Welcome

Psychology helps us understand what it is to be human. Can there be any more fascinating or important subject? As psychologists, we push the boundaries in understanding how children develop, how people think, behave and relate to each other, and what goes on in the brain while they do so, using rigorous scientific methods.

My colleagues and I in the Department share a passion not only for conducting cutting-edge research on these questions, but also for the highest-quality teaching to inspire and enable our students to develop the knowledge and skills to understand human behaviour and become able to ask, and answer, meaningful questions about it. We have groups of lecturers that are experts in all the key areas of psychology, so whatever your own interests in the subject, you'll find it covered at Lancaster.

I feel it is really important to be taught by leading researchers in the field who not only have up-to-date knowledge of the rapid developments in the field of psychology, but who can also involve students actively in their work. In our Department there are lots of opportunities for placements in our research laboratories, as well as with organisations outside the University with whom we work on psychology projects. This means that during your degree you can experience the whole process from developing a study through to applying psychology in order to make a difference to people's lives.

Our strong sense of community and our supportive, open and friendly environment are things our students and staff value greatly, and we invite you to share in this experience. Lancaster is a great place to study and enjoy the experience of being a student. We hope that you'll make lasting friendships, create special memories, and develop life skills that will stay with you long after you graduate. We'd love to welcome you to our Department.

Professor Gert Westermann
Head of Department
Lancaster is somewhere I truly feel at home. From the cutesy cafes in town to the bustling college bars, I’ve really found my pace of life here.

When I first joined two years ago, I didn’t know what to expect, as I was moving six hours away from home to a city and university I’d never been to before! In the end, I found the transition much easier than expected, as the friendliness of the collegiate system is one of the first things you encounter in Freshers’ Week. I spent my first night in accommodation playing card games with my new flatmates, most of whom I am still good friends with to this day. Since that night, I’ve found it easy to embrace every opportunity that Lancaster has given me, whether it be work experience, societies, or volunteering. I’ve done it all!

The Psychology Department has been amazing for me. The staff are incredibly friendly and helpful, and often just as excited about research topics as I am! Throughout my time at Lancaster, I’ve had the opportunity to get involved in hands-on research across multiple disciplines, something I never expected to be able to do as an undergraduate. As a nervous first-year, I never dreamed that by the end of my second year I would be president of a society, or that I would now have the confidence to speak in public or run fundraising events. Lancaster has provided all these opportunities for me to grow, and for that, I will be forever grateful. As I look ahead to my third year, I’m excited to see what happens next and what else I will be able to sign up for!

Visit Kat’s Instagram post

Kat Benier
2nd year
BSc Psychology student
Our single honours psychology degrees

First year
In your first year, you will be given a thorough introduction to the theory behind the key areas of psychology:

- developmental psychology
- neuroscience
- cognitive psychology
- social psychology
- personality and individual differences

Skills for working with different types of data, and psychological research methods are taught alongside these topics. You will learn about a variety of different research methods, develop transferable skills for using data, and cover contemporary concerns affecting psychological research and ethics in the context of open science.

The practical skills that you learn in conducting research in psychology will help you in your understanding of psychological studies and in your own research. You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical lab classes.

Second year
As well as delving deeper into the topics introduced in Year 1, you will have an increased focus on research methods and skills in thinking about and analysing data. You will be encouraged to work more independently in preparation for your own research project which you will start considering towards the end of the year.

Third year
In this your final year, you will carry out your own individual research project under the expert supervision of an academic researcher. This will allow you to put into practice all the skills that you’ve developed to date and pursue your own line of enquiry. In addition to the project, you will study a range of advanced level modules. These 3rd year advanced modules enable you to focus on the areas of psychology that most interest you, and link you to the very latest advances in psychology research and thinking. Our current 3rd year students, for instance, are studying modules in attention and cognition, child and educational psychology, clinical psychology, forensic psychology, neuroscience, organisational psychology, and psychopharmacology.*

Why Psychology at Lancaster?

