

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 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.



We offer you a diverse range of modules to study the key themes of modern psychology, to help you pursue your area of psychological interest. Neuroscience explores how the brain works, including how brain damage and disease may influence behaviour. As part of cognitive psychology, you'll discover how people perceive and think about the world. Through developmental psychology, you'll find out how children develop their thinking and their social behaviour. Social psychology will facilitate your discovery of how people interact and work together.

Degree title	Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Psychology	BSc Hons	C800	3	AAB
Psychology (Study Abroad)	BSc Hons	C801	4	AAB
Psychology and Linguistics	BA Hons	CQ81	3	AAB
Psychology and Languages	BA Hons	C8Q0	4	AAB
Criminology and Psychology	BA Hons	CL86	3	AAB
Criminology and Psychology (Placement Year)	BA Hons	CL87	4	AAB
Criminology and Psychology (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	CL88	4	AAB

Study abroad available

A Industry placement available

The table above shows our typical offer for A level students. See our website for alternative qualifications such as International Baccalaureate or BTEC. For more information, please visit **lancaster.ac.uk/psychology**



A Place for knowledge

Our courses are led by experienced and highly qualified experts, many of whom have international reputations, bringing their knowledge and passion to your lectures, labs and seminars.

Here are the kind of topics our lecturers investigate and teach.

Our department innovates knowledge through our pioneering research. This means that you will learn about the latest developments and their real-world application in this broad and fast-moving science. We're well supported by a group of lecturers who are world-leading researchers in their fields. Working within this close knit-community really boosts your learning. We also tailor your learning so that after graduation, you can positively impact society.

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical classes.

Lancaster University's psychology department hosts a wide range of labs dedicated to the cutting-edge of psychological research. We're proud to house one of the world's largest Infant and Child Development Labs, which is dedicated to exploring the development of children from birth to school years. As an undergraduate student, you may get the opportunity to work alongside some of our researchers in these labs as a part of your third year project, or within a Psychology Employability Programme (PEP) placement.

Richard Philpot, Social Psychology

Which areas of psychology do your teaching and research focus on and what are your research interests?

My teaching and research sit at the intersection of social psychology, criminology, and technology. I focus particularly on human behaviour in public settings, with an emphasis on bystander intervention, crowd dynamics, and group behaviour in emergencies. I'm also interested in how new digital technologies - such as video, social media, and sensor data - can be harnessed to study real-world behaviour and group processes.

What is your favourite piece of research that you've done?

One of my favourite pieces is a 2020 article titled "Would I Be Helped?". In this study, we analysed public CCTV footage to examine how often bystanders intervene during public conflicts. Contrary to the common belief that bystanders are passive in emergencies, we found that in over 90% of cases, people stepped in to help. What I particularly value about this work is that it uses realworld data to show the capacity for prosocial behaviour in everyday life.

What is your favourite thing about Lancaster?

It's the combination of a vibrant academic community, the historic city, and easy access to beautiful green spaces that makes Lancaster such a rewarding place to be.



Kate Cain, Cognitive Psychology

Which areas of psychology do your teaching and research focus on and what are your research interests?

My teaching and research focus on the language bases of reading comprehension. I work with preschoolers and school-aged children to identify the skills that support the development of reading comprehension and determine why some children (and adults) have reading comprehension difficulties.

What is your favourite piece of research that you've done?

I would say the work (ongoing) that has been following children in the US, who were all preschoolers aged 4-5 years of age at the start of the study. We've followed them for 13 years and have just completed data collection when they were in US grade 12 - that's 17-18 years of age. This work has allowed us to study development across time to study the complexity of reading development, looking at language and cognitive skills as well as the influence of the home and school environment. It's been really interesting to investigate reading with this international group to understand how language skills develop in different cultures.

What is your favourite thing about Lancaster?

Apart from the proximity of the hills and space to breathe, I would say the flexibility to teach and research across traditional research boundaries. For example, I could be described as a Developmental Cognitive Psychologist and I work with colleagues in social psychology, neuroscience, and both developmental and cognitive psychology.



A Place for knowledge

Trevor Crawford, Neuroscience

Which areas of psychology do your teaching and research focus on and what are your research interests?

In the field of cognitive neuroscience, my teaching and research focus on the neurocognitive control of action and the dynamics of cognitive control across the lifespan. I investigate the interplay between the brain's structural "hardware" (e.g. the frontal lobes and basal ganglia) and its functional "software" (e.g. working memory and inhibitory control), in both healthy individuals and those with neurological disorders. This approach enables me to examine the balance and interaction between topdown and bottom-up control systems. To study how these processes evolve across the lifespan, I integrate psychological assessments – including tasks involving visual illusions - with neurophysiological techniques that capture precise aspects of brain function. These include eye-tracking paradigms, Electroencephalogram (EEG) to monitor electrical brain activity, and Functional nearinfrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) to assess hemodynamic responses via near-infrared light. My work is particularly focused on understanding how cognitive control mechanisms are affected by typical aging as well as by neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and schizophrenia.

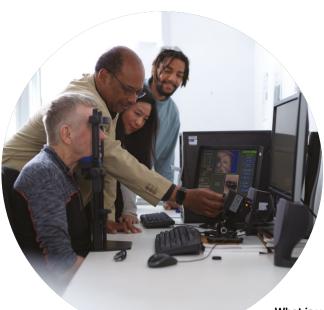


What is your favourite piece of research that you've done?

I think it would be my research programme on Alzheimer's disease for the following reason. For several years, my research into Alzheimer's disease faced significant challenges due to limited funding. This changed when a local charity group, led by elderly volunteers, generously donated funds to help launch the project. Their support provided the initial momentum needed, eventually enabling our team to secure further resources and fund multiple PhD projects across various departments at the University. This foundational support helped our research reach both national and international audiences.

What is your favourite thing about Lancaster?

I greatly enjoy working at Lancaster University due to its highly collegiate and collaborative atmosphere. I'm especially pleased to have the opportunity to work alongside talented researchers from diverse disciplines across both the Faculty of Science and Technology and the wider university. Additionally, Lancaster's beautiful natural surroundings provide a welcome escape, offering peaceful and stunning scenery just moments away.



Kirsty Dunn, Developmental Psychology

Which areas of psychology do your teaching and research focus on and what are your research interests?

My research explores the ways in which fetal and neonatal perceptual and cognitive development can be measured. I use 4D ultrasound and fetal heart rate to measure responses to sounds and shapes of light in the womb. I'm particularly interested in questioning what these measures can really tell us about psychological development in the early years. Do early experiences, such as those in the womb, shape behaviour and development later in life? In the future, I hope that the answers to these questions will help us in supporting the right environment for the healthy development of preterm babies.

What is your favourite piece of research that you've done?

My favourite piece of research explored the feasibility of presenting shapes of light to fetuses and measuring their response to these in the womb. For the first time, we showed that before we are born, we can see shapes, we will turn our heads to follow shapes that we like to see, and that we prefer to look at face-like shapes compared with other shapes. I absolutely loved the exploration aspect of this project. It felt like a real adventure to try to overcome all of the obstacles to measuring visual responses in the womb. This work has now opened up whole new avenues for us to explore in relation to our psychological development before birth.

What is your favourite thing about Lancaster?

My favourite thing about Lancaster is the people and their passion for doing new things, for finding new answers, and for talking about those answers in new ways. Recently, I worked with members of our Information Services and Support (ISS) innovation team to create a virtual reality 'Jukebox in the Womb' experience. This gave people of all ages a chance to experience what it might like to attend a music festival in the womb. We worked with local and international artists to edit their music and this has even led to future collaborations in science communication at upcoming gigs. It's the freedom to develop this sort of fun collaboration that makes me proud to work at Lancaster.





Your global experience

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college, or your Students' Union.

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

Visit lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad to see a full list of the overseas institutions with whom we currently have a partnership arrangement. For up-to-date information, we advise you to contact the Global Experiences Team: globalexperiences@lancaster.ac.uk





Psychology



BSc Hons

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

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 your final year, you will carry out your own individual research project under the expert supervision of an academic researcher. In addition to the project, you will study a range of advanced level modules. These 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.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future.

Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Introduction to Developmental Psychology and Neuropsychology

Study core psychological disciplines in this introductory module, focusing on developmental psychology, neuropsychology, and individual differences. You'll explore how humans develop over time, the interplay between the brain and behaviour, and delve into peer-reviewed research to build foundational knowledge and critical thinking skills essential for your Psychology degree.

Introduction to Cognitive and Social Psychology

Explore how we perceive and process the world around us, and navigate and understand social interactions. You'll examine core theories and findings as well as their real-world applications while considering the roles of personality, intelligence, and individual differences in shaping thoughts, emotions, and behaviour.

Designing and Analysing Psychological Research 1

This module builds your foundation as a psychology researcher, introducing scientific practices, research design, and data analysis. Through lectures and handson labs, you'll learn to collect, analyse, and report data using modern tools. Key topics include questionnaire design, observational methods, and looking at relationships between variables using correlation and regression analysis.

Designing and Analysing Psychological Research 2

You'll explore group differences in psychological processes and behaviours. Building on previous skills, you'll learn research design, data handling, and statistical analysis. Topics include experimental design, participant selection, hypothesis testing, and comparing groups, with practical lab sessions to refine your skills.





Cognitive Psychology

This module focuses on core processes in psychology, such as memory, attention, perception, and emotion. You will explore in-depth research, gaining insights into how these processes shape behaviour.

Cognitive Neuroscience

This module explores the neural principles underlying cognition and behaviour, emphasising perceptual, cognitive, and emotional processes. You'll study brain anatomy and physiology, alongside research methods, developing analytical and critical thinking skills.

Social Psychology

You'll explore theories and approaches whilst considering cultural and historical contexts. Lectures and seminars enhance academic skillls, fostering critical engagement with psychology's real-world relevance.

Developmental Psychology

You'll gain a foundation for understanding developmental psychology from different theoretical and methodological perspectives, covering key topics from prenatal development to adolescence.

Advanced Approaches to Designing and Analysing Psychological Research 1

Building on previous research methods modules, this course focuses on advanced experimental design and statistical techniques. You'll learn to develop experiments, analyse complex data, and address ethical considerations. Laboratory classes provide hands-on experience with data preparation, statistics, and refining your research and analytical skills.

Advanced Approaches to Designing and Analysing Psychological Research 2

This module focuses on designing and analysing non-experimental studies, including qualitative methods like interviews, and complex observational data. You'll gain hands-on experience in study design, data collection, and analysis.

Year 3

Core Module **Psychological Project**

Building on research skills gained in Year 1 and 2, you'll have the chance to conduct a novel piece of research which will culminate in a dissertation. You'll be supported by an academic advisor through one-to-one supervision, helping you to define your research question and choose appropriate methods. This will allow you to put into practice all the skills you've developed to date.

Optional Modules

You will chose four modules from a range of options taught by experts in the Psychology Department.

Examples of currently available modules are*:

- + Cognition: From Laboratory Research to Everyday Behaviour
- + The Lying Brain
- + Current Directions in Social Psychology
- + Forensic and Criminological Psychology
- + Measuring Minds: Innovations in **Developmental Psychology**
- + Clinical Psychology
- + Cyberpsychology
- *Please note that availability of individual modules may change according to staff availability, and new research developments.



Combined Degrees

Psychology and Linguistics, BA Hons

How does a child learn language? How does language relate to thought? You'll discover there are many overlapping questions between linguistics and psychology. By studying these disciplines together, we can learn how the social world and the human mind shapes language (and vice versa). This degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) which is essential if you want to take on a career in professional psychology in the UK.

Psychology and Languages, BA Hons

Psychology is the scientific study of how humans think and behave, and combining this with a language gives you unique insight into how human expression varies in different cultures. You will combine your psychology studies with a modern language, spending a year overseas honing your skills. Choose from French, German, Italian, Spanish, or Chinese. This degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) which is essential if you want to take on a career in professional psychology in the UK.

Criminology and Psychology, BA Hons

Informed by the latest research, and combining theory and practice, this degree offers you the opportunity to study both Criminology and Psychology – with a particular focus on the psychology of crime and the justice system. See the world differently by looking at criminality from multiple perspectives, and gain a holistic understanding of crime and criminals, victims, and justice.

For further information, please see lancaster.ac.uk/psychology

Being able to study two of my passions at once was really important to me. Lancaster provided the perfect opportunity to study the subjects in the way that I wanted, offering a BA in Psychology and Languages with a good balance between the two subjects.



I was also really impressed by the psychology facilities, and Lancaster's academics who are active researchers in areas of psychology that I am interested in - I knew I would be able to get the most out of my degree by learning from them. It also offered a range of diverse and interesting final year topics, which made me very enthusiastic about the course content and seeing the general subjects that might be available by the time I do my final year project.

There are many directions I am interested in taking my degree in, whether it be leaning more into the French or psychology side of my degree (or even combining

the two). I have used my French studies to lead into a 6-month English Teaching Assistant role in schools to potentially explore a teaching career. Psychology has led me into opportunities volunteering to work directly with data and find out what it is like to be behind-the-scenes in the research world. I've also been able to work directly with participants and see the application of research theory in real life.

Sophie, second year

BA Psychology and Languages (French)





Pippa, second year BSc Psychology

Investigating working memory



I highly recommend taking full advantage of the PEP programme as it has increased my employability



Infant and Child Development Lab Hi everyone! I'm Pippa, and I'm currently a second-year student. Personally, I chose Lancaster because of its unique PEP programme. It was important to me that I gained some hands-on experience in psychology which has proven to be invaluable. I have worked with many researchers ranging from postgraduate researchers to lab managers. This has allowed me to make connections with experts in their chosen fields as well as helping me figure out which area of psychology interests me.

My first placement was in the Infant and Child Development Lab, inputting participant's information and contacting them, which improved my confidence and my communication skills. I also shadowed multiple researchers while they conducted their experiments and had the opportunity to ask about their research aims, research design, and more. I was able to apply this to my degree as the opportunity gave me a deeper understanding of research methods, developmental studies, and the equipment involved in developmental research.

My second placement that I began recently involves working on a project investigating working memory in GCSE students, a different demographic. I highly recommend taking full advantage of the PEP programme as it has increased my employability skills, helped me form new connections, and gave me real-world experience in helping develop research, fuelling my passion for psychology.

Psychology Employability Programme (PEP)

We encourage all our students to join the PEP scheme, which provides the opportunity to gain relevant work experience alongside your studies.

Some placements will involve working in the community with charities and organisations that support vulnerable individuals. Others will give you the chance to work as a research assistant alongside expert researchers in the psychology labs. These roles are part-time and fit around your studies. This means that you can apply for more than one placement in each year of your degree, and by taking on different roles you will get a sense of how your future might look.

Each placement will provide you with experience and skills that are valuable to both psychology careers and more general graduate-level occupations.

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

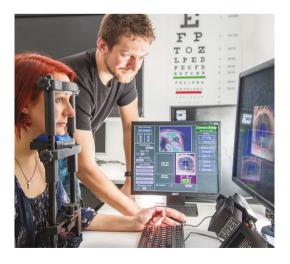
National Autistic Society – research field worker

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



The Psychology Employability Programme (PEP) has been a really important part of my time at Lancaster. Throughout my degree, PEP provided the opportunity for valuable experience with the Department's labs and research centres. I assisted with doctoral research using virtual reality to study perceptual-motor processes, investigated team effectiveness in a simulated cyberterrorist attack, and explored how emotional processes operate through extremist propaganda and discourse. My PEP experiences helped expand my technical skill base, strengthened my academic confidence, and supported my personal development. It was deeply rewarding to work on these research projects and the practical, real-world impact of our Department's work remains a source of pride and motivation. PEP unlocked various career opportunities and significantly broadened my employability. After graduating, I was offered a role on the investigation staff with Northumbria Police.

