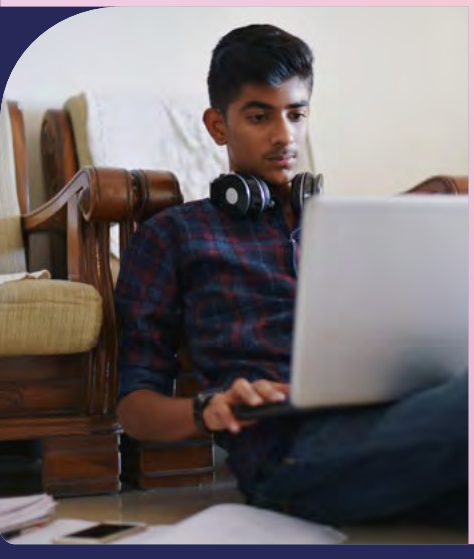




Your 2025/2026

Psychology and Counselling Prospectus

The Open University

The future is open



The future is open

There's no limit to what you can achieve with The Open University. Unlock a world of possibilities – wherever you are and wherever you want to go.

- Gain a globally recognised, high-quality university education.
- Develop the skills and confidence employers are looking for.
- Get a step closer to your dream career.
- Explore your passion and what you're capable of.
- Start the next chapter in your learning journey.

Over two million people have already transformed their futures with us. Now it's your turn.



Welcome to the home of distance and online learning

Achieve a career-boosting qualification with the experts in bringing university to you. For over 50 years, we've pioneered a more flexible way to learn and are a world leader in high-quality distance education.

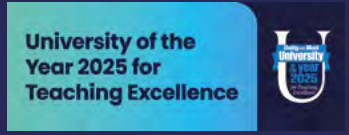
Studying with the OU means you have the freedom to achieve a respected university qualification on your terms. You can learn whenever suits you, fitting study around your job, family, and social life. Plus, you'll get expert support from a dedicated tutor at every step, free careers advice, and be part of the UK's biggest student community.

When it comes to course quality, you'll be learning from the best. Named 'University of the Year for Teaching Excellence 2025' (Daily Mail University Guide), we're proud to be globally recognised for our teaching and part of an elite group of universities to achieve overall Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework. So whatever your goals, we're here to help you make them a reality.

Reasons to choose the OU

- Tried and trusted – join the largest UK university for undergraduate education.
- Boost your career – 87% of our alumni say studying with us helped them achieve their career goals.
- Reach your potential – we produce more CEOs and managing directors than any other UK university.
- Invest in your future – we're rated as one of the top three universities for employability and can support you with careers guidance, networking and more.
- Learn and earn – 69% of our students are already in work, balancing their careers with their studies.
- Gain a qualification employers respect – 72% of FTSE 100 companies have sponsored their staff to study with us.
- Be inspired – our amazing academics power the latest co-productions with the BBC – including *Forensics: The Real CSI*, *Bad People*, the Radio 4 programme *All in the Mind* and Sir David Attenborough's iconic nature series *Planet Earth*.







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University that works for you

Our courses are designed to flex around your life, so you can study in a way that suits you best. It's just one of the reasons why we're the most popular university for undergraduate students in the UK.

Learn on your terms

OU study is truly flexible. You can access your course materials 24/7 and study anytime, anywhere you like.

You'll also have the support of a dedicated tutor, plus our student support and careers teams are ready to guide you as soon as you start studying.

- Decide when and where you learn.
- Fit study around the rest of your life.
- Fund your studies in a way that suits you.
- Keep on earning while you learn.

Learn from the best

You'll have access to top-quality course materials and be taught by our network of more than 4,500 expert tutors, who are subject specialists. Many combine their teaching work with academic or industry roles, which means you'll receive teaching that's innovative and inspired by the latest insights.

Spark your imagination

See your favourite subjects brought to life with the latest in learning innovation. From textbooks to virtual learning environments, from home experiments to award-winning state-of-the-art remote labs, you'll study using a variety of digital and physical resources. So however you learn best, we'll keep you inspired.

Additional study support

Did you know we support more disabled students than any other UK university? We'll provide access to tools and guidance, and ensure you get the appropriate level of support to make the best of your studies.

Connect with like-minded students

There are lots of ways to connect with our active student community, including online discussion groups and tutorials. You can also connect with us on social media or join one of the many informal social media groups set up by OU students.

When you register, you'll become a member of our Students Association. It's a great way to meet other students, take part in societies and help influence University decisions. See how to get involved at **oustudents.com**.

Get social with us

@OUstudents

@OUstudents

@OUstudentslive

> OU study has changed me as a person. It's made me realise that you can actually do anything you want to.

Misty Crew
OU graduate

How do we compare with other universities?

An OU qualification is just as rigorous and respected as one from a campus-based university and is highly valued by employers. What's different is that the OU gives you the flexibility to study around your job or other commitments.

Bringing university to you, wherever you are

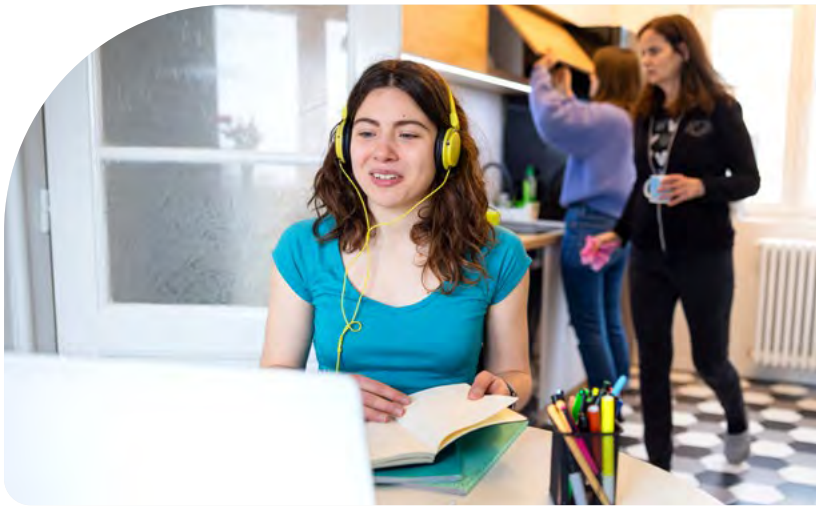
We've continuously developed our teaching methods for over 50 years so that you can fit a high-quality university education around your busy life.

We're dedicated to giving you the very best experience and are proud to be recognised for our teaching – we're the *Daily Mail* University of the Year for Teaching Excellence and were awarded overall Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

We're respected by employers

An OU qualification is globally recognised and will give you the skills and confidence employers look for. Research shows that employers rate OU students as being work-ready, adaptable and self-starters – qualities that can help your CV to stand out from the crowd.

You can study around work and put what you learn into practice immediately, helping you to boost your career prospects long before you graduate. Plus, we'll help you to plan ahead with free careers advice, resources and networking opportunities as soon as you become an OU student.



We're open to all

We believe that with the right support, preparation and guidance, many people are capable of succeeding in higher education. That's why there are no formal entry requirements for most of our undergraduate courses.

Looking for postgraduate study? Find out the entry requirements at **openuniversity.co.uk/pg-ready**.

We're a thriving community

You'll be part of one of the most diverse, dynamic and inclusive student communities. Whatever your goals, we're here to help and champion you to fulfil your ambition.

More than 195,000 students study with us each year. Come and join them.

Get to know us

Find out what you can expect as an OU student.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/learning**



Qualifications to suit you

With over 200 courses to choose from, whatever your goal, it's possible with The Open University. You can study towards a degree or start with a certificate or diploma and build on your studies as you go.

Undergraduate

Certificate of higher education

Get a general grounding or improve your understanding of a subject area.

Diploma of higher education

Expand your knowledge and improve your skill set in a specialised area.

Foundation degree

Focus on a subject related to what you're doing now, in either paid or voluntary work.

Named degree

Complete modules in a specific subject to earn an honours degree and open doors to a new career or interest.

Open degree

Design your own honours degree and include modules from different subject areas to suit your needs and interests.

Postgraduate

Postgraduate certificate

Ideal for professional and career development, this is the first step towards a masters degree as well as being a valuable qualification in its own right.

Postgraduate diploma

Work towards a widely recognised qualification equivalent to two-thirds of a masters degree.

Masters degree

Study modules towards an internationally respected qualification while gaining specialist academic, professional, or technical skills.

Discover your ideal course

Find the course to match your ambition.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/course-types**

Achieve your goals with us

We've been helping people like you realise their potential since 1969. Meet some of the incredible OU students and graduates who have used their studies to transform their futures.

There's lots of pressure to follow the same path as everyone else, but it's not the only way. The OU has helped me to achieve my career goals and given me the freedom to make my own decisions.

Eileanoir Blair
OU graduate



As a working mum, I knew that physically attending university wasn't possible – the OU is the perfect solution. I can get on with my life while I complete my studies.

Chido Manyande
OU student



I left school with few qualifications and, thanks to the OU, I'm on course to be a lawyer with a job offer from one of the best law firms in the world!

Thomas Barry
OU student



My career progression has been amazing – OU study equipped me for a successful career; I'd recommend it to anyone. If a CV came across my desk from someone with an OU degree, it would stand out straight away.

James Bransgrove
OU graduate



Chat with OU students

Find out more about the OU study experience by talking to some of our current students.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ask-a-student**



Welcome to Psychology and Counselling

Our School of Psychology and Counselling is the UK's largest provider of university-level education in psychology. Here you'll be introduced to various approaches to research and learn about the scientific study of the human mind, behaviour and people in social contexts.

Studying Psychology and Counselling with us will allow you to:

- **become eligible to claim the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership on completion of one of our BPS-accredited degrees**
- **develop essential transferable work-related skills, including problem solving, critical thinking and reasoning, statistical analysis and research methods**
- **apply your learning to real-world problems and situations, such as criminal investigations, race and gender equality, relationships and therapy.**

You'll benefit from expertise across a range of different faculties, as members of the School work in close collaboration with academics in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, and the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Undergraduate

At undergraduate level, we offer a range of certificates, diplomas, a foundation degree and honours degrees.

Four of our qualifications are BPS-accredited single honours degrees:

- Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Psychology with Counselling.

the british psychological society accredited

You can also study psychology in combination with another subject, such as criminology or philosophy.

Diplomas and certificates of higher education are available both exclusively in psychology, and in combination with some other subjects such as criminology.

Our counselling degree has been developed in consultation with accredited awarding bodies and has been designed to cover 'Therapist B' competencies according to the SCoPEd framework.

A Foundation Degree and Diploma of Higher Education in Counselling are also available where you build on your previous training from the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB).

Please note some psychology and counselling module content addresses sensitive topics which might be upsetting.

It has been a lifelong dream to have a higher education degree. The OU allowed me the flexibility of having higher education without compromising on quality. Learning with the OU has given me more confidence in my knowledge and in my life. It has been a life-changing experience.

Ferny Suhandi
BSc (Hons) Social Psychology

Postgraduate

At postgraduate level, we offer three MSc degrees and one postgraduate certificate: the MSc in Psychology includes cognitive, social, forensic and counselling psychology, and the MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies, where you'll examine real-life criminal cases as you learn about a broad range of forensic psychology topics. Our Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Psychological Inquiry can be the starting point for either of these masters degrees.

If you've completed an undergraduate honours degree and are seeking an accredited programme of study to support your career goals, our MSc in Psychology (Conversion) offers Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society.

Credible qualifications, valued by employers

Achieving Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of British Psychological Society (BPS) is the first step towards the professional qualifications required to become a Chartered Psychologist. Four of our undergraduate honours degrees and the MSc in Psychology (Conversion) are accredited to provide this.

While studying BPS-approved Psychology qualifications you can become a BPS student member, which helps with networking and keeping up to date with changes within the profession.

The MSc in Psychology and MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies offer the opportunity to develop critical appraisal skills in evaluating psychological research and practice, as well as your ability to clearly communicate to different audiences.

Our Counselling qualifications will help you to develop as a professional counsellor. By the end of your studies, and with appropriate practice, supervision and personal development, you should be able to apply for accreditation with a number of professional bodies, such as the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Boost your career prospects

The Psychology and Counselling qualifications build vital skills and attributes that employers value very highly, such as collaboration, digital literacy, analysis, initiative and self-awareness. Whether or not you later choose to pursue postgraduate vocational training as a practitioner psychologist or counsellor, studying these subjects can also be the first step towards exciting job opportunities, postgraduate study and vocational training in a range of professional areas, such as:

- market and social research and data analysis
- mental health, third sector and community support roles
- guidance and advisory roles
- marketing communications and public relations
- psychotherapy and counselling
- policing roles
- youth services, teaching and social work
- human resources, recruitment, selection, management and training roles.

You're on your way

Take the next step by reading more about how you'll study, how long it takes and the support you'll receive.



Building your qualification

Undergraduate

You don't need to commit to a full degree. We offer certificates, diplomas and foundation degrees too. Each qualification is valuable in its own right, so you can complete a certificate and stop there or use it as a stepping stone to a diploma or degree.

You'll need to build up credits to gain your qualification. Here's how it works:

Stages

You'll need to complete:

- one stage for a certificate of higher education
- two stages for a diploma of higher education or foundation degree
- three stages for an honours degree.

To complete each stage, you must build up a set number of credits.

Credits

- You'll need at least 120 credits to complete each stage.
- You gain credits by passing modules.

Modules

- With each module you pass, you'll earn a set number of credits, usually 30 or 60.
- Modules are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Access module[1]
An optional module to build your confidence and prepare you for further study.

Stage 1

To complete Stage 1, you'll need 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

120 credits

Certificate of higher education

Stage 2

To complete Stage 2, you'll need a further 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

240 credits

Diploma of higher education or foundation degree

Stage 3

To complete Stage 3, you'll need a further 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

360 credits

Honours degree

[1] Only available in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How does it work?

Watch our quick guide on how credits work and how you can build your undergraduate qualification.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-qual**

Postgraduate

Postgraduate qualifications are made up of credits.

You'll need:

- 60 credits to gain a postgraduate certificate
- 180 credits to gain a masters degree.

You build up credits by passing modules. These are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Getting started

All you need to do is choose your qualification and register for a module that counts towards that qualification.

Pattern A
MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies, MSc in Psychology

60 credits at postgraduate level.

Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Psychological Inquiry

A further 120 credits at postgraduate level, totalling **180 credits**.

Masters degree

Pattern B
MSc in Psychology (Conversion)

90 credits at postgraduate level.

A further 90 credits at postgraduate level, totalling **180 credits**.

Masters degree



Learn more

Find out more about postgraduate study at the OU.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/pg-qual**

Prepare for study with an Access module

No matter your background or study experience, we're here to help you succeed. That's why we offer a choice of starting points depending on how confident you are in your study skills.

You can dive straight into a qualification or if you want to try out university study or feel you need to learn how to get back into studying again, an Access module could be a great first step. It can also help you find out more about your interests and where you want your learning to take you.

Not sure where to begin? Find the best starting point for you by visiting **openuniversity.co.uk/ready**.

Access modules are only available to residents of the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How Access modules work

Each week you'll work through a mix of online and printed module materials, including online quizzes and written assignments. At the end, you'll demonstrate your learning by completing a final written assignment. There's no exam.

You'll have a dedicated tutor who'll provide academic support via email and one-to-one phone tutorials. Your Student Support Team will be on hand to help with everything else, from study advice to guidance on fees and funding.

Access modules start in February and October and typically require around nine or ten hours of study per week over 30 weeks. In February and May, we also offer a fast-track option which allows you to complete your module in 18 weeks by increasing your weekly study time.

What you need

You'll need a phone and a computer with internet access. You'll get access to your module website, and your books and other printed materials will be posted to you.

Visit our website for more information on what you'll need for your chosen course.

What you can study

Each Access module explores key topics and develops the skills you'll need as you continue your chosen qualification.

***Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module* (Y034)**

Explore some of our most popular subjects such as psychology, childhood and youth, early years, health and social wellbeing, sport, education, and social sciences. Each area is introduced and explained at a gentle pace, perfect if you want to get to grips with something new.

Also available as *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module: fast-track* (YXFT034)

We offer three other Access modules, which are more relevant to other subject areas:

- *Arts and languages Access module* (Y031) – also available as *Arts and languages Access module: fast track* (YXFT031)
- *Business and law Access module* (Y035) – also available as *Business and law Access module: fast track* (YXFT035) from February 2026.
- *Science, technology and maths Access module* (Y033) – also available as *Science, technology and maths Access module: fast-track* (YXFT033).



You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability of places, you could study your Access module for free.

To qualify, you must:

- be resident in the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man) or have a British Forces Post Office address and
- meet the income threshold criteria, for more information visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access**, and
- have not completed one year or more on any full-time undergraduate programme at FHEQ or CQFW level 4/ SCQF level 7 or above, and not completed 30 credits or more of OU study.

Once you've started the registration process, we'll contact you about your payment options. This will include instructions on applying to study for free if you are eligible and funded places are still available.