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neuroscience</th>
<th>Cognitive Psychology</th>
<th>Developmental Psychology</th>
<th>Social Psychology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How the brain works, including how brain damage and disease may influence behaviour</td>
<td>How people perceive and think about the world</td>
<td>How children develop their thinking and their social behaviour</td>
<td>How people interact and think</td>
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* Please note these advanced modules are subject to change according to the expertise of our academics and the very latest psychological advances.
Combined **degrees**

In addition to our single honours Psychology degrees, you can also combine Psychology with these subjects:

- BSc Hons* Biology with Psychology
- BSc Hons* Biology with Psychology (Placement Year)
- BA Hons* Criminology and Psychology
- BSc Hons* Marketing with Psychology
- BA Hons Psychology and Chinese Studies
- BA Hons Psychology and French Studies
- BA Hons Psychology and German Studies
- BA Hons Psychology and Linguistics
- BA Hons Psychology and Management
- BA Hons Psychology and Spanish Studies

*Degrees not accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS)

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I chose to pursue a joint degree in Psychology and French Studies because, when applying to university, I faced a dilemma. I wanted to continue with French, but I had also developed an interest in Psychology. Discovering a joint honours degree in these two subjects solved my problem. Since I began my course in October 2022, I have never regretted my decision. Despite the manageable workload and challenges, I thoroughly enjoy the content I am learning. Moreover, this degree offers a year abroad option, allowing me to work or study in a French-speaking country. I find this beneficial as it provides a valuable opportunity to use and further improve my French. Overall, I am very grateful for the chance to study two different subjects during my university life.

**Yi Chen Lee**
2nd year BA Psychology and French Studies

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology

Hear more about Yi Chen’s experience
Broaden your horizons and study abroad

Gain a thorough grounding in the key areas of modern psychology and broaden your horizons with a year studying abroad. You will spend your third year overseas before returning to complete your studies at Lancaster in Year 4.

There are lots of reasons to study abroad:

+ Engage with different methodologies, research and teaching practices with your host university
+ Widen your academic and personal network
+ Become more attractive to future employers

For up to date information we advise you to contact the Global Experiences team: globalexperiences@lancaster.ac.uk

Here are a few examples of the countries you can choose to study abroad in:

- USA
- Canada
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- South Korea

A global experience

Holly Barnett
Current Year 4 BSc Psychology (Study Abroad) student

Last July I boarded a plane alone to Australia for my year abroad. I had shortlisted Australia, Canada and the USA as my options but Australia was always my first choice. Having never lived in another country before, I was apprehensive. I was looking forward to a year of sun and of course, studying. My time living in Australia was more than I could have imagined.

During my study abroad year, I lived on the Gold Coast in Queensland for over 10 months. My place in student accommodation meant I was able to make friends and find others on study abroad years. My host university, Griffith University, is ranked highly with 5 different campuses.

Through my time at Griffith University, I was able to delve further into psychology. I took modules such as ‘Abnormal Psychology’ which provided me with an understanding of how to be a clinical psychologist. I also chose to study criminology modules. This has benefited me in relation to my dissertation, which I am currently in the process of writing, as it has a criminal psychology element.

The most important module I was able to study was Aboriginal History. I knew I wanted to understand the country I was living in, and this module was an excellent way of doing that. This enabled me to create assessment pieces different than what I had done at Lancaster. Overall, my academic knowledge has grown to encourage me to think further about how culture and psychology are linked.

I also worked in a local theme park, operating rollercoasters. This enabled me to earn a wage and gain experience working with the public. Thanks to this, I had the opportunity to travel over the Christmas period. I was able to visit Tasmania, complete a hike in New Zealand and spend three weeks living with locals on tropical islands in Fiji. I also spent two weeks hiking through the Australian desert before flying home. My days off from university were mostly spent at the beach or hiking. During my first term, I went on a camping trip to Byron Bay which was incredible. I was lucky enough to see humpback whales, dolphins, snakes, turtles, sharks and sting rays. I also had the opportunity to compete at Griffith Uni events such as a trail half-marathon in Toohey Forest. This would not have been possible had I not chosen to study abroad.

I would highly recommend a study abroad year to anyone who wants to travel and develop independence. I also think my year abroad in Australia has been beneficial to me in choosing which pathway I would like to follow with my psychology degree. I have been able to speak with more academics and learn extra content, which has helped me decide which career idea to pursue. I am very grateful to Lancaster for this opportunity.
Hi everyone! I’m Pippa, and I am a first-year student with a PEP placement in the Babylab. I chose Lancaster for the PEP programme, and it has exceeded my expectations. The placement has provided hands-on experience and allowed me to make connections with researchers while also letting me explore a particular field of psychology, which in this case is developmental psychology. My placement has involved inputting data and participant information, which I have then used to contact them. This has significantly improved my confidence and communication skills. I have also had the opportunity to shadow multiple developmental psychologists while they conduct experiments and interact with participants. This has given me unique insights into the methods of collecting developmental data, which I have then applied to my studies. This placement has been an invaluable experience for me, as it has allowed me to learn how to use different equipment, understand the reasons we use various research methods, and enjoy getting to know researchers on a deeper level. I strongly advise getting a placement at some point during your degree at Lancaster, as it is a unique opportunity our university offers and should be fully taken advantage of.

