this course for?

Tailored for students aspiring to pursue doctoral-level studies or research positions in any psychology discipline (including ClinPsyD), to elevate their careers within the field. The course is eligible for Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 1+3 studentships linked to a doctoral programme.

What you'll learn

- Skilfully select appropriate research designs and methods of analysis to effectively address research questions.

- Acquire proficiency in specialist software (e.g., R, SPSS, MATLAB, PsychoPy) for comprehensive data analysis and programming.

- Develop the ability to design and conduct studies using a variety of techniques.

- Learn to write grant proposals and effectively communicate research findings verbally and in writing, employing formats suitable for academic, professional consultancy, media, and general audiences.

Start your academic journey with us, where every module is a step toward unlocking your full potential in the world of psychological research.

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 assesed 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 Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

Careers and employability

This programme aims to provide students with a high level of academic and analytical skill, making them suitable for careers or further postgraduate study in a number of areas.

Previous graduates have pursued a range of different careers:

- Joining research teams as research associates in many areas, such as Applied Psychology and Criminology
- Working in the substance misuse field
- Clinical training
- Becoming members of police forces as "civilians" involved in intelligence work or as police officers
- Working in prisons or with clinical forensic populations
- Working in commercial or industrial research and development units.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

∧ Back to top

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 £12,167 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.

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).

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

100 overall, with minimum scores of listening 21, reading 21, writing 21 and speaking 23. 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 6.5	6 weeks	On campus
6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 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 below 5.0, and no	40 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
component below 4.5		

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.

∧ Back to top