

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Faculty of Biology,
Medicine and Health

POST- GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE BRAIN,
BEHAVIOUR, HEALTH AND WELLBEING



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PSYCHOLOGY



at Manchester

At The University of Manchester, our psychology postgraduate courses have been carefully designed to prepare you for a range of career paths.

Our postgraduate taught courses draw upon our world-leading research and our strong links to global industry.

Whether you're looking to gain specialist skills with a master's or embark on a career in research, you'll quickly develop your capabilities and gain exposure to experiences that will set you apart.

WHY MANCHESTER?

Rich academic history

In 1919 the first full-time professor of psychology in Britain was appointed in Manchester. You will join a longstanding community of pioneers, at a university where 25 Nobel Prize winners have worked or studied.

2nd

The University of Manchester is the second most targeted UK university by graduate employers.

The Graduate Market, 2024

93%

of the University’s research activity was assessed as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally – excellent’ making it one of the best places in the country to build a research career.

REF 2021

Find your specialism

Our postgraduate courses cover an impressive breadth of topics. Whether your passion lies in clinical psychology, forensic psychology, health psychology, neuropsychology or advanced psychological research methods, there’s a course for you at Manchester.

2nd

Social responsibility underpins our research activity. We’re ranked as one of the top ten universities in the world for delivering against the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, 2024

Top city

Manchester is ranked among the best UK cities to live in.

2nd in The Economist’s Global Liveability Index, 2024

Make an impact

Collaborate with, and learn from, leading experts on innovative research. Engage in real-world applications, with potential opportunities for contributions to publications impacting healthcare, charities, and public health bodies.

LIFE-CHANGING RESEARCH



Our researchers collaborate internationally and work alongside the NHS, charities and public health bodies to best serve the community.

By choosing Manchester, you will join a university at the forefront of research discoveries, but what does that mean for you?

- > You'll study in an academic environment that helps brilliant thinkers turn inspiration into reality, encouraging enterprise, experimentation, and creative thinking.
- > Courses are informed by the latest breakthroughs.
- > Learn from world-leading minds with close links to industry and a commitment to making a difference.

We operate across two divisions within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health:

- > Division of Psychology and Mental Health
- > Division of Psychology, Communication and Human Neuroscience

AT THE CORE OF DISCOVERY: RESEARCH GROUPS

Research groups are central to our academic community, driving collaboration, innovation, and deeper exploration of key psychological issues. For postgraduates, these teams offer opportunities to engage in impactful research alongside leading experts. Explore how some of our diverse groups are shaping the future of psychology.



MANCHESTER CENTRE FOR HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (MCHP)

The Manchester Centre for Health Psychology, one of the largest international health psychology centres, explores decision-making and behaviours that affect health, wellbeing and lifestyle choices.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)

THE BODY, EYES AND MOVEMENT LAB

The Body, Eyes and Movement Lab researches how our brains use sensory information, like vision and touch, to create actions and interact with our environment.

FIND OUT MORE →



CHILD STUDY CENTRE

We explore how and when children develop language, communication, and reasoning skills, using methods like observational studies and eye tracking.

FIND OUT MORE →

THE CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Centre for Mental Health and Safety, internationally recognised since 1996, influences UK policy and research to improve patient safety, reduce suicide and self-harm, and combat mental illness stigma.

FIND OUT MORE →



SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION: RECENT INSIGHTS

In addition to these leading groups, our researchers are making significant strides across psychology and beyond. Take a closer look at some recent work shaping our understanding of psychology.



HELPING CHILDREN IN CONFLICT

During the course of her PhD studies at Manchester, Aala El-Khani visited refugee camps in Syria and Turkey. Whilst there she identified a significant and urgent need for families to access parenting support or ‘psychological first aid’. In response, Aala, along with colleagues, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, developed a system of inserting parenting advice leaflets into bread parcels distributed to people living in the conflict zone.

This advice helped families begin to overcome the traumatic events that they experienced, with 3,000 leaflets distributed over three days and a response rate of over 60%.

