

Programme Specification

With effect from: September 2025

A programme specification is the definitive record of your programme of study at the University. It sets out the aims, learning outcomes, and indicative content of the programme. You should read this programme specification alongside the relevant module descriptors and the University's Taught Programme Academic Regulations.

This specification only applies to the delivery of the programme indicated below. The details in this specification are subject to change through the modifications or periodic review processes.

1 Programme name and award

This programme specification relates to the following award(s)

BSc (Hons) Counselling Psychology

2 Aims of the programme

Rationale and general aims, including what is special about this programme

The BSc (Hons) Counselling Psychology programme provides you with a firm grounding in all core areas of psychology, coupled with a focus on Counselling Psychology and the development of employability skills to enable you to be an ethically and socially responsible participant in your community and in your graduate career.

The programme also explores and challenges the historical legacy of psychology. Psychology has, throughout its history, privileged a white Westernised account of human behaviour, leading to the perpetuation of social inequality and social injustice for groups of people not reflected in that privileged view of the world. In tackling these issues through, for example, the inclusion of issues of race and culture in a range of case studies, the programme asks you to consider what role psychology should play in the 21st Century.

The programme aims to:

1. develop your scientific and critical understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, and the complex interactions between these;
2. develop your research skills to allow you to investigate a range of experience and behaviour, including an evaluation of the ethical issues surrounding psychological research and practice;

3. develop your transferable personal, practical and intellectual skills to enable you to confidently pursue a graduate career;
provide you with the British Psychological Society (BPS) Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC), which is the first step towards a career as a Chartered Psychologist.

3 Level Learning Outcomes and Employability Outcomes

Learning outcomes are expressed in terms of:

- Knowledge and understanding (K)
- Intellectual / cognitive / 'thinking' skills (I)
- Practical skills specific to the subject (P)
- Employability skills (E)

We design assessment tasks to enable you to demonstrate the Level Learning Outcomes and relevant Employability Outcomes for your level of study. To a greater or lesser extent, all Level Learning Outcomes at each level of your study are embedded in the assessment task(s) at that level. This means we can take a more integrated view of your overall performance at a level.

To progress to the next level, or to receive an award, you will need to satisfy the Level Learning Outcomes below and relevant Employability Outcomes and achieve credit as per the Taught Programme Academic Regulations.

Level Learning Outcomes	
Level 4	
K1	Foundational knowledge and the beginnings of a critical understanding of the range of core subject areas, including conceptual and historical issues in psychology, as defined by the British Psychological Society, including reference to recent scholarly resources and evidence, and the accurate use of scholarly conventions in so doing.
K2	Foundational knowledge and the beginnings of a critical understanding of specialist areas of psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
K3	Understanding and application of a variety of basic methods of psychological research from design to dissemination, including quantitative and qualitative methods and approaches.
K4	A foundational understanding of the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning, including the contribution of pluralistic influences on this.
K5	A basic understanding of the contribution that psychology can make to the wider community and society and its role in promoting human values of equality and social justice.

I1	Secure use of basic analytical techniques appropriate to psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I2	Begin to evaluate approaches to solving problems in psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I3	A basic understanding and evaluation of ethics and values relevant to the application and practice of psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I4	Communication of results and arguments, with awareness of the needs of the target audience.
I5	The ability to begin to reflect on the relationship between empirical evidence, practical experience and theoretical understanding, and to demonstrate a basic understanding of the limits of knowledge.
I6	The ability to work with others to design, conduct, analyse and report basic empirically based research projects under appropriate supervision, whilst conforming to ethical principles and codes of professional conduct.
I7	The ability to begin to employ psychological knowledge in an integrated way to address real-world problems including, but not limited to, those associated with personal and professional development.
Level 5	
K1	Detailed knowledge and developing critical understanding of the range of core subject areas, including conceptual and historical issues in psychology, as defined by the British Psychological Society, including reference to recent scholarly resources and evidence, and the accurate use of scholarly conventions in so doing.
K2	Detailed knowledge and developing critical understanding of a range of specialist areas of psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
K3	Detailed understanding and application of a variety of methods of psychological research from design to dissemination including complex quantitative and qualitative methods and approaches.
K4	The ability to recognise and understand the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning, including the contribution of pluralistic influences on this.
K5	An understanding of the contribution that psychology can make to the wider community and society and its role in promoting human values of equality and social justice.