How much does an Access module cost?

The cost depends on where you are resident. If you live in:

- England, it's £973
- the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, it's £1,023
- Ireland, it's £917
- Northern Ireland, it's £310
- Scotland, it's £318
- Wales, it's £328.

You can pay upfront by debit or credit card or by bank transfer. You can also spread the cost with an Open University Student Budget Account – there's more about this on page 21.

If you're studying an Access module as part of an OU qualification and you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you could cover the cost with a student loan – for more information, see pages 18–19

> If you haven't studied before, do an Access module. It gives you a chance to get a view of the subjects, and it will certainly help going forward.

Steven Sutherland
OU student

Students who start with an Access module are more likely to be successful when they advance to their next course.

Learn more about Access modules

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access**

How long your qualification will take

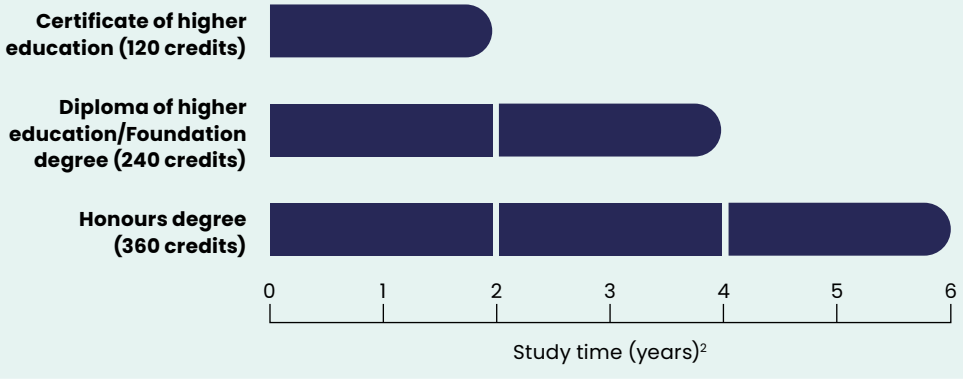
We give you the flexibility to choose the amount of study you want to take on each year. That means you can get the qualification you want in a timeframe that works for you.

Undergraduate qualifications

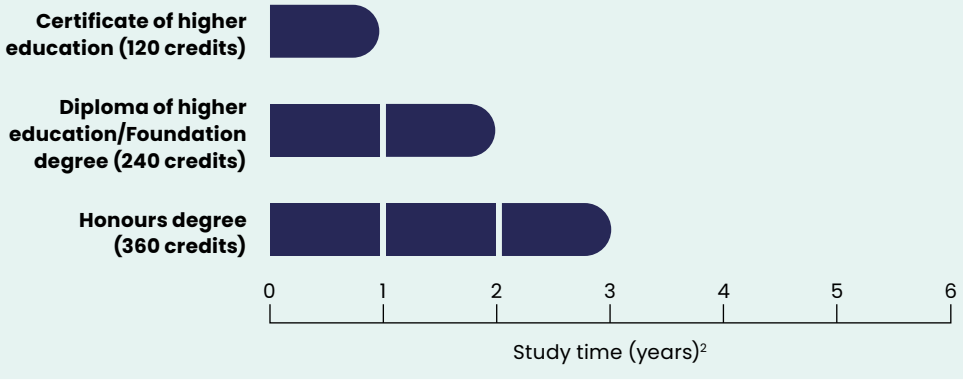
How long it will take to gain your qualification depends on the course you've chosen and the amount of credits you study each year. Studying 60 credits a year is half the rate of a full-time course at a campus-based university. To complete your studies at a pace equivalent to full-time, you'll need to gain 120 credits per year.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.[1]

Part-time study | 60 credits a year | 16–18 study hours a week



Full-time study[3] | 120 credits a year | 32–36 study hours a week



[1] Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.
[2] Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.
[3] All OU students are considered part-time students. This remains the same even if you study at a pace that's equivalent to full-time.

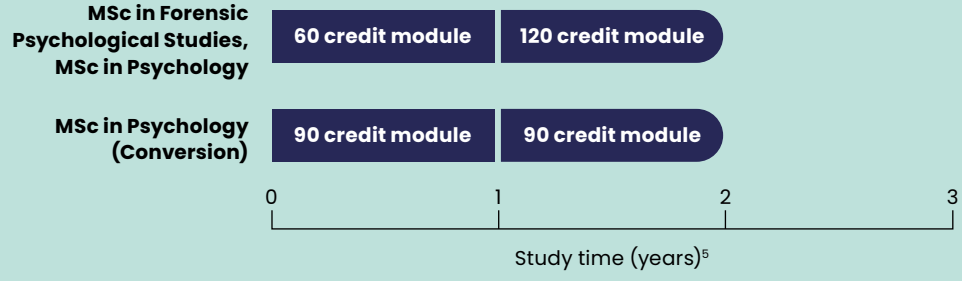
Postgraduate qualifications

The time it takes to get your qualification depends on how it's structured and the number of credits required. All of our postgraduate courses are offered as part-time study, and the typical timescales for individual module completion are shown below.

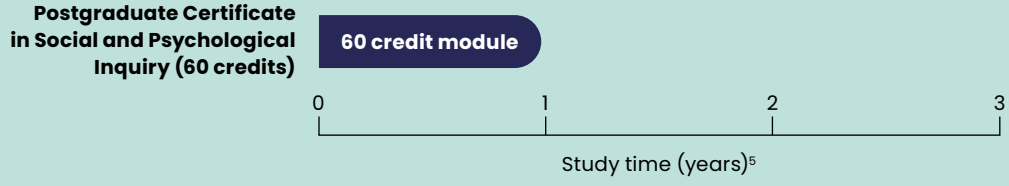
- 60 credit module – nine months.
- 90 credit module – ten months.
- 120 credit module – twelve months.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.[4]

Part-time study | 20–25 study hours a week
Masters degrees (180 credits)



Part-time study | 60 credits a year | 20 study hours a week



[4] Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.
[5] Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you could count this study towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer** to find out more.

Plan your time

Find out more about the time you need to study.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/time**



Supporting you to succeed

You're never alone when you're studying with The Open University. You'll be part of our global community of students, expert tutors and advisers, all ready to help you get the most out of your journey.

For each module, you'll have a dedicated tutor who'll be your first point of contact for any queries. They'll lead regular tutorials, mark your assignments, provide detailed written feedback, and give study support through email, online, or over the phone. Expert advisers from your Student Support Team can help with any other support needs you experience as an OU student.

Our Students Association, OU Community forums and range of societies and groups mean you're connected to one of the UK's largest student communities.

Your Students Association awaits

The Open University Students Association is a lot like a student union. It's run by students, for students, and can help you make the most of your OU experience. You'll automatically become a member and there's no fee. Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

- Find like-minded students by joining a club, society or support group.
- Meet other students online or at an in-person meet-up near you.
- Take part in our Welcome events where you'll meet other members of the OU community.
- Volunteer or become a student representative to have your say.

Your Association is led by a team of elected students and is supported by hundreds more, all dedicated to creating a wonderful community and representing all OU students.

To find out more, visit **oustudents.com**.

OU Students ASSOCIATION

> There is a community at The Open University. Everyone supports each other. One tutor that really inspired me was Michael. His words of encouragement gave me a confidence boost. My grades just kept on improving and improving.

Joe Acaye
OU student

Join our community

Find out more about how you'll be supported during your studies.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/community**

How you'll learn

With regular tutorials and an online hub to manage your studies, you'll have everything you need to succeed.

Once you've registered, you'll have access to StudentHome where you'll be able to:

- see an overview of your course and the modules you're studying
- submit your assignments
- visit our Help Centre
- access your virtual learning environment
- choose and enrol on your next module.

The virtual learning environment or 'module website' contains all the online study resources you'll need, including:

- a week-by-week study planner
- an assessment section, giving details of your assignments and their due dates
- the tutorial booking system
- your online tutorial room
- module forums where you can discuss topics with other students and complete collaborative work
- PDF and accessible formats of your module materials and resources.



Our assessment methods

Depending on your course, we'll use a blend of written assignments, oral and practical assessments, projects, exams, dissertations and portfolios. For more on assessments, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/assessment**.

What you need

To study with us, you'll need:

- a computer with internet access. If you haven't got access to one right now, you could receive financial support to help buy one
- a basic level of digital skills, such as using a web browser or working with documents and applications. Find out more about the computing skills you'll need, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/computer-skills**
- a good grasp of the English language. We teach our courses in English. If you're not sure whether your English is at the right level, go to **openuniversity.co.uk/englishlanguage** for help and guidance.

Nearly there

Read on to discover more about how we can help you fund your studies and the qualifications you could achieve.

Undergraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, so you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN ENGLAND

Credits each year	Cost per year[1]
60	£3,892
120	£7,784

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £23,352.

[1] 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. In England, fees are subject to the part-time fee limit, as set out in section 5 of the University's Fee Rules (openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules).

FOR THOSE LIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year[2]
60	£1,240
120	£2,480

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,440.

[2] 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN SCOTLAND

Credits each year	Cost per year[3]
60	£1,272
120	£2,544

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,632.

[3] 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN WALES

Credits each year	Cost per year[4]
60	£1,312
120	£2,624

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,872.

[4] 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year[5]
60	£3,666
120	£7,332

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £21,996.

[5] 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THE UK AND IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year[6]
60	£4,092
120	£8,184

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £24,552.

[6] 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Our module fees include your module materials, tuition, assessment, and exams. However, there are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.
- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction books or a language dictionary.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, there may be an additional cost. You'll also need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan
The best way to fund your undergraduate studies, regardless of age or income, might be with a student loan. In fact, 85% of OU students in England fund their studies this way.

Key facts

- You don't have to pay anything upfront. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £25,000.
- Repayments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- You can pay off the loan early without any penalties.
- Any balance outstanding will be written off after 40 years.

Here's how your monthly student loan repayments could look:

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment[7]
Up to £25,000	£0
£27,000	£15.00
£30,000	£37.50

[7] Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £25,000. For example, if you earn £27,000, you'll repay £180 that year (9% of £2,000). That's just £15.00 per month.

Already have an undergraduate degree?
You may still qualify for a student loan. You just need to be living in England or Wales and looking to study an eligible qualification.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Grant
You could be eligible for up to £1,230 a year. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan
If you're not eligible for the grant, or if it doesn't cover the full cost of your tuition fees, you can pay in full or in part using an alternative payment method, such as a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan.

Course Grant
You may also be eligible for a non-repayable Course Grant of up to a maximum of £265 a year. It's intended to help with course-related costs, such as a computer, internet access or stationery.

SCOTLAND

Part-Time Fee Grant
You could qualify for a Part-Time Fee Grant and top-up funding to cover 100% of your course fees. You're likely to be eligible if your personal income is £25,000 or less, or you're on certain benefits, and you're studying at least 30 credits a year. The fee grant and top-up funding aren't loans, so you won't need to pay any of it back.

WALES

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan
The best way to fund your undergraduate studies, regardless of age or income, might be with a student loan. In fact, 80% of OU students in Wales fund their studies this way.

Key facts

- You don't have to pay anything upfront. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £27,295.
- Repayments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- You can pay off the loan early without any penalties.
- Any balance outstanding will be written off after 30 years.

Here's how your monthly student loan repayments could look:

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment[8]
Up to £27,295	£0
£29,000	£12.79
£34,000	£50.29

[8] Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £27,295. For example, if you earn £29,000, you'll repay £153.45 that year (9% of £1,705). That's just £12.79 per month.

Already have an undergraduate degree?
You may still qualify for a student loan. You just need to be living in Wales and looking to study an eligible qualification.

Maintenance grants
You could be eligible for up to £4,500 a year to help with living costs. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Maintenance loans
You'll also be eligible to apply for a non-means-tested maintenance loan, should you need it, to 'top-up' the financial support you've received from grants.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for student loan or grant funding, or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan
Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See page 21 for more information.

Card payments
Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments
Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Care Experienced Scholarship[9]
If you have been in the care of a Local Authority at any stage of your life and are 30 or under, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Carers' Scholarship Fund[9]
If you are, or have recently been, an unpaid carer, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Disabled Students' Allowance[9]
You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund[9]
If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship
Your employer could partially or fully pay your module fees.

Sanctuary Scholarship[9]
If you've been displaced from your homeland for political, economic, ethnic, environmental, or human rights pressures, you could be eligible to study for free.

Scholarship for Black Students[9]
If you identify as being from a Black background, you could study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Study-related costs[9]
If you're on a low household income or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

[9] UK residents only.

Find out more

Find out more about undergraduate fees and funding.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees**
Call **0300 303 5303**

Postgraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, which means you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront. To find the total fee for your qualification, visit our website.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Your module materials, tuition, assessment and exams are all included in our module fees.

There are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.
- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction or theory books.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, you'll need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND AND WALES

Postgraduate loan
You could be eligible for a maintenance loan of up to £12,858 from Student Finance England or up to £19,255 from Student Finance Wales.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- The money is paid directly to you.
- You'll get your first instalment after you've paid for your first module and started studying.
- Payments are spread across two or three years.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £21,000).
- You'll repay 6% of your income over £21,000. So, for example, if you earn £25,000, you'll repay only £240 that year (6% of £4,000). That's just £20 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- Any balance outstanding after 30 years is written off.

To be eligible you must:

- be resident in England or Wales
- be under 60 years old
- be studying a masters degree that can be completed in no more than three years
- not currently have a masters degree or equivalent
- be studying your qualification from the beginning.

NORTHERN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

Postgraduate loan
You could be eligible for a tuition fee loan of up to £6,500 from Student Finance Northern Ireland or up to £7,000 from the Student Awards Agency Scotland.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- There's no upper age limit.
- Payments are spread over the duration of your studies.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £24,990 in Northern Ireland and £31,395 in Scotland).
- You'll repay 9% of your income over the threshold – so, for example, if you earn £35,000 and live in Scotland, you'll repay only £324.45 that year (9% of £3,605). That's just £27 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.

To be eligible, you must be:

- resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland
- studying for an eligible postgraduate qualification.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for loan or grant funding or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan
Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See right for more information.

Card payments
Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments
Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Disabled Students' Allowance[1]
You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund[1]
If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship
Your employer could partially or fully pay for your module fees.

Grant funding
We offer access to a database of over 600 non-OU funding bodies offering grants for postgraduate students studying for or looking to study a masters, PGCE, or research degree.

OU bursaries[1]
If you've already completed an OU undergraduate degree, you could receive a bursary to help lower the cost of your postgraduate study.

Study related costs[1]
If you're on a low household income, or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

[1] UK residents only.

Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA)

Some students fund their studies through a loan from OUSBA. You'll be offered this option when you register with us, as long as you're a resident of the UK, European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, or Vatican City State.

Here's how it works
OUSBA will pay your fees to The Open University. You can then choose to repay OUSBA:

- in a single sum before your course starts. There's no interest to pay with this option
- in monthly instalments of up to a year. With this option, interest does apply.

The interest rate is fixed for the duration of the course (representative APR 5.1%).

If you're worried about affordability or a poor credit history, you can apply for a joint loan application with a third party. This could be with a partner, sibling or friend, for example.

As a responsible lender, OUSBA carries out affordability checks as part of the application process.

To find out more about OUSBA, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ousba**.

Find out more

Find out more about postgraduate fees and funding.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees**
Call **0300 303 5303**



Find your undergraduate course

Degrees with British Psychological Society accreditation

BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07)	24
BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology (Q82)	26
BSc (Hons) Social Psychology (Q83)	28
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling (Q84)	30

Other qualifications that include psychology

BA (Hons) Social Sciences (Psychology) (R23)	32
BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Psychology (Q67)	34
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Counselling

BSc (Hons) Counselling (R86)	40
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Open degree

BA/BSc (Hons) Open (QD)	44

What is British Psychological Society accreditation?

The British Psychological Society (BPS) sets out requirements for psychology degrees that it accredits as the first part of training to become a professional psychologist. These include specific subject areas that must be studied, training in research methods and the completion of independent empirical work at OU level 3.

If your career plans include becoming a professional psychologist, which may require further training at postgraduate level, then you should choose a BPS-accredited degree.

If you've completed an undergraduate honours degree, our MSc in Psychology (Conversion) offers Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the BPS.



BSc (Hons) Psychology

As psychology is the study of the mind and human behaviour, it touches every aspect of our lives. This degree explores key questions around why we do the things we do and how we interact with others.

You'll explore how psychologists use research evidence to contribute to debates around issues in criminal justice , mental health, personal relationships, child development, employment and much more.

You'll gain knowledge and understanding of different areas of psychology, develop valuable analytical and communication skills, and enhance your ability to work both independently and collaboratively. This will put you in a strong position when it comes to employment opportunities.

Why this qualification?

- Build your knowledge and understanding of a broad range of core topics in psychology.
- Focus on your own areas of interest, such as child psychology, counselling, forensic psychology, mental health, or sports psychology.
- Gain valuable analytical and communication skills that help to enhance your employability.
- Develop your ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
- Can be the first step towards professional accreditation as a psychologist.

Accreditation

This degree is designed to deliver the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS). To be eligible for GBC, you must achieve a 2:2 or higher.

the british psychological society
accredited

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology (W45)
openuniversity.co.uk/w45

Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology (T22)
openuniversity.co.uk/t22

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

You'll choose one from:

Exploring psychological worlds: thinking, feeling, doing (D110) (60 credits)
Introducing the social sciences (DD102) (60 credits)
Introduction to childhood studies and child psychology (E104) (60 credits)

Encountering psychology in context (D120) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology (T22)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

You'll choose one from a selection of psychology modules – go to openuniversity.co.uk/q07

Investigating psychology 2 (DE200) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology (W45)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

You'll choose one from a selection of psychology modules, go to openuniversity.co.uk/q07

Investigating psychology 3 (DE300) (60 credits)

BSc (Hons) Psychology

Option modules
Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q07

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Optional

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q07
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology

What makes people harm others? What is a psychopath? How can victims of crime be helped? Forensic psychology explores these and other relevant questions relating to psychology, crime and justice.

This degree begins by providing a broad understanding of the core areas of psychology and progresses through a range of applied psychology topics before focusing on counselling and forensic psychology. You'll also have the opportunity to undertake a forensically orientated research dissertation in the final module.

By completing this degree, you'll gain a practical understanding of psychology as well as advanced analytical and communication skills, while enhancing your ability to work both independently and collaboratively. All of which will prove invaluable to your career development.

Why this qualification?

- Covers key concepts, theories, methods and debates in forensic psychology.
- Gives you an appreciation of different perspectives within psychology and the ability to evaluate them critically.
- Builds advanced analytical and communication skills and enhances your employability.
- Relevant to careers in the criminal justice system, the care and resettlement of offenders, victim support, crime prevention and social justice.

Please note that to practise as a forensic psychologist requires postgraduate-level training.

Accreditation

This degree is designed to deliver the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS). To be eligible for GBC you must achieve a 2:2 or higher.

the british psychological society
accredited

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Exploring psychological worlds: thinking, feeling, doing* (D110) (60 credits) OR *Introducing the social sciences* (DD102) (60 credits)
- *Encountering psychology in context* (D120) (60 credits)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Living psychology: from the everyday to the extraordinary* (DD210) (60 credits)
- *Investigating psychology 2* (DE200) (60 credits)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Counselling and forensic psychology: investigating crime and therapy* (DD310) (60 credits)
- *Investigating psychology 3* (DE300) (60 credits)

BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology

Option modules
Compulsory modules
Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q82

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Optional

Meet our academics

Professor of Psychology Catriona Havard's main focus of research is facial recognition. Her eyewitness research has led to the development of new techniques to reduce the false identification rates that can lead to wrongful convictions. Even hairstyles can make more of an impact than we realise. Her recent research indicates that hair might be an important cue for unfamiliar face-matching tasks and can influence own-race bias in facial identification.

Learn more about Catriona's work at **openuniversity.co.uk/facial-recognition-research**.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q82
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Social Psychology

In this degree, you'll consider how social psychology can be applied to contemporary life. You'll explore psychology more broadly, gaining insights into people's behaviour.

Why do good people do bad things? What does it mean to be a good citizen? What role do digital technologies play in our relationships? How have gender identities changed? And has globalisation made people across the world more similar, or do old differences persist? You'll examine these and many other important psychological questions about the relationship between individual psychology and the complex social world.

The Open University has a long-standing reputation for cutting-edge research in social psychology. You'll draw on this research strength to consider debates on a wide range of social issues, including equality, prejudice, migration, and happiness and well-being.

And you'll learn how psychology is critical to understanding employment, mental health, and relationships.

Why this qualification?

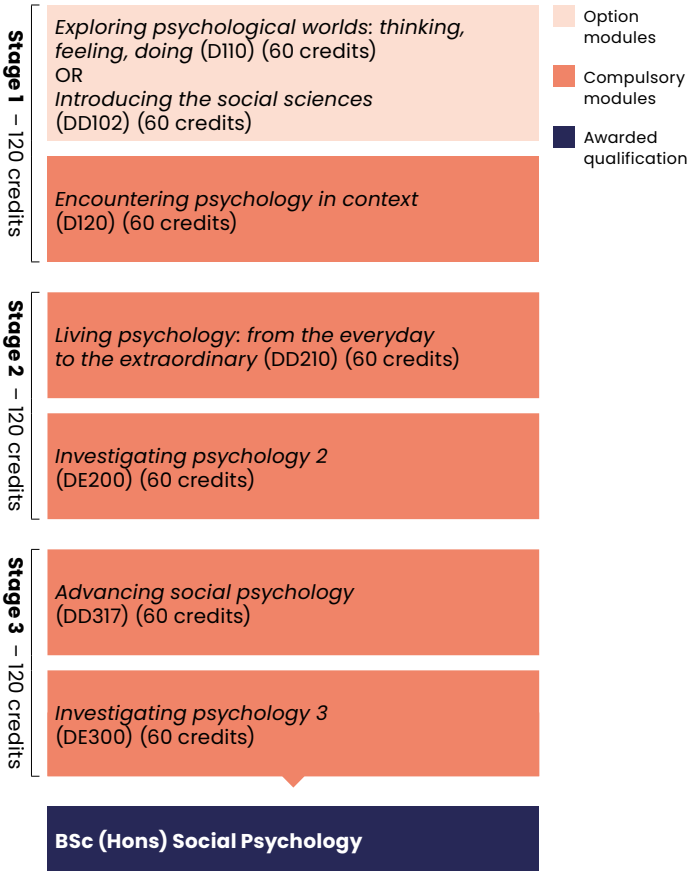
- Explore how social psychologists study people as social beings in different contexts.
- Investigate the connections between individual lives and social problems.
- Gain an appreciation of different perspectives within psychology and the ability to evaluate them critically.
- Prepare for a wide range of career opportunities, including social justice, public policy, media and communications.
- Can be the first step towards professional accreditation as a psychologist.

Accreditation

This degree is designed to deliver the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS). To be eligible for GBC, you must achieve a 2:2 or higher.

the british psychological society
accredited

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q83

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Optional

Meet our academics

Professor of Cultural-Developmental Psychology Sarah Crafter's main focus of research is on how young people's and family migration experiences impact on everyday lives and childhood.

She has co-created a new online course for social care professionals who work with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and separated or lone migrant young people. This grew from her Children Caring on the Move (CCoM) project, which investigates separated child migrants' experiences of care and caring for others within the immigration and welfare systems in England.

Learn more about Sarah's work at **openuniversity.co.uk/migration**.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q83
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling

Psychological therapies are rooted in psychological understanding, so this degree combines a strong foundation in psychology with a specific focus on how counselling works and how it can help people change.

You'll consider how counsellors and psychologists use research evidence to contribute to debates on different counselling approaches, mental health conditions, diagnosis and treatment options.

You'll also discover how psychology is critical to understanding mental health, relationships, education and employment.

Why this qualification?

- Covers the key concepts, theories, methods and debates in psychology and counselling.
- Gives you an appreciation of different perspectives within psychology and the ability to evaluate them critically.
- Explains how psychological theories and research are applied, particularly within counselling practice.
- Can be the first step towards professional accreditation as a psychologist.

Please note that completion of this degree does not qualify you to practise as a counselling or clinical psychologist, psychotherapist or counsellor, as further training is required to work therapeutically with clients.

Accreditation

This degree is designed to deliver the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS). To be eligible for GBC you must achieve a 2:2 or higher.

the british psychological society
accredited

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Exploring psychological worlds: thinking, feeling, doing* (D110) (60 credits) OR *Science and health: an evidence-based approach* (SDK100) (60 credits)
- *Encountering psychology in context* (D120) (60 credits)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Exploring mental health and counselling* (D241) (60 credits)
- *Investigating psychology 2* (DE200) (60 credits)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Counselling and forensic psychology: investigating crime and therapy* (DD310) (60 credits)
- *Investigating psychology 3* (DE300) (60 credits)

BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling

Option modules
Compulsory modules
Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code	Q84
Total credits	360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Optional

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q84
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Social Sciences (Psychology)

This flexible degree combines the study of interdisciplinary social science and sociology with psychology.

You'll gain a firm grounding in knowledge and ideas central to the social sciences and sociology. This will be complemented by an exploration of psychology through a range of real-world issues, including love, sexuality and artificial intelligence, before opting to study either social psychology or counselling and forensic psychology.

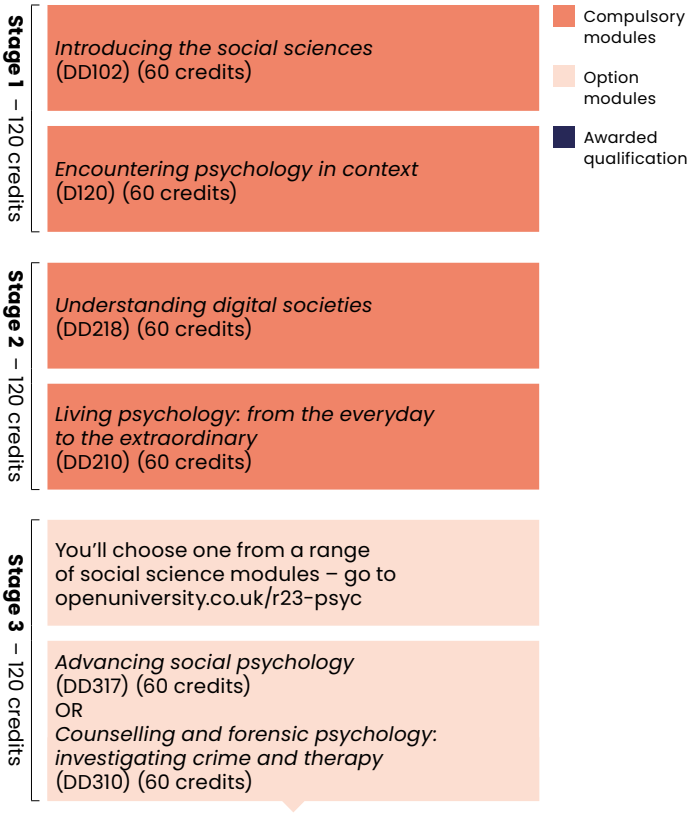
On completion of this degree, you'll be able to apply psychological and social theories, data analysis and analytical techniques to a variety of topics that affect individuals and society.

Why this qualification?

- Specialise in psychology within a broad interdisciplinary social sciences degree.
- Explore topical real-world problems to understand the behaviours of individuals and groups.
- Have the option to focus on investigating crime and therapy or social psychology.
- Gain the ability to evaluate evidence and communicate specialist ideas to different audiences.
- Opens up employment opportunities in private, public and voluntary sector organisations.

Please note that this degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R23

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r23-psyc
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Psychology

Computing & IT studied with psychology can open career opportunities in various sectors.

This degree combines computing and IT with psychology, which will help you examine issues such as the social aspects of computing and IT developments.

You'll learn how psychological research addresses real-life issues, such as how psychology has both learned from and informed the development of artificial intelligence and how people interact in online environments.

Why this qualification?

- Combine complementary subjects – psychology and computing & IT
- Choose from four focus options within the computing & IT strand.
- Build your understanding of psychological concepts and how they apply to everyday life.
- Study the growing area of internet psychology and how being online affects behaviour.

Accreditation

Accredited by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT:

- meeting the academic requirement for Chartered IT Professional,
- and for the award of Euro-Inf Bachelor Quality Label on behalf of EQANIE.

bcs Accredited Degree

Please note that this degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Computing & IT and Psychology (W42)
openuniversity.co.uk/w42

Certificate of Higher Education in Computing & IT and Psychology (T13)
openuniversity.co.uk/t13

Qualification structure

You'll choose **one** computing & IT focus area:

- **communications and networking**
- **computer science**
- **software development**
- **web development**.

The example route below shows **computer science**; other routes vary. Go to **openuniversity.co.uk/q67** for details.

Example route

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Introduction to computing and information technology 1* (TM111) (30 credits)
- *Introduction to computing and information technology 2* (TM112) (30 credits)
- *Encountering psychology in context* (D120) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Computing & IT and Psychology (T13)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Object-oriented Java programming* (M250) (30 credits)
- *Algorithms, data structures and computability* (M269) (30 credits)
- *Living psychology: from the everyday to the extraordinary* (DD210) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Computing & IT and Psychology (W42)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- You'll choose 30 credits from a selection of computing & IT modules – go to openuniversity.co.uk/q67-citp
- *Advancing social psychology* (DD317) (60 credits)
  OR
  Counselling and forensic psychology: investigating crime and therapy (DD310) (60 credits)
- *The computing and IT project* (TM470) (30 credits)

BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Psychology

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Option modules
Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q67

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Apr 2026
Register by 12 Mar 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q67-citp
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology

Criminology and psychology help make sense of crime, criminalisation, criminals and victims. This qualification will provide you with a critical understanding of both subjects.

You'll become able to question and develop your own beliefs and understandings about crime and harm. In doing so, you'll consider criminal acts and human motivations, but also look beyond them by examining the social conditions in which crime occurs, the exercise of power in response to crimes, the nature of conflicts when people interact (individually, in groups or as nations) and how and why societies determine what they will and won't tolerate.

Why this qualification?

- Helps you understand how criminology makes sense of crime, harm, criminal justice and criminalisation.
- Shows how psychology explains human interaction and conflict and interprets crime and victimisation.
- Takes a distinctive and original approach to teaching criminology and psychology.
- Enhances your employability in areas such as the criminal justice system and social services.

Please note that this degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Psychology (W57)
openuniversity.co.uk/w57

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q98

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Meet our academics

Professor Lara Frumkin's research is centred around applying psychological principles to criminal justice and security. She is the Deputy Director of the Counter Terrorism Evidenced-Based Review Group (CTEBRG) which promotes effective collaboration between academics and police practitioners. She also co-published *A Research Agenda for Terrorism Studies* which explores newer methods in the field along with more established ones, giving attention to victims, victimhood and issues around gender, as well as rights, safety, and vulnerabilities.

Learn more about Lara's work at **openuniversity.co.uk/justice**.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q98
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies

Philosophy and psychology seek to answer profound questions about ourselves, our minds, our behaviour, and our place in the social and physical universe.

This degree addresses a range of philosophical questions, including questions about ethics, politics, science, religion, art, and the self. It covers core approaches in social, cognitive and developmental psychology, and applied aspects of professional practice.

You'll learn to read and understand scientific and philosophical texts, use different research methods, communicate clearly and logically, and work and think independently.

Why this qualification?

- Investigate profound questions about human minds and behaviour from two complementary perspectives.
- Develop clear, logical thinking and communication skills.
- Learn to construct and analyse informed, reasoned arguments.
- Understand and use a range of research methods.

Please note that this degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy and Psychological Studies (W63)
openuniversity.co.uk/w63

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Discovering the arts and humanities* (A111) (60 credits)
- *Encountering psychology in context* (D120) (60 credits)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Investigating philosophy* (DA223) (60 credits)
- *Living psychology: from the everyday to the extraordinary* (DD210) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy and Psychological Studies (W63)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Key questions in philosophy* (A333) (60 credits)
- *Advancing social psychology* (DD317) (60 credits)
  OR
  Counselling and forensic psychology: investigating crime and therapy (DD310) (60 credits)

BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualification
Option modules
Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q43

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Optional

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q43
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Counselling

This degree allows you choose practice competencies that suit you, bring in previous study and continuing professional development from other settings, and help you to qualify as an advanced practitioner.

This counselling degree offers training to meet SCoPEd framework 'Column A and B' competences.

If you're new to counselling, you'll start with a counselling course delivered by an external provider. You'll then complete SCoPEd 'Column B' level training by studying OU modules and incorporating client hours and practice-based learning.

For practitioners who already have SCoPEd 'Column A' competences, the qualification allows you to advance your competency level to SCoPEd 'Column B'.

No matter your starting point, by the end of the course, which includes completing the required number of supervised client hours, you'll have significantly advanced your practice competencies, and be ready to work with clients with more complex mental health needs.

Why this qualification?

- Developed in consultation with counselling awarding bodies.
- Designed to meet 'Therapist B' competences of the SCoPEd framework.
- Allows you to use previous counselling training and continuous professional development experience.
- Choose specialisms that suit your interests or professional needs.
- Equips you to work with clients needing counselling support and mental health counselling.

Qualification structure

You will study a combination of approved external courses and OU modules.



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R86

Total credits 360

Start date
Oct 2025
Register by 14 Aug 2025

Entry requirements
See **openuniversity.co.uk/r86** for full details

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 4–6 years[1]
Full-time study: not available

[1] See openuniversity.co.uk/r86 for further details.

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Meet our academics

Professor of Psychology and Psychotherapy Naomi Moller and Deputy Director of Teaching (Counselling) Professor Andreas Vossler are helping professional counsellors, psychotherapists and trainees to advance their skills and improve the quality of mental health support they provide.

They've created a collection of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses in consultation with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and approved by the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB).

To learn more about how Naomi and Andreas's award-winning work is leading to better mental health support, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/naomi** and **openuniversity.co.uk/andreas**.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r86
Call
0300 303 5303



Foundation Degree in Counselling

The value of counselling to improve wellbeing and quality of life is increasingly recognised. From everyday worries to serious mental health issues like chronic anxiety and depression, counsellors and psychotherapists are helping us cope.

This qualification, developed in partnership with the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB), will prepare you to become a professional counsellor. It will equip you with the theoretical understanding and practical skills required to work in this field, for example, supporting people with mental health problems, relationship issues and trauma.

You'll engage in a unique mix of learning experiences, including practical, work-based learning in CPCAB courses delivered in conjunction with local Further Education colleges or other registered training providers, and knowledge-based modules provided by the OU.

We offer the same programme as a Diploma of Higher Education in Counselling (W09), which might be more appropriate if you live or work in Scotland.

Why this qualification?

- Enables you to qualify as a professional counsellor and work with a diverse range of people and issues.
- Combines prior work-based learning at a local college with OU knowledge-based modules.
- If you already have the required CPCAB qualifications, you can top up to the foundation degree by studying just the knowledge-based modules.

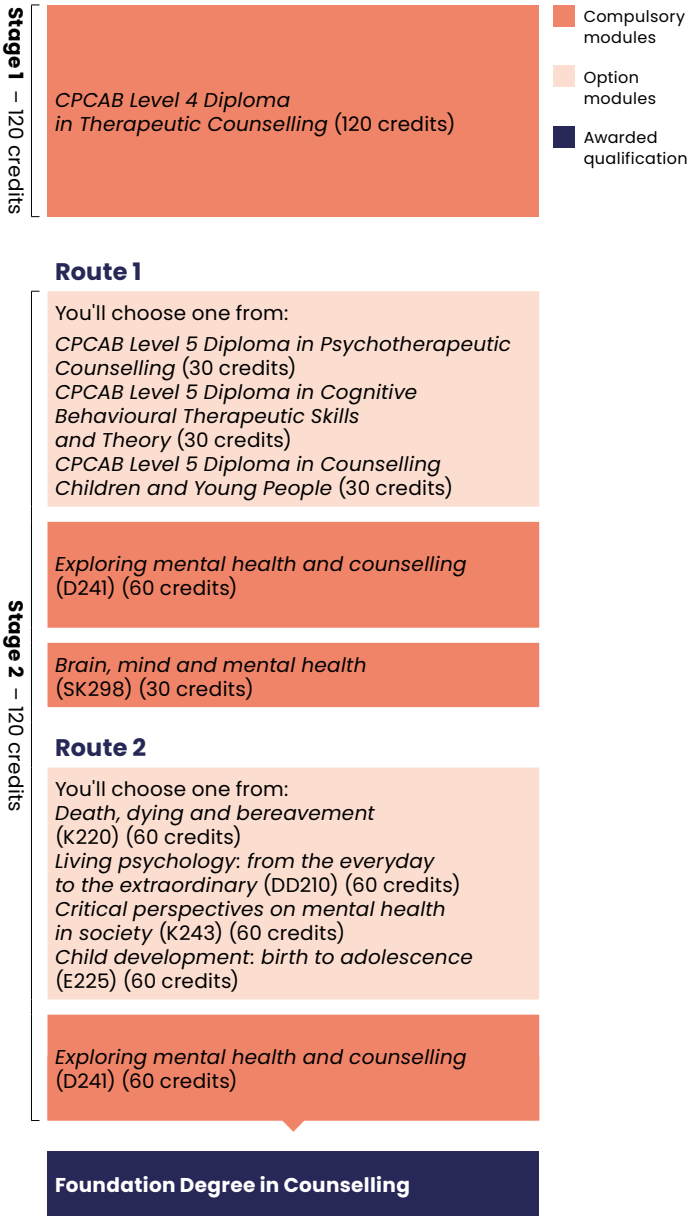
Accreditation

This qualification provides the required hours of specified learning which – with appropriate practice, supervision and personal development – will enable you to apply for individual accreditation with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

If you are considering this qualification, you should ensure that the relevant CPCAB courses are delivered in your area and that you are aware of the CPCAB course entry requirements and fees. Please check with CPCAB (**www.cpcab.co.uk**) for more details.

Qualification structure

You will study a combination of CPCAB courses and OU modules.



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code X09

Total credits 240

Start date
Oct 2025
Register by 14 Sep 2025

Entry requirements
See **openuniversity.co.uk/x09** for full details

Assessment
Based on a mix of:

CPCAB courses:
- Tutor assessed candidate portfolio
- CPCAB assessed audio recording and written paper under exam conditions

OU modules:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 4–5 years
Full-time study: 3–4 years
See openuniversity.co.uk/x09 for further details.

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/x09
Call
0300 303 5303



BA/BSc (Hons) Open

Do you want the freedom to study a range of subjects that interest you? Then our Open qualifications are ideal.

Some of the key questions in the world today require expertise from a range of subjects. Multidisciplinary study has always been at the heart of The Open University and our Open qualifications allow you to bring together different areas of study in a completely flexible way to develop knowledge and skills.

The BA/BSc (Hons) Open allows you to choose modules from a wide range of subject areas so you can combine psychology modules with modules from other disciplines that are of interest to you. It is a degree with a difference. Free from the restriction of a subject-specific specialism, you're in control of the direction of your learning.

Why this qualification?

- Tailor your qualification to suit your needs.
- Create your own unique multidisciplinary degree and skill set.
- Adapt your study plans to match your evolving aspirations.
- Count previous university study towards your qualification.

Open qualifications and your career

Our Open qualifications equip you with a wide range of expertise, skills and capabilities through multidisciplinary study. These qualities are sought after in today's highly competitive job market. An Open qualification on your CV shows more than your level of knowledge about a subject; employers know that you are flexible and adaptable, potentially having studied across a range of topics. You'll have a highly employable set of skills and attributes, including:

- self-management and resilience
- critical thinking
- analysis and problem solving.

> The flexibility of the Open degree helped keep things new and exciting. Plus, studying all these different topics means I now have a skill set that's unique to me.

Luke Simmons
BSc (Hons) Open

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education Open (W34)
openuniversity.co.uk/w34

Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)
openuniversity.co.uk/t09

How you can focus your Open degree on psychology

This selection of modules shows how you can focus on aspects of psychology in combination with other subjects that are of particular interest to you.

However, this is just one example of the many combinations you can study and you're not restricted to this route.

Example route

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Exploring psychological worlds: *thinking, feeling, doing* (D110) (60 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from a wide range of OU level 1 modules

Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Living psychology: *from the everyday to the extraordinary* (DD210) (60 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from a wide range of OU level 2 modules

Diploma of Higher Education Open (W34)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Advancing social psychology (DD317) (60 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from a wide range of OU level 3 modules

BA/BSc (Hons) Open[1]

- Psychology modules
- Option modules
- Intermediate qualifications
- Awarded qualification

[1] Whether you qualify for a BA or BSc (Hons) Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for a BA or for a BSc.

At a glance

Course code QD

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Depending on the modules you choose to study, you may be assessed in any or all of the following ways:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
As the BA/BSc (Hons) Open can be made up of a range of different modules, the learning materials provided, use of online forums and inclusion of collaborative work will depend on the modules you choose to study

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/qd**
Call **0300 303 5303**

Find your postgraduate course

Psychology	
MSc in Psychology (Conversion) (F92)	47
MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies (F73)	48
MSc in Psychology (F74)	49

Open masters	
MA/MSc Open (F81)	50



At a glance

Course code	F92
Total credits	180

Start date
Sep 2025
Register by 14 Aug 2025

Entry requirements
UK honours degree without BPS accreditation (2:2 at least) or equivalent

Study duration
Part-time study: 2 years

MSc in Psychology (Conversion)

This masters degree offers you the opportunity to gain your first qualification accredited by the British Psychological Society.

the british psychological society
accredited conversion award

You'll become eligible for Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society by developing a comprehensive and critical understanding of key concepts, theories, methods and debates in all areas of psychology.

You'll critically examine how psychological theories and different kinds of evidence are applied in real-world settings and gain an awareness of the importance of ethical issues in the practice of psychological research, including your own independent dissertation study.

By completing this rigorous masters degree, you'll build your numeracy, literacy, communication, presentation, observational, cognitive and organisational skills as appropriate to the discipline.

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
Critically exploring psychology 1	90	D810
Critically exploring psychology 2	90	D811
MSc in Psychology (Conversion)		

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/f92**
Call **0300 303 5303**



At a glance

Course code	F73
Total credits	180
Start date	Oct 2025 Register by 18 Sep 2025
Entry requirements	UK honours degree (2:2 at least) or equivalent
Study duration	Part-time study: 2 years

MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies

This masters degree enables you to gain an advanced understanding of forensic psychology, while enhancing your analytical and communication skills, as well as your research literacy.

Taking a case-based approach where you examine real-life criminal cases, you'll learn about a broad range of topics relevant to forensic psychology. You'll develop an understanding of the reciprocal relationship this field of research has with law enforcement, legal practice, policy, public opinion and the media.

This qualification also considers international differences in forensic theory, research and practice.

Please note:

- *When studying forensic psychology, you will encounter sensitive topics and case details (e.g. relating to murder, rape, child sexual abuse and terrorism) which might be upsetting.*
- *This masters degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.*

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
Principles of social and psychological inquiry	60	DD801
Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Psychological Inquiry (K26)		
Investigating forensic psychology	120	DD802
MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies		

Compulsory modules

Intermediate qualification

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/f73**
Call **0300 303 5303**



At a glance

Course code F74

Total credits 180

Start date
Oct 2025
Register by 18 Sep 2025

Entry requirements
UK honours degree (2:2 at least) or equivalent

Study duration
Part-time study: 2 years

MSc in Psychology

This masters degree provides a valuable opportunity to gain an advanced understanding of a range of areas in psychology, including cognitive, social, forensic and counselling psychology.

Through bespoke teaching materials on current topics and cutting-edge research, by the end of your studies, you'll be able to source and review psychological research independently, evaluate its relevance for complex real-life issues, assess its validity, and clearly communicate your findings to a range of different audiences.

You will also gain an understanding of the reciprocal relationship psychological research has with medicine, public policy, public opinion and the media.

Please note:

- *Some of the module content (e.g. in relation to forensic psychology) addresses sensitive topics which might be upsetting.*
- *This masters degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.*

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
Principles of social and psychological inquiry	60	DD801
Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Psychological Inquiry (K26)		
Evaluating psychology: research and practice	120	DD803
MSc in Psychology		

Compulsory modules

Intermediate qualification

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/f74**
Call **0300 303 5303**

MA/MSc Open

This innovative masters degree gives you the opportunity to create a personalised postgraduate qualification.

You'll expand your discipline-related knowledge at masters level, gain broader subject-specific knowledge and pursue further professional development in areas suited to your professional needs and personal interests.

To gain this qualification, you need **180 credits**.

Route 1: You can study **180 credits** and specialise within one of the following broadly related study areas:

- Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
- Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law.

Route 2: You can choose to study a **minimum of 120 credits** within one study area (chosen as your specialism) and take **up to 60 credits** from any other study area, including:

- Further professional development.

On completion

When you've achieved a minimum of 180 credits, you'll be awarded either a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc) degree. Whether you qualify for the MA Open or MSc Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for the MA or MSc.

Qualification structure

Route 1	Route 2		
Study **180 credits** specialising within one of the following broad study areas	Study a **minimum of 120 credits** within one study area	+	**60 credits** from any other study area
Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language		Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare		Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics		Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law		Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law
			Further professional development
MA/MSc Open	**MA/MSc Open**		

At a glance

Course code	F81
Total credits	180

Start dates
Sep 2025
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Feb 2026
May 2026

Entry requirements
Entry to this qualification will typically require a UK honours degree or equivalent qualification relevant to your intended specialist area of study.

If you have other study or experience that you believe equips you to take this qualification, you can still apply but must supply evidence of your study or experience.

Study duration
Part-time study: 2–3 years

Planning your studies

Our online study plan can help you map your route through the MA/MSc Open. Find the modules and microcredentials that best suit your study interests and career objectives at **openuniversity.co.uk/f81**.

Some restrictions or prerequisites apply to particular modules and microcredentials within this qualification. Refer to their individual entry requirements and descriptions to ensure you're adequately prepared before registering.

Our Student Support Team can provide support and information to help you make an informed decision about your education and future career. Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**.

Please note: module availability is subject to change.



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f81
Call
0300 303 5303



Register for your course

We recommend registering as early as possible to secure your place. Once you're registered, you'll have access to our learning tools, materials and student support to help you get started.

Undergraduate study

1. **Register**
   Go to your chosen qualification webpage, select your start date and click 'Register now'.
2. **Choose your module(s)**
   Select the module(s) you want to study in your first year. Some may be compulsory, while you may select others from a list of options.
3. **Organise your funding**
   Tell us how you'll be funding your chosen module(s). You'll find all your options at **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees**.
4. **Complete your registration**
   Confirm your funding method.
   That's it – you're ready to start learning.

Learn more about how to apply at **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-apply**.

Postgraduate study

To work towards a postgraduate qualification, register on a module that counts towards it.

1. **Choose your qualification**
   Once you've decided on a qualification, go to our website for the full course details and entry criteria you'll need to meet.
2. **Register on your first module(s)**
   Modules within postgraduate qualifications have more detailed entry requirements, so make sure you've read these before registering.
3. **Arrange your funding**
   You'll find all your options at **openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees**.
4. **Send us evidence that confirms you meet the entry requirements**
   Once we've assessed and approved your evidence, your registration is complete

Learn more about how to apply at **openuniversity.co.uk/pg-apply**.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you might be able to count that study towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study with us.

Learn more at **openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer**

Useful information

Study from outside the UK

You could study with the OU wherever you are in the world.

Find out more by visiting **openuniversity.co.uk/international** or call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**.

Students with additional study needs

When you register, we'll ask if you have a physical or mental health disability, health condition, or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) that could affect your study. If you do, we'll give you more detailed information about how we can help.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/disability** or call **0300 303 5303**.

Equality and diversity

We're committed to creating an inclusive university community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

We do this by challenging inequality, celebrating diversity and ensuring everyone has the support needed to achieve their goals.

Find out more by visiting **openuniversity.co.uk/equality**.

Students under the age of 16

Very exceptionally, we accept applications from gifted students under 16.

Call **0300 303 5303** if you'd like to apply.

Sustainability and the OU

We embed sustainability across all aspects of your learning. Equipping you with science-based knowledge for social and environmental justice, transformational skills and the courage and confidence to be a force for regenerative practices in all areas of your life.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/sustainability**.

Responsible Futures
accredited institution

Data protection

We record your personal information when you contact us. We use this to manage enquiries, registration, study, examination and other services. We may record calls to help us improve our service to you. When you contact us, we'll tell you more about how we treat your personal information.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/privacy**.

Other ways to read this prospectus

You may find it easier to access information from our website at **openuniversity.co.uk**.

We can supply this prospectus as a printed booklet, PDF and in other formats. Call **0300 303 5303** or email us from our website at **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**.

Explore our other prospectuses

Learn more about the qualifications we offer in other subject areas.

Subject-specific prospectuses

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Management
- Computing IT
- Design, Engineering and Technology
- Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport
- Geography, Environment and Development
- Health and Social Care
- Languages and Applied Linguistics
- Law
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Science
- Social Sciences

Other prospectuses

- Access Modules
- Open Qualifications
- Postgraduate Courses
- Undergraduate Courses

We have made all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this prospectus is accurate at the time of publication. However, we shall be entitled, if we consider it reasonably necessary (including in order to manage resources and improve student experience), to make changes, including to the availability of modules and qualifications, to qualification structure and to our regulations, policies and procedures. For current information, please refer to our online prospectus at **openuniversity.co.uk/courses**.

If you require further information about the circumstances in which we may make changes, please contact us or refer to the Academic Regulations on our website at **openuniversity.co.uk/academic-regulations**.

Request a prospectus

Download or order a prospectus.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus**

openuniversity.co.uk

Get in touch

If you're in England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or have a British Forces Post Office address

- Email us from our website **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **0300 303 5303**

Lines are open (UK time) Monday to Friday: 08:00–17:30

Calls are charged at the local rate when calling from a UK mobile phone or landline.

In Northern Ireland

- Email **northern-ireland@open.ac.uk**
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **028 9032 3722**

In Ireland

- Email **ireland@open.ac.uk**
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **(01) 6785399**

All other countries

- Go to **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**
- Call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**

I siaradwyr Cymraeg

Os ydych yn siarad Cymraeg a byddai'n well gennych drafod eich anghenion astudio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, cysylltwch â:

Y Brifysgol Agored yng Nghymru
18 Heol y Tollty
Caerdydd
CF10 1AP

- Ffoniwch **029 2047 1170**
- E-bost **cymorth-cymru@open.ac.uk**

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