The leaflet is now being translated to various languages as a possible tool for refugees across Europe. It was uploaded in Swedish and within 45 minutes was downloaded 343 times.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)

TACKLING INEQUALITIES IN MENTAL HEALTH

People of African and Caribbean backgrounds, including those who identify as Black British and Mixed heritage, are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia and related psychoses than other ethnic groups in the UK, but the least likely to access psychological care. Delayed diagnosis and access to care create considerable tension, conflict, and burden on service users’ support networks.

Dawn Edge is Professor of Mental Health and Inclusivity. Her research has led to the development of a low-cost digital alternative to conventional face-to-face therapy for people with mental health disorders. Culturally-adapted Family Intervention (CaFI) is a talking therapy designed together with Black service users, their families and community members and can be delivered by professionals trained to work with families in culturally sensitive ways. CaFI is currently being evaluated in a national study in the NHS.



[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



THE ROLE OF CLIENT CONTROL IN VR EXPOSURE TO SPIDERS

It is well established that uncontrollable adverse experiences lead to increased distress, but the role of client control during psychological interventions such as exposure is less clear.

Research in our cutting-edge VR2 facility aims to use virtual reality and motion-tracking technologies to assess how important it is for someone with a spider phobia to control their own exposure to a spider when trying to face their fears. Should the therapist encourage a client, or should the client go at their own pace? This is an important practical issue for delivering exposure therapies for anxiety, and it has proved hard to test reliably in 'real world' research. Virtual reality provides an ideal environment to answer this question. The VR2 facility is used to create a virtual room containing an animated spider. The spider is designed with some basic artificial intelligence so that the degree to which the participant can control their distance from a spider can be measured accurately, continuously and even manipulated.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)

FROM THE LAB TO THE DANCEFLOOR: THERAPEUTIC DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S

Parkinson's disease affects up to 2% of the population aged over 65, and there is a need for non-medical approaches to improve quality of life for those living with this neurodegenerative condition.

Dance with Parkinson's is a collaboration between the Division of Psychology, Communication and Human Neuroscience and English National Ballet, and explores dance to improve movement and communication for people with Parkinson's disease. Dance could offer an effective and enjoyable option that may be beneficial not only for movement but also in a range of other areas that can be affected in Parkinson's, such as motivation, mood and cognition. Researchers in the Body Eyes and Movement (BEAM) Lab at The University of Manchester investigated action representation in dance and identified improvements in everyday movement and communication for people with Parkinson's.

Findings of this research have been presented both nationally (Parkinson's UK Research Conference) and internationally (Research in Imagery and Observation, Germany; American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, USA).



[FIND OUT MORE →](#)

WHAT IS IT LIKE STUDYING A POSTGRAD COURSE AT MANCHESTER?



GRACE PAYNE

MSc Forensic Psychology
and Mental Health

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)

“The course was the perfect blend of forensic psychology and mental health, covering a wide array of topics such as offending behaviour, psychopathy, and research methods. Now, as I work toward my Stage 2 qualification in Forensic Psychology, I realise just how well the course prepared me for this journey. One of the best aspects of the course was the small cohort size. It made participating in lectures much less intimidating, and our group quickly became a tight-knit community.”

“It felt like the course had been tailored to my interests; I was working with my supervisor and his PhD candidate and carrying out interesting, original research. I finally felt like I was contributing to the creation of new knowledge, stuff that hadn’t been investigated before, and I was loving it.

I started learning to code on a course in R, I built my own website using VSCode, and had the chance to develop my own ideas for research, all whilst learning the skills I would need to take this even further.”



GABRIEL STRAIN

MRes Experimental
Psychology with
Data Science

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Between the Division of Psychology and Mental Health and the Division of Psychology, Communication and Human Neuroscience, we host a wide range of cutting-edge labs. While access to specific equipment may vary depending on your course, there will be exciting opportunities to engage with advanced research facilities during your time at The University of Manchester.

