Psychology

Undergraduate Studies
Welcome

Psychology is a fascinating subject and studying psychology is a superb way to prepare yourself for a rewarding career.

We offer a varied and innovative programme of degree courses that equip you with a wide portfolio of transferable skills. Our world-class research inspires our teaching, and you will join a supportive community at the frontiers of psychological knowledge. I warmly invite you to visit us on one of our Open Days.

I am sure you will see why Royal Holloway psychology graduates are regarded, by academics and employers alike, as among the very best.

If you enjoy psychology, and are looking forward to studying at a leading UK department, you really cannot make a better choice than Royal Holloway!

Professor Polly Dalton
Head of Department

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Connect with us

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Psychology at Royal Holloway

Psychology relates to the whole range of human experience, from visual perception to complex social interactions. Study psychology with us and you will have the opportunity to be taught and supervised by psychologists who conduct internationally significant research at the frontiers of the discipline. Our staff are as passionate about teaching as they are about making a difference in our world through innovative research and collaborative projects.

We have an exceptional environment to study this diverse and vital subject. We offer:

• Inspiring degree courses taught by staff who are leading experts in their field
• The chance to link your final year research project directly with cutting-edge research
• Access to outstanding campus facilities and some of the best research equipment of any department in the UK
• A strong culture of pastoral support with a personal tutor advising you throughout your degree
• A friendly and inclusive learning community with consistently high scores in annual National Student Surveys
• Strong links with industry and organisations to enable you to gain work experience and placements during your degree
• A beautiful campus with high quality student accommodation and easy access to London
• BSc degrees that are accredited by the British Psychological Society as the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership.
Choosing your degree

We offer a choice of five single honours BSc degree courses and an MSci advanced undergraduate degree, plus a joint BSc Criminology and Psychology degree with the Law department.

Each degree is designed to stimulate your interests and develop a deep understanding of psychological theories, methods and their applications. You will study the most up to date and exciting findings in psychology as part of a dynamic and engaging community.

Whichever degree you choose, you will have opportunities to customise your studies and specialise in your final year, selecting from a range of optional modules covering advanced topics. You will also contribute to cutting-edge research with a final year project supervised by one of our world-leading academics, and benefit from the department’s advanced research facilities.

For details of optional modules available and which are core for each degree course please see our website.

You can also choose to further enrich your degree by taking an integrated work placement year in industry or by opting for the opportunity to study abroad.

All our degrees are recognised by the British Psychological Society as the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. This means that they qualify students to undertake postgraduate study in psychology once they have graduated and is a mark of quality that employers understand and value.

Please visit our website for full details about our degree courses and current entry requirements.
Studying here

**Inspiring teaching and research**
Our synergy of teaching and research delivers an inspiring learning experience, within an exceptionally supportive learning community where you’re treated as an individual. You will learn through a combination of lectures, workshops, practical classes and small-group tutorials with staff who are passionate about teaching.

The most recent assessment recognised the quality of our world-class research, and we were ranked in the top 6* universities in the UK overall. Our academics bring their cutting-edge research into their teaching and frequently appear in the media talking about the latest thinking that is addressing real-world challenges. Our active and expanding research programme is based on four partly overlapping research groups: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Affective Processes; Language, Memory and Attention; Perception, Action and Decision-making. To find out more about the research interests of academic staff, please visit our website.

**Top facilities**
We are one of the best-equipped psychology departments in the country. We have our own on-site magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, instruments for recording electrical changes in the brain (EEG) and apparatus to stimulate brain areas (TMS). We also have technology for eye tracking, virtual reality environments, a sleep lab and a baby lab for studying the development of young infants.

**Supportive learning**
Every student has a personal tutor who can provide academic advice and pastoral support throughout your entire degree. We are proud of our track record of high scores in the annual National Student Survey reflecting our friendly and supportive learning environment and the accessibility of staff.

(*Times Higher Education, Research Excellence Framework institutions ranked by subject, 2014)

“My research is in visual perception – looking at how the brain pieces together information that comes from the eyes. This involves making the connection between the biology of the brain and our sensory experience of everything around us.”

**Dr Szonya Durant**
Senior Lecturer in Psychology
Student life

All students are welcome to join the student-run Psychology society, made up of like-minded people who join together for a variety of talks and workshops, trips and nights out as a group at the Students’ Union. Annual highlights include an end-of-term pantomime put on for students by the department’s academic staff. As a campus university, there is also a huge selection of other student-run clubs, societies and sports clubs for you to join in and have fun.

Our community

The university has a proud history as early pioneers in the teaching of psychology, stretching back to 1849 when Bedford College (which merged with Royal Holloway in 1985) was founded in London as the first university college for women, and 1886, when Queen Victoria opened Royal Holloway College.

Since then, the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway has grown exponentially due to its success, and along the way we’ve developed an international reputation for cutting-edge research and outstanding teaching. We are home to a lively community of staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students from across the world. Our base is the Wolfson Laboratory right at the heart of our parkland campus in Egham, which is also one the safest university campuses in England.

The department has been awarded the Athena SWAN Silver Award recognising best practice in our efforts to promote inclusivity and equality in all our activities.
Your future career

There are a wealth of career opportunities available to you once you graduate with a psychology degree from Royal Holloway. With 90% of our graduates in full-time employment or further study within six months of graduation, our employability support can help get your career off to the best possible start.

Our graduates work in diverse areas including health psychology, forensics, market research companies like Ipsos Mori, local government agencies, schools and universities, mental health charities, media organisations such as the BBC and consultancies.

• Our psychology graduates leave with a portfolio of transferable skills which employers in all sectors look for. As a student you will benefit from departmental careers seminars, events, advice and information throughout your studies.

• You will be well supported by our careers advisor and the university’s Careers and Employability Service, offering plenty of opportunities to develop transferable skills and prepare yourself effectively for graduate jobs.

• We maintain a strong graduate network which means you’ll benefit from the knowledge and connections of our alumni who regularly visit to share their experience with current students.

• We have connections with a large number of external organisations and collaborators such as the Macular Society, Southern Addictions Advisory Service and Acuity Intelligence Ltd, to enable students to gain rewarding placement opportunities and valuable work experience.

• Many of our graduates go on to postgraduate degree courses or PhD research, reflecting the quality of our learning experience.

“My work uses functional neuroimaging methods to investigate the mechanisms in the human brain that underly higher cognition, learning and the control of action.”

Professor Narendra Ramnani
Professor of Neuroscience

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(Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education, 2018)

This brochure was produced in June 2019 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.
Royal Holloway, University of London
• Learn from world leading experts
• Highly ranked for student satisfaction
• Beautiful campus in a safe location
• Vibrant and active community
• Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more
Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays