

Overview

Programme Code	31922
Programme Title	Health Psychology
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Masters
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Programme Leader	Lisa Newson
Link Tutor(s)	

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Target Award	Master of Science - MS	See Learning Outcomes Below
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Diploma - PD	<p>For students who exit with a postgraduate diploma, they must complete the 120 taught credits, although would not complete the empirical research project (as per MSc award). Learning outcomes:</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding • Evaluate, synthesise and apply theoretical models to a range of health behaviours • Critically evaluate biopsychosocial perspectives in health and illness • Critically evaluate sociocultural approaches to health and illness • Critically appraise relevant evidence and theoretical approaches in health and illness in relation to individual differences, lifespan and cultural perspectives • Critically evaluate professional issues in health psychology, including ethical and legal issues and inter-professional relations • Synthesise information to design and evaluate of a range of health psychology interventions</p> <p>Intellectual Skill • Critically analyse complex issues systematically • Creatively appraise and integrate information from a variety of sources • Analyse, interpret and summarise psychological data • Employ skills of self-reflection • Select, adapt and apply advanced research methods and theoretical approaches to complex problems in health in order to contribute to the development of psychological knowledge • Compare and contrast a range of interventions applicable to health psychology settings and health and well-being outcomes (e.g. cognitive-behavioural approaches, motivational interviewing)</p> <p>Practical skill • Retrieve and organise information effectively • Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments • Apply skills of literature search, critical review and selection of relevant sources, and systematic synthesis and treatment of key material • Implement and maintain systems for legal, professional and ethical standards in applied psychology • Reflect and use feedback to evaluate knowledge base, performance and skills, and use this information to monitor progress and inform future professional development</p> <p>Transferable Skill • Use a variety of specialist data analysis software applications • Demonstrate problem solving and reasoning skills • Organise self-management of learning, utilising time-management skills and effective planning strategies • Develop collaboration and co-operation in working with others • Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills • Identify, select and use qualitative and quantitative approaches to data analysis</p>

Alternate Award Names

External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement

Accreditation

Programme Accredited by

PSRB Name	Type of Accreditation	Valid From Date	Valid To Date	Additional Notes
British Psychological Society (BPS)	Accredited against the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).			

Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Full-Time, Face to Face	September	LJMU Taught	1 Years

Aims and Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

This Liverpool John Moores University MSc in Health Psychology meets the Stage 1 training requirement for BPS accreditation. The course has a strong emphasis on psychological investigation and exploring ethical issues. The primary goal of health psychology as a discipline is to contribute to the understanding of how physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual factors influence health and illness within a sociocultural framework. Recent advances in psychological, medical, and physiological research have led to new ways of thinking about health and illness. This conceptualises health and illness as the product of a combination of factors. The research includes: biological characteristics such as genetic predisposition; behavioural factors such as lifestyle, stress, health beliefs; and social conditions such as cultural influences, family relationships and social support. Specific programme aims are: 1) To provide an academically rigorous framework through which students can study scientifically, the psychological processes involved in health, illness and health care with reference to the application of psychology to: the promotion and maintenance of health; the analysis and improvement of the health care system and health policy formation; the prevention of illness and the enhancement of wellbeing in those affected by illness or disability 2) To promote students' awareness of the range of applications of health psychology 3) To provide students with a qualification which meets Stage 1 of the British Psychological Society's training towards Chartered Psychologist status.

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
PLO1	Evaluate, synthesise and apply theoretical models to a range of health behaviours
PLO2	Analyse, interpret and summarise psychological data
PLO3	Plan, design, execute and report on a programme of original, empirical research
PLO4	Employ skills of self-reflection

Code	Description
PLO5	Select, adapt and apply advanced research methods and theoretical approaches to complex problems in health in order to contribute to the development of psychological knowledge
PLO6	Compare and contrast a range of interventions applicable to health psychology settings and health and well-being outcomes (e.g. cognitive-behavioural approaches, motivational interviewing)
PLO7	Retrieve and organise information effectively
PLO8	Use a variety of psychological tools, including specialist software, laboratory equipment and psychometric instruments
PLO9	Carry out an extensive piece of independent research, applying skills of choosing and applying appropriate advanced research methodologies and the treatment of resulting data with appropriate analytical methods
PLO10	Apply skills of literature search, critical review and selection of relevant sources, and systematic synthesis and treatment of key material
PLO11	Implement and maintain systems for legal, professional and ethical standards in applied psychology
PLO12	Critically evaluate biopsychosocial perspectives in health and illness
PLO13	Reflect and use feedback to evaluate knowledge base, performance and skills, and use this information to monitor progress and inform future professional development
PLO14	Use a variety of specialist data analysis software applications
PLO15	Demonstrate problem solving and reasoning skills
PLO16	Organise self-management of learning, utilising time-management skills and effective planning strategies
PLO17	Develop collaboration and co-operation in working with others
PLO18	Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills
PLO19	Identify, select and use qualitative and quantitative approaches to data analysis
PLO20	Critically evaluate sociocultural approaches to health and illness
PLO21	Critically appraise relevant evidence and theoretical approaches in health and illness in relation to individual differences, lifespan and cultural perspectives
PLO22	Synthesise knowledge to design, apply and conduct research in health care contexts
PLO23	Critically evaluate professional issues in health psychology, including ethical and legal issues and inter-professional relations
PLO24	Synthesise information to design and evaluate of a range of health psychology interventions
PLO25	Critically analyse complex issues systematically
PLO26	Creatively appraise and integrate information from a variety of sources

Programme Structure

Programme Structure Description

To exit the programme with a postgraduate diploma the students must complete and pass all modules to achieve 120 credits (except 7100HEAPSY Empirical Project 60 credits).

Programme Structure - 180 credit points	
Level 7 - 180 credit points	
Level 7 Core - 180 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 7100HEAPSY Empirical Project Approved 2022.01 - 60 credit points	
[MODULE] 7101HEAPSY Fundamental Issues in Health Psychology Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7102HEAPSY Research Skills and Methodology for Health Psychology Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7103HEAPSY Analysis for Health Psychology Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7104HEAPSY Long-Term Conditions Approved 2022.01 - 10 credit points	
[MODULE] 7105HEAPSY Health Psychology: Context and Applications Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7106HEAPSY Psychosocial Factors and Health Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7107HEAPSY Stress, Health and Coping Approved 2022.01 - 10 credit points	

Module specifications may be accessed at <https://proformas.ljmu.ac.uk/Default.aspx>

Approved variance from Academic Framework Regulations

Variance

The programme has the following variance to the Academic Framework (approved by the University's Education Committee in March 2016): A delivery imbalance for full time students between semester 1 and semester 2. Full time students will study 70 credits in semester 1 and 50 credits in semester 2. The empirical project module (60 credits) runs throughout the year for submission in the September following enrolment. Specifically, all students will complete both research methods modules in semester 1. Delivery of these two methods modules in semester 1 enables students to use content to inform their project proposals due in early semester 2.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Lectures and directed independent reading are used to introduce core knowledge. These are supplemented by seminar and workshop activities in which students can explore ideas in more depth and contribute to, and benefit from, peer learning. In addition, students are expected to cover substantive course content through their own directed reading. These approaches are consistent with the learning outcomes of each specific module within the programme. While a number of course texts will be utilised to introduce students to the core concepts, critical examination of these concepts using primary sources including journal articles, reports and a variety of health policy documents will form a major component of the teaching strategy. In formulating the assessment strategy, the programme team fosters in-depth and active learning to achieve an appropriate match between teaching and learning methods and assessment tasks. The provision of summative and formative feedback, an appropriate balance of assessment tasks over the programme, and inclusivity of a range of student approaches to learning. A variety of assessment methods is therefore utilised across the programme. Workshop activities provide opportunities for formative feedback from both peers and tutors. Similarly, tutor support during the preparation of coursework assignments provides opportunities for formative feedback. Coursework assessment is used to provide timely and detailed summative assessment. Individual tutors also build in opportunities for formative assessment during modules, and take advantage of opportunities to provide formative assessment that arise from students' work and engagement with the tasks. Assessment methods include essays, conventional written examinations (using seen and unseen questions), critiques, case study, workbooks, reports, reflective portfolios, presentations, research proposal and dissertation. Lectures are supported by appropriate learning resources and learning activities to provide practice in applying declarative knowledge to applied problems, with feedback from tutors and peers. Workshop activities similarly provide a forum for skill development through practice with feedback and reflection. Individual supervision meetings support students in developing, conducting and reporting an empirical investigation in psychology. A variety of assessment methods are used, including examination, essay, projects, group and individual presentations, reports and research dissertation. Lectures are used to introduce core knowledge and principles. Workshops provide opportunities for students to develop skills underpinned by this knowledge through practice with feedback (from peers and tutor) and through critical reflection. Individual supervision sessions are used to support students in the development and completion of their research dissertation. A variety of assessment methods are used, including examination, essay, reports, projects, presentations and dissertation. Lectures are used to introduce core knowledge base. Workshops provide opportunities for students to develop skills underpinned by this knowledge through practice with feedback (from peers and tutor) through critical reflection and through presentation. Individual supervision is provided to guide the student through the development and completion of an empirical research project. Assessment methods include written assignments and examinations, together with practical skills assessment.

Opportunities for work related learning

During the course of the MSc, the programme team discuss the development of professional skills and career development (such as working in NHS; charity; professional development). There is no formal work-based learning during the MSc, although many of the students conduct their research project in applied health settings such as the NHS/charity sectors. As such these research studies support the student to build real experience in the working environment and create professional relationships outside the university setting.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
IELTS	IELTS English Language at a minimum of 7.0 or equivalent, with no less than 6.5 in any single component
RPL	RPL is accepted on this programme

Other international requirements	International students applying to study a full-time taught Masters, MRes, MPhil or PhD at LJMU should check if they require an Academic Technology Approval Scheme or ATAS certificate
Undergraduate degree	Minimum 2:1 honours degree in Psychology and to have satisfied the BPS conditions for Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC)

Extra Entry Requirements

To become a Health Psychologist, you must have the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society and fulfil a number of requirements:

Stage 1 training involving the successful completion of a BPS accredited Masters programme in Health Psychology (the LJMU MSc provides this training)

Stage 2 training involving a minimum of two years spent acquiring a range of supervised competences (the LJMU Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology is designed to provide a framework to achieve this)