

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for a postgraduate award
MSc Applied Neuroscience

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

The course is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of part-time study (104 weeks). Teaching takes place during the day over two terms from September to April. The dissertation is submitted in August. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, each course provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – Also referred to as 'course', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.

Module – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	November 2023	Location of study	Egham
Course award and title	MSc Applied Neuroscience	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	3617	Year of entry	2024/25
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Psychology/Life Sciences and the Environment	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	None
Mode(s) of attendance	Full time Part time	Duration of the course	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two years (104) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/postgraduate/psychology/applied-neuroscience/		

Section 3 – Degree course structure				
3.1 Mandatory module information				
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study				
Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (see section 6)
PS5209	Applied Neuroscience Project	60	7	MNC
PS5210	Applied Neuroscience Methods	45	7	MC
PS5302	Statistics for Research	30	7	MC
PS5207	Neuroscience of Emotion and Decision Making	15	7	MC
PS5208	Neuroscience in the Real World	15	7	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your course where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them (see [Academic Regulations](#) on condonable fails). Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, please [contact the department](#) for further information.

Optional modules.

Module Title	Credits	Module Title	Credits
PS5301: Topics in Psychological Science	15		
PS5201: Psychology in Applied Settings	15		
PS5202: Intergroup and Interpersonal Processes	15		
PS5206: Adjustment and Wellbeing	15		
PS5306: Clinical Assessment and Treatment Approaches	15		
PS5303: Forensic Investigations: Cognitive and Social Approaches	15		
PS5204: Advanced and Applied Research Techniques	15		
PC5001: User Centred Design	15		

3.3 Optional module requirements

Students should select one (15 credit) optional module.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All postgraduate taught students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 in order to be awarded. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who otherwise meet the requirements for award as stipulated in the College's Postgraduate Taught Regulations (Section 15: Consideration and classification of candidates for the award) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded.

Students wishing to study part time are recommended to complete the following modules in each year:

- Year One part time:
 - o PS5210: Methods in Applied Neuroscience (45 credits)
 - o PS5302: Statistics for Research (30 credits)
 - o PS5208: Neuroscience in the Real World (15 credits)
- Year Two part time:
 - o PS5209: Applied Neuroscience Project (60 credits)
 - o PS5207: Neuroscience of Emotion and Decision Making (15 credits)
 - o One optional module (from PS5301, PS5201, PS5202, PS5206, PS5306, PS5204 or PC5001 – all 15 credits)

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- Gain a unique insight into the ways that neuroscience is relevant in real world settings.
- Experience with a range of neuroscience methodologies, using the equipment and learning to analyse the complex data acquired, with teaching assuming no prior experience with the techniques.
- Conduct a research project with an expert in neuroscience.
- Learn in a Department with leading neuroscientists and excellent neuroscience facilities, including fMRI, EEG, TMS, eye tracking and virtual reality labs.
- Complete assessments that have been developed to map on to relevant activities in both academic and industrial settings, to enhance employability.
- Engage with contemporary and cutting-edge neuroscience research questions and learn to conduct applied neuroscience research projects.

Section 6 – Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be familiar with the tools for empirical research in a range of applied neuroscience areas and methods (K) 2. Be familiar with the current research across various aspects of applied neuroscience (K) 3. Critically evaluate a range of applied neuroscience techniques, as well as research that has employed the techniques (S) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Familiarity with a broad range research skills relevant for applied neuroscience, including data processing and research design (S) 5. Acquire the methodological and analytical skills necessary to conduct a research project and use these skills in an applied context (S)* 6. Develop a range of transferable skills that are relevant to applying neuroscience techniques and research in real world contexts (S)*
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment	
<p>Teaching and learning are mainly by means of sessions lasting anywhere between one and three hours. These would typically combine lectures, seminar discussion and practical workshops, or supervision with a member of staff for the research project. In more practical modules, students are encouraged to actively engage with the methods and analysis through structured exercises and supported by staff. Where possible, classes are student-led, with proactive participation being strongly encouraged. In some modules students will give oral presentations which form part of their formative assessment. Summative assessment is mainly by written coursework, although written exams are used in some modules, where appropriate. Students will also complete a research project, under the supervision of a member of staff. Details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Module Catalogue.</p>	

Section 8 – Additional costs	
<p>There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.</p>	
<p>These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.</p>	

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7
<p>Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.</p>	
QAA Characteristics Statement (Master’s Degrees) – September 2015	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources
<p>Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.</p>	

Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online module catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies.

Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements).	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College