Pippa Beatton
1st year BSc Psychology

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology

Example placements

- Advocacy Focus – mental health volunteer
- Making Space Supported Housing – activity co-ordinator
- Alzheimer’s Society – community support volunteer
- Prison Care and Advice Trust – group facilitator
- National Autistic Society – research field worker
- Lancaster University – research assistant in neuroimaging/programming
- Lancaster University – research assistant in infant and adult language acquisition
- Lancaster University – research assistant in detecting deception
- Lancaster University – research assistant in infant eye tracking
Brandon O’Hanlon

BSc Psychology, MSc Psychological Research Methods, and now a PhD student

An experience for Brandon

Can you tell us about your own Psychology Employability Programme (PEP) placement?

Throughout the summer vacation and Year 2 of my undergraduate course, I assisted in a research project in the Transcranial Magnetic Brain Stimulation (TMS) Lab. I helped with the recruitment of participants, engaged with participants in the experiment and even used the brain stimulation equipment myself!

What skills and knowledge did you gain from the placement?

I was trained by experienced staff to use Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) devices on motor cortex regions of the brain, which is incredibly exciting technology! Furthermore, I developed fantastic administrative skills and general research experience. These helped me to obtain a paid research assistant role with a collaborative study on dyslexia and speech perception using TMS. The administrative experience also helped me to secure another paid role as the student administrative assistant for the PEP itself. The skills and research experience gained in my PEP placement have taken me to where I am now as a third-year PhD student. It has been the foundation of my educational progression over the past 6 years at Lancaster, and sparked the passion for research that I still hold today!

What would you say to students thinking about applying to PEP?

Apply. Just do it! I can say without a doubt that I thoroughly enjoyed my PEP placement throughout the year, and the opportunities it has provided me went above and beyond what I had expected and hoped for when I first applied. PEP is all about gaining valuable and insightful experience, no matter where you wish to apply it.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology
Belong, Engage, Employ (BEE)

Your future is important to us, which is why we have developed BEE where we offer a range of workshops, advice and opportunities for you to develop your employability skills through working with people and organisations and by meeting dedicated careers staff who will guide you in your career choices.

**Careers Cafe**
Regular drop ins where you can seek expert guidance on matters such as work experience, postgraduate study, making career decisions, CVs/cover letters and job applications. We also have ‘Brain Food Monthly’ sessions that tackle a range of issues such as coping with exam stress, building confidence and resilience, and balancing work and study. These sessions are informal and relaxed.

**Psychology Alumni Evening**
An annual event in which our past students return to talk about their career progression. This is a great opportunity for informal networking, and to hear first hand about how other students have advanced their careers.

**Psychology Connect**
This scheme offers one day opportunities for those who aren’t able to undertake longer placements. It’s a great opportunity to see how your degree can be applied whilst expanding your network.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology

Photo credit Yi Chen Lee
Different ways of learning

**Lectures**
Lectures provide an introduction to the key issues and findings in each topic and are delivered by an expert in that particular field. They typically last for an hour and you’ll be expected to supplement your lecture notes with further independent reading.

**Seminars**
Seminars are weekly one hour sessions where you will be encouraged to discuss your learning with a small group of fellow students, under the guidance of a tutor. Here you will develop your skills in debating, reflecting and building ideas with others. You will learn to present yourself with increasing knowledge and confidence.

**Practicals**
Practical classes are designed to help you discover key psychological methods and techniques. You will also get hands-on experience conducting your own psychology experiments in small groups.

**Assessment**
In 1st year, the assessment process varies across modules and includes essays, lab reports, class tests, regular web based assessments and end of year exams. The assessment methods used in 2nd and 3rd years help to develop transferable skills – for example, oral presentations, posters, media analysis and group work presentations.
A place for the researcher

Our teaching experts bring their knowledge and passion to your lecture theatre, lab class and seminar.

This means that you will learn about the latest developments and their real-world applications in this broad and fast-moving science.

Many of our prospective and current students tell us that they want to help people and to bring about positive change in the world. This is what drives our research too and we are proud of the impact that our work has.