Oliver, graduate BSc 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.

What truly sets Lancaster's Psychology course apart is its emphasis on employability and

practical experience, Initiatives like Belong, Engage, Employ (BEE); the Psychology Employability Programme (PEP), and research placements offer real-world insights and hands-on skills that prepare you for life after university. The department has given me incredible opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. I have felt a real sense of belonging through my roles as a student ambassador and research assistant, and I have been able to engage in meaningful research, including working on a project supporting deaf children in and gaining hands-on lab experience in a clinical setting. All of this has confirmed my ambition to pursue a career in clinical psychology and shown me how much Lancaster invests in helping students succeed.

Eeman, third year BSc Psychology



I particularly liked the close contact with staff and lecturers in the department, as they were always happy to talk to you and help with any questions you had.

Philippa, graduate BSc Psychology

I loved studying Psychology at Lancaster. I really enjoyed the dissertation project, as it was great to lead your own research on a topic that really interests you. I particularly appreciated the level of support and guidance you receive from working one-to-one with an expert in the field.

In September I'll be moving to London to do a Master's in Clinical Neuroscience. I'm very grateful for all the skills and experience I gained at Lancaster. The neuroscience modules and lecturers gave me the passion for this subject, but I also gained broader skills through essays, critical reviews, group projects, and my dissertation that I have no doubt will be invaluable when I start the course.

Through taking part in a PEP placement, and later a research assistant role at Lancaster's Infant and Child Development Lab, I was able to demonstrate my skills in time management, independence, working in a multi-disciplinary team, organisation, and working with participants, which will definitely be helpful when completing the clinical placement as part of my Master's course. My time at Lancaster's Infant and Child Development Lab also helped me to work out what type of job I would like to do in the future, as I realised I definitely wanted to work with people, and that I was most interested in the neuro studies being carried out.



Master's in Clinical Neuroscience

BSc Psychology



I enjoyed taking advantage of the many opportunities for work experience and volunteering, which allowed me to strengthen my employability and meet some amazing friends.



Emily, *graduate* BSc Psychology

I really enjoyed completing my undergraduate degree at Lancaster University. I have fond memories of sitting together with coursemates between neuroscience lectures, discussing our dissertation topics, and planning out our assignments, as well as enjoying our time on campus together and having study breaks at Pendle Brew.

After graduating from Lancaster in 2023, I enrolled on a two-year MSc course in Speech and Language Therapy in Manchester. I am due to finish this course in the next couple of months and then I have been offered a job to work in the NHS as a newly qualified Speech and Language Therapist.

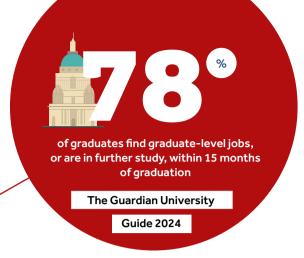
Studying Psychology at Lancaster taught me a lot of theoretical knowledge that underpins my role, but also meant I learnt a lot of essential skills for studying, including data analysis, academic writing and critically analysing research. All of this knowledge has been key for supporting me in my MSc course and allowing me to transition to my full-time job in a few months time.



Speech and Language Therapist

MSc Speech and Therapy

BSc Psychology



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 our psychology degree

- + Communication
- + Literacy
- + Problem solving
- + Interpersonal skills
- + Critical evaluation
- + Information gathering
- + Independent working

To pursue a career in professional psychology such as clinical, educational, or forensic psychology, postgraduate study is essential. A much larger proportion of psychology students choose to pursue other careers whilst still capitalising on the skills and knowledge gained through their degree.

Major employers of our psychology graduates include

- + Local and national government
- + The National Health Service
- + Healthcare organisations
- + Police force, National Probation Service and prisons
- + Schools, sixth form colleges and further education institutions
- + SEN Education
- + Social Services
- + Data Analysis and Insight for retail companies
- + Marketing companies
- + Journalism and the media
- + Commercial and industrial companies
- + Financial organisations
- + Human resources departments
- + The music industry









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The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. 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: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.