We study the science of mind and behaviour to find practical, psychological solutions that will help people in the real world.

Psychology

www.hw.ac.uk/ug-psychology

Be Future Made

Search Psychology at Heriot-Watt
Welcome to Heriot-Watt

Set in 380 acres of beautiful parkland campus on the outskirts of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt is a vibrant, forward-looking university offering a high quality learning experience and a welcoming and friendly environment. With an international reputation for innovative education, enterprise and pioneering yet practical research, we are one of the leading UK universities for business and industry.

We educate the technologists, professionals and thinkers of tomorrow, and our graduates are highly sought after by employers. Year after year, Heriot-Watt achieves superior student satisfaction scores in the National Student Survey and recently we came top in the UK for student experience.
Top 5 reasons to study Psychology at Heriot-Watt

- Our programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) for graduate membership – which is a pre-requisite for pursuing a career as a professional psychologist.
- Supportive staff with high staff-student ratio.
- Excellent practical facilities including 13 consistent-environment labs and specialist labs for studying Neurophysiology, Motor Control and Driving Simulation.
- Undergrads can get involved in real research conducted by staff and PhDs through our Voluntary Research Assistant scheme.
- The flexible structure of our Psychology degrees allow you to tailor your studies to meet your career aspirations.

Programme Information

We offer two specialist undergraduate psychology degrees accredited by the British Psychological Society. This accreditation is required for those wishing to take professional courses and qualify as professional psychologists.

Psychology is the scientific study of the relationship between mind and behaviour and uses scientific methods to explore key issues in this relationship. At Heriot-Watt, we begin with a problem and consider how psychology can help us address it with practical solutions for the real world.

We have 10 consistent-environment research labs and 5 specialist labs to facilitate research of academics and students alike. Our degrees are shaped by the work of research-active academics whose expertise in psychology ranges from: Work, Society and Environment; Lifespan Health and Wellbeing; and Cognition, Brain and Behaviour. Our degrees cover these core areas of the subject:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Individual Differences
- Psychobiology
- Social Psychology
- Research Design and Quantitative Methods.

Teaching and assessment

Lectures, seminars and practical experimental classes form much of the delivery, whilst web-based and computer-based provisions support these methods.

Employment Opportunities

Psychology degrees develop a unique combination of interpersonal and transferable skills that are hugely attractive to employers. Our graduates have an excellent track record in gaining employment across business, teaching, counselling, nursing and marketing, as well as professional psychology.

International Study Opportunities

Whilst studying our Psychology degrees students can transfer to our campuses in Dubai or Malaysia for 1 semester or more through our Go Global project.

Heriot-Watt has been really great and now I plan to do an MSc in Educational Psychology to achieve my goal of becoming an Educational Psychologist.

Christie Brown, BSc (Hons) Psychology
Psychology has been a passion of mine ever since I studied it in high school. Growing up I had always wanted to help people and make a change, so Psychology seemed like the answer to me. Ever since then, my passion for Psychology has grown.

In my favourite courses, we explored the practicalities of memory and investigated its boundaries. This tied in very nicely with Neuropsychology, in which we studied fascinating disorders and the functionality of different brain regions, or the debated areas. All of these courses gave us critical insights into current debates within each field.

Heriot-Watt is unlike other universities due the community that is created within it. Societies, like the Psychology Society, can make you feel part of a family.

I am currently completing my MSc in Psychology of Education at UCL’s Institute of Education, whilst working to create change within leadership and management for special needs and BME student experiences. Following my MSc, I am hoping to be a consultant to gain more experience on leadership and change so that it can give me experiential knowledge for a PhD that I eventually want to pursue.

The groundwork for my current MSc, and my drive for what I want to do next, started at Heriot-Watt with my lecturers. They gave me a voice when I felt like I did not have one, and they helped me pursue my academic ambitions. It is thanks to them that I am pursuing my dreams and hoping to change the world for the better, one small step at a time.
Entry Requirements
The usual entry routes to our Psychology programmes are:

- Level 1 entry, mainly for students with Scottish Highers (or similar)
- Level 2 entry, mainly for students with A-Levels (or similar).

There is nevertheless considerable flexibility, depending on the level of qualifications achieved, for A-Level entrants to choose to enter at level 1 and for Scottish students to enter at level 2.

**Level 1 entry**
- SQA Higher: AAABB
- GCE A-Level: BBB

**Level 2 entry**
- SQA Advanced Higher: BB in relevant subjects, plus AAABB at Higher
- GCE A-Level: ABB in relevant subjects

**Level 3 entry**
Relevant HND. Entry to level 3 will be considered for exceptional candidates

GCSE/Intermediate 2/National 5 English and Mathematics are also required for all Psychology programmes.

Other qualifications are warmly welcomed. For details of entry requirements by country, visit www.hw.ac.uk/student-life/international/study-in-the-uk/your-country.htm

BSc (Hons) Psychology

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<th>Level</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology 2</td>
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<td>Research Methods &amp; Analysis 1</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Analysis 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic Skills in Psychology</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<td>Option</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology 1</td>
<td>Philosophy and History of Psychology</td>
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<td>Research Methods &amp; Analysis 3</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Analysis 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Option</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cognition across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Psychobiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Analysis 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Intelligence at Work</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<td>Option</td>
<td>Social Cognition &amp; Personality</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Psychology of Education</td>
<td>Theoretical Research Project</td>
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<td>Option</td>
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**Mandatory courses**
These cover key aspects of Psychology, as requested by the British Psychological Society syllabus.

**Optional courses**
At Level 1 and Level 2 these are drawn from languages, Biological science and Management options.
At Level 3 and Level 4 these are Approved Psychology Options and include: Forensic Psychology 1, Psychology of Language, Applied Psychology: Health Psychology and Professional Practice, Cognitive Rehabilitation, Cognition and Emotion, Psychology for Business, Psychology of Ageing, Neuropsychology, and Psychology and Mental Health.

