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 University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and policies can be found here. Further information on the University'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, the course provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field. The course focuses on the practical and theoretical foundations of topics within applied neuroscience, covering a range of neuroscientific methodologies. The teaching is based on a mix of lectures, seminar discussions and practicals, allow students to develop key methodological and analytical skills and an understanding of current neuroscience research on applied topics. The research project offers students the opportunity to carry out an independent research project, supervised by an expert in neuroscience. 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	May 2025	**Location of study**	Egham
Course award and title	MSc Applied Neuroscience	**Level of study**	Postgraduate
Course code	3617	**Year of entry**	2026/27
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 and 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.

3.3 Optional module requirements
Students should select one optional module (15 credits).

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 Academic Taught Regulations 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:
  - PS5210: Methods in Applied Neuroscience (45 credits)
  - PS5302: Statistics for Research (30 credits)
  - PS5208: Neuroscience in the Real World (15 credits)
- Year Two part time:
  - PS5209: Applied Neuroscience Project (60 credits)
  - PS5207: Neuroscience of Emotion and Decision Making (15 credits)
  - One optional module (15 credits)

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course
The aims of this course are to: • Provide students with a unique insight into the ways that neuroscience is relevant in real world settings. • Gain 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. • Provide students with the skills and knowledge to complete a research project, supervised by an expert in neuroscience. • Allow students to develop theoretical and methodological knowledge 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 (*)*)

Theme	Course Learning Outcome	Level 7
Graduates from this course will foster KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING	**1. Acquire knowledge in applied neuroscience and show understanding of relevant disciplinary theories, concepts, and research.**	1.7.1 Show knowledge and understanding of subject-specific concepts. 1.7.2 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of subject-specific theories. 1.7.3 Show knowledge and understanding of subject-specific research.
Graduates from this course will generate APPLICATIONS	**2. Apply the knowledge acquired in applied neuroscience to generate solutions to real world problems.**	2.7.1 Demonstrate knowledge of existing solutions to real world problems relevant to applied neuroscience. 2.7.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of existing solutions to real world problems relevant to applied neuroscience. 2.7.3 Apply appropriate subject-specific knowledge, theories, and concepts to generate realistic recommendations to solve complex real-world problems.
Graduates from this course will demonstrate INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS (or: INDEPENDENCE)	**3. Work and think independently to critique, analyse, and synthesize material in applied neuroscience.**	3.7.1 Make appropriate choices of topic to focus on. 3.7.2 Conduct independent literature search relevant to the task and the choices made within the topic. 3.7.3 Conduct high level independent literature search, including recent research. 3.7.4 Evaluate subject-specific theories and applied practice and decisions. 3.7.5 Analyse and synthesize relevant materials to draw sensible conclusions.
Graduates from this course will develop PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND PRESENTATION SKILLS	**4. Communicate clearly and concisely to both researchers and practitioners, and doing so orally, in writing, and using visual aids.**	4.7.1 Communicate logically, clearly and concisely. 4.7.2 Select and apply appropriate style of communication for the audience and medium. 4.7.3 Select appropriate visual aid to the audience to enhance communication.
Graduates from this course will foster sophisticated and CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH SKILLS	**5. Develop deep knowledge and understanding of a variety of research methods in the subject area, including cutting-edge methods.**	5.7.1 Show knowledge and understanding of research methods in the subject area. 5.7.2 Select and justify appropriate research methods to the research question.

		5.7.3 Apply research methods correctly and effectively making use of neuroscience specific technical skills. 5.7.4 Evaluate research methods and their suitability to the research question. 5.7.5 Select and justify appropriate research methods in a given real world applied context.

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
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. Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff. The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module, you will gain the credits listed. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Royal Holloway Curriculum 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.

Section 8 – Additional costs
There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this course.
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.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7
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.	
QAA Characteristics Statement (Master's Degrees) – September 2015	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources
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.	

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 Royal Holloway Curriculum 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

Section 12 - Associated award(s) with Banner Codes	
MSc Applied Neuroscience (3617)	PG Diploma Applied Neuroscience (3618) PG Certificate Applied Neuroscience (3619)