We conduct world-leading research in four key research groups.

Infancy and Early Development
We investigate how babies and young children develop an understanding of the world around them. We study babies from before birth through to their exploration of the world as toddlers.

Cognition
We work on how people learn language and develop reading skills throughout their lifespan; we also study how memory and attention affect our processing of the world around us.

Perception and Action
We find out how humans interact with the world, how the brain responds to different situations, and how that can be affected by age and disease.

Social Processes
We explore the social and cognitive processes that shape human actions, such as discovering when and why people are pro-social or anti-social, and how that affects decision-making, security, and trust.

Be a part of something amazing

To ensure you have the best possible experience, our courses are led by experienced and highly qualified experts, many of whom have international reputations.

Hear about the very latest psychology research from Lancaster University - and the people and the stories behind their research.

Professor Trevor Crawford, an expert in cognitive neuroscience and aging, discusses "Aging and Alzheimer's" in a recent podcast available on Spotify, alongside several other insightful podcasts from our academic staff.
As a second-year psychology student, student ambassador and social content creator for the Psychology Department at Lancaster University, I’ve had the privilege of showcasing my creativity through engaging content creation, including photography, videography, and other media endeavours.

I chose Lancaster University because of its supportive atmosphere, familial feel, and beautiful campus. Its ideal distance from my hometown strikes the perfect balance, making it feel like a second home.

Studying psychology at Lancaster has provided me with ample opportunities, such as the psychology social media ambassador role. In my role, I capture and create inspiring content for the Psychology Department, including photos and videos and edit them independently, which has been both a fulfilling and skill-enhancing experience.

This role has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me to enhance my skill set while still being able to prioritise my degree due to its flexibility. I feel a sense of responsibility as I have the power to create and share content that accurately represents our Department and its opportunities. I chose to pursue the social ambassador role because I enjoy making videos and am proficient at it, and I wanted to channel my talents into purposeful work that effectively promotes our Department.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunities this role has provided. It has allowed me to get involved in various psychology-related opportunities, meet remarkable researchers and students, and broaden my skills and confidence. I am proud to represent such an amazing Department at Lancaster University and I look forward to continuing to make meaningful contributions in the future.
Our alumni

Adrian Filip
Psychology student alumnus
2023 graduate

“

What was your experience like as an undergraduate?
I started studying at Lancaster in 2020, which you could consider a difficult time. As an international student, there were some challenges regarding travel as well as limited access to activities that would normally take place. Given these circumstances, the University handled the situation very well, balancing the necessary rules with offering students a sense of interaction with each other. In my last year of study, when Covid was no longer a major issue, everything started to pick up, and I can say that the University met my expectations. Almost a year after graduating, I still reflect with my friends on our times spent at university with great joy.

What did you enjoy most about studying?
The part I enjoyed most while studying was the modules on Social Psychology. This was mainly because it was my favorite part of psychology and has also helped me most in my current work. It helped me understand how circumstances can affect a person’s behaviour. I found that having the opportunity to study multiple areas gives you a better chance to discover which part you enjoy most and possibly pursue it further.

What did you enjoy most about studying?
One of my favourite things about Lancaster is the incredible department. Everyone is so lovely and always willing to help. The psychology course at Lancaster is also really interesting! It provided me with a range of knowledge and applied it to anti-social behaviours, which the criminology modules I took helped strengthen my study.

Where are you now, and what skills did you learn?
Currently, I am a drug and alcohol recovery worker for Change Grow Live because they had an office in Lancaster. I learned about the volunteering roles from a colleague I met during one of the seminars in my second year. I mentioned to him that I was thinking of doing some volunteering to gain work experience, and he suggested I go for it. Because I went home for a couple of months, I started the volunteering role at the start of my third year. After about 4 to 5 months, around the middle of my third year, I was offered a part-time job. Finally, after finishing all my exams, I decided that I still wanted to work in this field, so I applied for a full-time role, which I got on the first try.

How did you get into your current job role?
A bit of luck played a part in this. I first started as a volunteer for Change Grow Live because they had an office in Lancaster. I learned about the volunteering roles from a colleague I met during one of the seminars in my second year. I mentioned to him that I was thinking of doing some volunteering to gain work experience, and he suggested I go for it. Because I went home for a couple of months, I started the volunteering role at the start of my third year. After about 4 to 5 months, around the middle of my third year, I was offered a part-time job. Finally, after finishing all my exams, I decided that I still wanted to work in this field, so I applied for a full-time role, which I got on the first try.

Adrian Filip
Psychology student alumnus
2023 graduate

“

How did you get into your current job role?
Hi! I’m Cathryn, and I graduated with a psychology degree from Lancaster in July 2023. Now, I’ve managed to secure a role as a project support assistant at my local council, and I get to use my degree everyday. I work across three different teams, including staff wellbeing, which means I apply both the content and practical skills from my degree to help knock after not only the physical wellbeing of our staff but their mental wellbeing too. My favourite part of my new role is the variety of work we get to do – no day is ever the same!

While at Lancaster, I had time to spend with friends and have fun, but also had the chance to work on myself, study, and meet people whose way of thinking fascinated and motivated me. Generally speaking, I believe that attending any university, every student should make the most of the opportunities given to them. Lancaster University offers many opportunities and prepares you for life after your studies. I am thankful that I studied at Lancaster University; it was a great experience that helped me get to where I am now.

How do you feel about studying at Lancaster University?
While I was studying at Lancaster, I completed a PEP placement. I was an administrative and research assistant at the Lancaster Babylab, which I loved! I helped input participant information into the Babylab’s database, created digital content templates for social media platforms, and contacted Babylabs around the UK to increase advertisement for an ongoing study. Having the chance to develop my skills in a working environment was invaluable. It helped me decide on future career paths and gave me a sense of what it’s like working within an incredible department.

Cathryn Gale
Psychology student alumna
2023 graduate

"
Hello future

Studying psychology will equip you with a range of transferable skills that are valued by employers. Our graduates progress on to varied careers within and beyond the field of psychology.

As you settle in to your degree, you'll get a feel for the scope of the subject and from day one you will be coached on valuable employability skills (such as CV writing, communicating with confidence and working in a team).

**Skills developed through a psychology degree**
- Communication
- Literacy
- Problem solving
- Interpersonal skills
- Critical evaluation
- Information gathering
- Independent working

**Major employers of our psychology graduates include**
- Commercial and industrial companies
- Financial organisations
- Human resources departments
- Local and national government
- Marketing companies
- The media
- National Health Service
- Police force, National Probation Service and prisons
- Schools, sixth form colleges and further education institutions
- Social Services

As you settle in to your degree, you'll get a feel for the scope of the subject and from day one you will be coached on valuable employability skills (such as CV writing, communicating with confidence and working in a team).

Do more than just study

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology
Psychology BSc

**Year 1**
- Core themes:
  - Cognitive psychology
  - Developmental psychology
  - Neuropsychology
  - Personality & individual differences
  - Psychological research methods
  - Social psychology
  - Statistics

**Year 2**
- Core themes:
  - Cognitive psychology
  - Developmental psychology
  - Neuropsychology
  - Psychological research methods
  - Social psychology
  - Statistics

**Year 3**
- Core themes:
  - Psychological research project
  - Advanced specialised themes:
    - Clinical psychology
    - Cognitive psychology
    - Developmental psychology
    - Forensic & criminological psychology
    - Neuropsychology
    - Psychology of groups and organisations
    - Personality & individual differences

Psychology BSc (Study Abroad)

**Year 1**
- Core themes:
  - Cognitive psychology
  - Developmental psychology
  - Neuropsychology
  - Personality & individual differences
  - Psychological research methods
  - Social psychology
  - Statistics

**Year 2**
- Core themes:
  - Cognitive psychology
  - Developmental psychology
  - Neuropsychology
  - Psychological research methods
  - Social psychology
  - Statistics

**Year 3**
- Year abroad
- Core themes:
  - Psychological research project
  - Advanced specialised themes:
    - Clinical psychology
    - Cognitive psychology
    - Developmental psychology
    - Forensic & criminological psychology
    - Neuropsychology
    - Psychology of groups and organisations
    - Personality & individual differences
Entry requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology</td>
<td>C800</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology (Study Abroad)</td>
<td>C801</td>
<td>4 years with a year abroad</td>
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**A levels**
AAB

**BTEC**
DDD

**International Baccalaureate**
35 points overall with 16 points from the best 3 Higher Level subjects.

**Required subjects**
Mathematics grade B or 6 (grade 5 will be considered on a case by case basis).

Entry requirements for our combined degree programmes can be found by visiting the individual course page on our website.

Important Information
The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2025/2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.

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For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/psychology