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I1	Secure use of complex analytical techniques appropriate to psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I2	A developing evaluation of approaches to solving problems in psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I3	Consideration and evaluation of ethics and values relevant to the application and practice of psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I4	Effective communication of results and arguments, reflecting the needs of the target audience.
I5	The ability to reflect effectively on the relationship between empirical evidence, practical experience and theoretical understanding, and to understand the limits of knowledge.
I6	The ability to work with others to initiate, design, conduct, analyse and report empirically based research projects under appropriate supervision, whilst conforming to ethical principles and codes of professional conduct.
I7	The ability to employ psychological knowledge in an integrated way to address real-world problems including, but not limited to, those associated with personal and professional development.
Level 6	
K1	Detailed knowledge and sophisticated critical understanding of the range of core subject areas, including conceptual and historical issues in psychology, as defined by the British Psychological Society, including reference to recent scholarly resources and evidence, and the accurate use of scholarly conventions in so doing.
K2	Detailed knowledge and sophisticated critical understanding of a range of specialist areas of psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
K3	Critical understanding and application of a variety of methods of psychological research from design to dissemination and analysis, including quantitative and qualitative methods and approaches.
K4	A critical understanding of the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning, including the contribution of pluralistic influences on this.
K5	A critical understanding of the contribution that psychology can make to the wider community and society and its role in promoting human values of equality and social justice.

I1	Secure use of a range of complex analytical techniques appropriate to psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I2	Sophisticated and comprehensive evaluation of approaches to solving problems in psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I3	Sophisticated and comprehensive evaluation of ethics and values relevant to the application and practice of psychology, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of Counselling Psychology.
I4	Sophisticated communication of results and arguments, fully adapted to the needs of the target audience
I5	The ability to reflect on the relationship between empirical evidence, practical experience and theoretical understanding, and to understand the limits of knowledge
I6	The ability to work individually under appropriate supervision, to initiate, design, conduct, analyse and report empirically based research projects whilst conforming to ethical principles and codes of professional conduct.
I7	The ability to employ psychological knowledge in an integrated and sophisticated way to address real-world problems including, but not limited to, those associated with personal and professional development.

Employability Outcomes

Employability skills are embedded and assessed throughout your programme. Therefore, we use a generic set of employability outcomes at all levels of study.

E1	Self-management – the ability to plan and manage time; readiness to accept responsibility and improve their own performance based on feedback/reflective learning; the ability to take initiative and be proactive, flexible and resilient;
E2	Team-working – the ability to co-operate with others on a shared task and to recognise and take on appropriate team roles; leading, contributing to discussions and negotiating; contributing to discussions; awareness of interdependence with others;
E3	Business and sector awareness – an understanding of the key drivers for business success, including the importance of customer/client satisfaction and innovation; understanding of the market/sector in which an organisation operates; the ability to recognise the external context and pressures on an organisation, including concepts such as value for money, profitability and sustainability;

E4	Problem-solving – a capacity for critical reasoning, analysis and synthesis; a capacity for applying knowledge in practice; an ability to retrieve, analyse and evaluate information from different sources;
E5	Communication – the ability to present information clearly and appropriately, both orally and in writing, and to tailor messages to specific audiences and purposes;
E6	Application of numeracy – a general awareness of mathematics and its application in practical contexts; the ability to carry out arithmetic operations and understand data, to read and interpret graphs and tables and to manage a budget;
E7	Application of information technology – the ability to identify and use the appropriate IT package for a given task; familiarity with word-processing, spreadsheets and file management; the ability to use the internet and email effectively;
E8	Entrepreneurship/enterprise – the ability to demonstrate an innovative approach and creativity, to generate ideas and to identify and take opportunities;
E9	Social, cultural & civic awareness – embracement of an ethos of community and civic responsibility; an appreciation of diversity and ethical issues; an understanding of cultures and customs in the wider community.

4 External Benchmarks

Statement of congruence with the relevant external benchmarks

All Leeds Trinity University programmes are congruent with the Framework for HE Qualifications (FHEQ) and, where appropriate, the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) / National Qualification and Credit Framework (NQF).

The programme is congruent with the QAA Benchmark Statement for Psychology (2019) and the curriculum requirements of the British Psychological Society.

5 Indicative Content

Summary of content by theme

Core Areas of Psychology

You will study a curriculum designed to provide a thorough grounding in core domains (biological, cognitive, developmental, individual differences and social psychology), underpinning further study of specialised areas in the final year.

Counselling Psychology

Across the three years of the programme you will learn about the philosophy, history and development of the major theoretical counselling schools, and the skills, knowledge, abilities and personal characteristics required of the counselling psychologist. Building on this understanding, you will explore client issues and problems and the range and efficacy of the therapies available. As you progress, the focus becomes more applied and sets theory and practice within a case-study framework.

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Research Skills

Skills in research and analysis are introduced and developed in the research methods modules in the first two years. This then culminates in an individual research project in the final year in which you will be supervised to design and undertake a small-scale piece of research in an area of your choice.

Professional and Personal Development

The programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

The programme also provides a balanced and career-relevant education for those not seeking a career in psychology. Embedded within the programme are professional skills, including a professional placement in each of the second and third years and the option to undertake a placement or engage in a professional challenge project in the first year. We also focus on assessment methods throughout the programme that help you to develop the kinds of skills that are valued by employers.

Your personal development is supported by your Personal Tutor who you will meet regularly to review your personal development goals and achievements.

6 Programme Structure

Programme Structure – BSC (Hons) Psychology (Single Honours)

Duration	3 years full-time
Total credit rating	360 (180 ECTS)

Level 4 – With effect from: September 2021

Core: You are required to take the following modules

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
PSY4033	Introduction to Counselling Psychology	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY4003	Understanding Human Behaviour	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY4063	Professional Development for Psychologists	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY4073	Introduction to Research Skills for Psychologists	Semester 1 & 2	30

Level 5 – With effect from: September 2022

Core: You are required to take the following modules

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Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
PSY5043	Counselling Psychology in Theory and Practice	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY5033	Mind, Brain and Social Behaviour	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY5083	Psychology Professional Development and Placement	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY5093	Research Skills for Psychologists: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches	Semester 1 & 2	30
Level 6 – With effect from: September 2023			
Core: You are required to take the following modules			
Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
PSY6145	Psychology Research Project	Semester 1 & 2	45
PSY6013	Applied Counselling Psychology	Semester 1 & 2	30
PSY6115	Professional Learning Through Work	Semester 1 & 2	15
Options: You are required to choose 30 credits from the following modules			
Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
PSY6035	Business Psychology	Semester 1	15
PSY6045	Psychology of Mental Health and Distress	Semester 1	15
PSY6165	Illusions, Biases and Cognitive Impairments	Semester 1	15
PSY6075	Critical Psychology	Semester 2	15
PSY6085	Cyberpsychology	Semester 2	15
PSY6155	Environmental Psychology	Semester 2	15
PSY6135	Forensic Psychology	Semester 2	15
PSY6125	Health Behaviour Change in Context	Semester 1	15
PSY6015	Psychology Negotiated Essay	Semester 2	15
PSY6005	Psychobiology of Stress and Illness	Semester 1	15

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PSY6175	Collaborative Insights in Psychology and Culture	Semester 2	15
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7 Pre-requisites

Modules students must study and achieve credit for before enrolling on a module at a higher level, or attaining their final programme award

N/A

8 Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The University's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy informs the design of your programme. You can find more information about learning, teaching and assessment for your programme (including information on Integrated Assessment) within the relevant Assessment Handbooks.

9 Entry requirements

Do the University's standard entry requirements apply?	Yes
Detail of any deviation from and/or addition to the University's standard entry requirements (if applicable)	N/A

10 Additional support needs

Students with disabilities or other support needs are welcome and are expected to be able to participate fully in this programme. Arrangements will be made, via the normal University support systems, to accommodate students with additional support needs wherever possible, with reasonable adjustments made to accommodate individual needs.