*Optional Courses may be subject to change.*
I chose to study Psychology because I was drawn to the opportunity to study human behaviour – something that’s relevant to us all. I knew a couple of people studying psychology at Heriot-Watt who were really enjoying it, so it felt like a natural fit for me.

The fun with psychology is that you can see aspects of it in action every day. There were so many stimulating courses during my degree, like ‘Cognitive Rehabilitation’ and ‘Psychology of Ageing’ which were hugely interesting and helped me develop skills beyond the subject.

All the lecturers I interacted with made a positive impact on my studies and helped get me to where I am now. They all imparted something unique, whether it be knowledge or development of a skill. They are so kind and welcoming and always eager to engage with students.

For my dissertation, I investigated how anxiety and impulsive decision-making may be related. I really enjoyed it. People usually flinch at the word ‘dissertation’, but it can be a great opportunity to explore a topic you find interesting in a lot more depth and hopefully learn something new and exciting.

Heriot-Watt has such a lovely campus – both outdoors and inside the main buildings. It’s very welcoming and a place you feel you want to study. I felt lucky to be in an environment I liked, studying something I loved. My advice to future students would be to try and not lose focus of that – just do your best and enjoy it all as much as possible – everything passes by so fast.
How We Make Offers

Applicants are generally expected to possess relevant academic qualifications with suitable grades as well as the personal and social skills necessary to perform well at university.

We use three main sources of information to help us decide whether or not to offer applicants a place on a degree programme:

1. **Academic Qualifications**

We accept Higher qualifications that are achieved over two sittings. We are happy to consider a wide range of other qualifications, such as HNC/HND, International Baccalaureate and Access Courses.

We do not include A-Level General Studies within our offers and we do not make offers based on AS Levels. Offers will be made for A2 Level only.

Whilst we normally consider a wide range of subjects as appropriate for entry to our programmes, we sometimes make offers requesting specific grades in specific subjects in order to ensure that you have the background knowledge and ability to cope with the demands of the chosen degree programme.

Applicants often ask if we accept certain subjects, for example, Drama or Photography. We do not have a list of approved subjects but the more academic the subjects and the more the subjects are aligned to your chosen course of study, the more likely you will be to receive an offer of a place.

For some degree programmes, demand for places is significantly higher than the number of places available. Even applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements are not always guaranteed to receive an offer.
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Management

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Skills in Psychology</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Management in a Global Context</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>Philosophy and History of Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Research Methods &amp; Analysis 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Development &amp; Intelligence</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<td>Psychology of Education</td>
<td>Advanced Social Psychology</td>
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**Optional Courses**
Options at every level are drawn from Business or from Psychology as Approved Psychology Options.

**Level 1:** Introduction to Finance, Information & Communication Skills, Enterprise and its Business Environment.

**Level 2:** Fundamentals of Marketing, Human Resource Management, Organisational Behaviour, Marketing Perspectives.

**Level 3:** Consumer Behaviour, Project Management, Business Venturing, Resourcing and Talent Management, Employment Law, Innovation Management 1, Innovation Management 2, Critical approaches to Management, Marketing communications.

**Level 4:** Cognition & Emotion, Psychology for Business, Cognitive Rehabilitation, Retail Marketing, Contemporary Workforce, Psychology & Mental Health, Psychology of Ageing, Diversity Management, Changing Trends in Employment.

**Approved Psychology Options:**

**Teacher/Tutor Reference**
In making our decision we will take into account your reference as well as your actual or expected examination grades.

**Personal Statement**
We want you to create a positive impression and demonstrate your enthusiasm and suitability for the subject. We want applicants to demonstrate the following:
- Knowledge and understanding of the subject
- Motivation for studying economics
- Evidence of commitment, motivation and ability to cope with academic content and the challenges of university life
- Development of study skills
- Independence of thought and working
- Skills derived from non-academic extra-curricular activities such as engagement in sport, the arts, voluntary work or travel.

Please make sure your statement is all your own work. All applications are put through similarity detection tests, which identify statements that have been copied from another source. Do not be tempted to copy another person’s application materials or download your personal statement from a website. This could result in your application being unsuccessful.
Graduate Destinations
Psychologists work in settings such as education, health and mental ill-health, sport and exercise, systems design, the environment, and forensic and criminological analysis, where theory and practice come together.

Becoming a practitioner psychologist requires training beyond an undergraduate degree and many of our Psychology graduates go on to do this. There are a variety of practitioner roles including clinical psychologist, counselling psychologist, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist, health psychologist, and occupational psychologist.

Many of our graduates also go on to pursue careers where they apply their understanding of people and how they behave in different situations — such as marketing, human resources, careers advice, coaching, HCI (Human Computer Interaction), and retail management.

Some of our recent graduates are now working for the following organisations:
- Clinical Psychologist | National Health Service
- Forensic Psychologist | National Health Service
- Behaviour Analysis Therapist | ISADD Europe Ltd
- Support Worker | Brandon Trust
- Teacher | Highlands Council
- TEFL Teacher | British Council in Japan
- ASN Assistant | East Lothian Council
- Marketing Assistant | Marks & Spencer
- Market Researcher | Bunnyfoot
- Recruitment Consultant | Change Recruitment
- Programme Leader: Child Health & Social Care | University of the Highlands & Islands

My studies inspired me to pursue opportunities as a research intern at Heriot-Watt’s Brain Stimulation Lab and now I plan to complete a Master’s in Clinical Health Psychology.

Myrto Efstathiou, Winner of Subject Prize BSc (Hons) Psychology, 2017