Our extensive facilities include a fully equipped EEG lab, psychology laboratories, eye-tracking and motion-tracking facilities, a fully-furnished and equipped child study centre, and a newly-built state-of-the-art virtual reality suite. We also have excellent links with many health, forensic and social care organisations.

Our campus will also help you get the most out of your studies. The University of Manchester Library is one of only five national research libraries. You can also access the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons 24/7 for flexible study spaces and the latest in learning technology.



WHERE WILL PSYCHOLOGY TAKE YOU?

As a Manchester graduate, your skills will set you apart and prepare you for a world of opportunities. We have strong links with our graduates, who go on to work in a range of careers. Below are some examples of where psychology graduates have progressed onto.

EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

- > **Healthcare:** Clinical settings, hospitals, NHS Trusts, health psychology, and mental health services.
- > **Education:** Academic research and teaching.
- > **Criminal Justice:** Forensic psychology, police services and prison services.
- > **Business and Industry:** Marketing, advertising, human resources, management consulting, consumer psychology and organisational psychology.
- > **Third Sector:** Charities and non-profit organisations offering counselling, mental health advocacy, and community outreach.
- > **Government and Public Sector:** Policy-making and public health services.
- > **Technology:** Data science, cognitive neuroscience, neuropsychology, and research roles in tech-related fields.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- > Clinical Psychologist
- > Forensic Psychologist
- > Health Psychologist
- > Healthcare Consultant
- > HR Manager
- > Market Researcher
- > Occupational Psychologist
- > Data Scientist
- > Management Consultant
- > PhD Researcher
- > Cognitive Neuroscientist
- > Journalism
- > Project Manager
- > Public Engagement Specialist

RECENT RECRUITERS:

- > **Corporate:** Aldi, Deloitte, McLaren Solutions, Lloyds TSB, Nestlé.
- > **Consulting:** Mott MacDonald, CAPP & Co, Saville Consulting, Impact Consulting Psychologists.
- > **Healthcare:** NHS, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, NICE.
- > **Public Sector:** Police, HM Prison and Probation Service.

COURSES

MASTER’S COURSES

- > [Approved Mental Health Professional Practice \(PGCert\)](#)
- > [Clinical and Health Psychology \(MSc\)](#)
- > [Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology \(MRes\)](#)
- > [Experimental Psychology with Data Science \(MRes\)](#)
- > [Forensic Psychology and Mental Health \(MSc\)](#)
- > [Health Psychology \(MSc\)](#)
- > [Neuroimaging for Clinical & Cognitive Neuroscience \(MSc\)](#)

* This is a post-qualification doctorate and is only open to those already registered with the HCPC.

PHD WITH INTEGRATED MASTER’S

If you’re planning to undertake a PhD after this master’s, our Integrated PhD programme will enable you to combine this postgraduate taught course with a related PhD project. [Learn more about a Integrated PhD programme.](#)

TAUGHT DOCTORATES

- > [Clinical Psychology \(ClinPsyD\)](#)
- > [Forensic Psychology \(DForenPsy\)*](#)

OTHER RELATED COURSES

- > [Business Psychology \(MSc\)](#)
- > [Organisational Psychology \(MSc\)](#)
- > [Psychology of Education \(MEd\)](#)

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Develop your skills in psychology through our continuing professional development CPD courses. Our CPD course units and workshops draw on the expertise of some of the UK’s most respected academics, clinicians and health professionals.

[Psychology CPD at Manchester](#)



PSYCHOLOGY AT MANCHESTER

VISIT OUR COURSE PAGE AND DISCOVER MORE ABOUT
OUR PSYCHOLOGY POSTGRADUATE COURSES. →



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DISCLAIMER

This prospectus was updated in March 2025. It has therefore been produced in advance of course starting dates. As such, for a number of reasons, course information, including, for example, details of course content, unit availability and/or published term dates, may be amended either prior to or after you apply for a place on a course.

All information relating to tuition fees and funding is correct at the time of publication. However, this may change for a number of reasons, including if there is a change to government policy.