Programme-specific requirements / unavoidable restrictions on participation in the programme

N/A

11. Technical Information

Awarding Body / Institution	Leeds Trinity University
Teaching institution	Leeds Trinity University
Parent Faculty	Social Sciences & Education
School	Psychology
Professional accreditation body	British Psychological Society
Final award	BSc (Hons)
Title of programme(s)	Counselling Psychology
Subsidiary award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, Ordinary Degree
Honours type	Single
Duration and mode(s) of study	3 Years Full-Time
Month/year of approval of programme	April 2020
Periodic review due date	2024/25
HECoS subject code(s)	100497 Psychology; 100495 Counselling

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UCAS course code(s)	C8H8
SITS route codes	CNPSYCH
Delivery venue(s)	Leeds Trinity University

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11 Level Learning Outcomes and Employability Outcomes

The grids below demonstrate where Level Learning Outcomes and Employability Outcomes are assessed at module level and ensure that students are assessed in all Level Learning Outcomes at each level of their study. Students might not be assessed in all Employability Outcomes at each level of study. However, all Employability Outcomes will have been assessed by the end the programme.

Level 4 <i>Adjust LO codes as necessary. ↓</i>	Assessed level learning outcomes												Skills development								
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9
Lighter or hatched shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	<i>Foundational knowledge – core areas</i>	<i>Foundational knowledge -specialist areas</i>	<i>Basic methods of research</i>	<i>Understanding diversity</i>	<i>Equality and social justice</i>	<i>Basic analytical techniques</i>	<i>Evaluate problem-solving approaches</i>	<i>Ethics and values</i>	<i>Communication of results and arguments</i>	<i>Understand limits of knowledge</i>	<i>Team-based research</i>	<i>Integrate and apply knowledge</i>	Self-management	Teamworking	Business & sector awareness	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Entrepreneurship / enterprise	Social, cultural & civic awareness
PSY4003 Understanding Human Behaviour																					
PSY4033 Introduction to Counselling Psychology																					
PSY4063 Professional Development for Psychologists																					
PSY4073 Introduction to Research Skills for Psychologists																					

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Level 5	Assessed level learning outcomes												Skills development								
<i>Adjust LO codes as necessary. ↓</i>	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9
Lighter or hatched shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	Detailed knowledge – core areas	Detailed knowledge - specialist areas	Methods of research	Understanding diversity	Equality and social justice	Complex analytical techniques	Evaluate problem-solving approaches	Ethics and values	Communication of results and arguments	Understand limits of knowledge	Team-based research	Integrate and apply knowledge	Self-management	Teamworking	Business & sector awareness	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Entrepreneurship / enterprise	Social, cultural & civic awareness
PSY5003 Mind, Brain and Social Behaviour																					
PSY5043 Counselling Psychology in Theory and Practice																					
PSY5083 Psychology Professional Development and Placement																					
PSY5093 Research Skills for Psychologists: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches																					

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Level 6	Assessed level learning outcomes												Skills development								
<i>Adjust LO codes as necessary. ↓</i>	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9
Lighter or hatched shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	<i>Detailed knowledge – core areas</i>	<i>Detailed knowledge - specialist areas</i>	<i>Methods of research</i>	<i>Understanding diversity</i>	<i>Equality and social justice</i>	<i>Complex analytical techniques</i>	<i>Evaluate problem-solving approaches</i>	<i>Ethics and values</i>	<i>Communication of results and</i>	<i>Understand limits of knowledge</i>	<i>Team-based research</i>	<i>Integrate and apply knowledge</i>	Self-management	Teamworking	Business & sector awareness	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Entrepreneurship / enterprise	Social, cultural & civic awareness
PSY6006 Psychology Research Project																					
PSY6013 Applied Counselling Psychology																					
PSY6115 Professional Learning Through Work																					
PSY6035 Business Psychology																					
PSY6045 Clinical Psychology																					
PSY6165 Illusions, Biases and Cognitive Impairments																					
PSY6075 Critical Psychology																					
PSY6085 Cyberpsychology																					
PSY6155 Environmental Psychology																					
PSY6135 Forensic Psychology																					
PSY6125 Health Behaviour Change in Context																					
PSY6015 Psychology Negotiated Essay																					
PSY6005 Psychobiology of Stress and Illness																					

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PSY6175 Collaborative Insights in Psychology and Culture																						
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