Department of Psychology
Undergraduate Studies
Royal Holloway is one of the UK’s leading research-intensive universities. One of the larger colleges of the University of London, we are strong across the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. We were ranked 19th in the UK (129th in the world) by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16, which described us as ‘truly world class’.

As an international community, with students from 130 countries, we focus on the support and development of the individual. Our friendly and safe campus, in Surrey, 40 minutes by train from central London, provides a unique environment for university study where students quickly feel at home.

“One of the 16 most beautiful universities in the world” (Daily Telegraph).

Visit us

Our College and departmental Open Days offer you a unique opportunity to come and find out more about us and get a taste of what university life is really like. Parents and friends are very welcome to come with you. To find out dates and register to attend please visit our website: royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays
Welcome to Psychology

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

We offer a varied and innovative programme of courses that equip you with a wide portfolio of transferable skills. Our research inspires our teaching, and you will join a lively and supportive community at the frontiers of psychological knowledge.

I warmly invite you to visit us on one of our College 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 Kathy Rastle
Head of Psychology

CONTACT DETAILS

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@RHULPsychology
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MORE INFORMATION
This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the department’s website at royalholloway.ac.uk/psychology
It is also available as a PDF at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere
Why study Psychology?

Psychology relates to the whole range of human experience, from visual perception to complex social interactions. It is the study of how people think, react and interact, in all aspects of behaviour and the thoughts, feelings and motivations that underlie such behaviour.

As psychologists we seek to answer questions as diverse as why we perceive visual illusions, how infants develop an understanding of the world around them, why driving while using a mobile phone can be dangerous, and what factors can explain the emergence of psychological disorders. Studying psychology provides an initial breadth across all of these fascinating topics, followed by a more specialised focus on the topics that interest you as you progress.

A Psychology degree develops high level literacy and numeracy skills, which is one of the reasons it is such a popular degree with employers. It involves learning transferable skills such as critical reading, report writing, interviewing, survey research, observation, measurement, experimentation and using statistics to assess the significance of research findings. These skills are relevant to a wide number of occupational settings.

Psychology at Royal Holloway

The department is dynamic, welcoming and engaging. We are consistently ranked in the top tier of all major Psychology department league tables, with excellent ratings for teaching and research.

Study with us and you will have the opportunity to be taught and supervised by psychologists who conduct world-class research at the frontiers of the discipline, and who also are passionate about teaching.

All our single honours 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. BPS accreditation is a mark of high quality that keeps open the widest range of training, development and employment opportunities for graduates.

The high quality of our teaching is reflected in the achievement of our students. Our graduates embark on a wide range of careers and many go on to postgraduate training. The transferable skills learnt as part of a Psychology degree ensure you are well equipped to work both in the UK and abroad, and the University of London degree awarded is recognised the world over.

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Degree programmes

**SINGLE HONOURS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology</td>
<td>C800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Applied Psychology</td>
<td>C804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology, Development &amp; Developmental Disorders</td>
<td>C805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology, Clinical Psychology &amp; Mental Health</td>
<td>C806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Psychology, Clinical &amp; Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>C807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JOINT DEGREE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Criminology &amp; Psychology</td>
<td>CL83</td>
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</tbody>
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**SINGLE HONOURS DEGREES**

All our single honours 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.

It is possible to change between the different single honours programmes at the end of the first year of study, subject to availability.

- **BSc Psychology** will give you a thorough understanding of how research into human behaviour can be conducted across different core areas of Psychology, without limiting study to any specific area. During year 3 you are able to choose between a wide range of advanced options, covering all the major areas of experimental Psychology. Additionally, you may complete an independent literature review on a topic of your choosing.

- **BSc Applied Psychology** focuses on applying psychological research to real world issues, offering a broader social and occupational context. Topics include how we can modify health and social behaviour, research into psychological problems and understanding of interventions for children and adults, and also how Psychology can be used in the workplace, in education and when exploring criminal behaviour.

- **BSc Psychology Clinical Psychology & Mental Health** focuses upon the study of psychological problems in children and adults, as well as the study of how psychological factors are related to physical health and the prevention of illness.

- **BSc Psychology Development & Developmental Disorders** focuses on issues related to the study of typical and atypical child development and development through the life span, including the development of cognitive and social skills in infancy and early childhood, and developmental disorders such as autism, Down syndrome, dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

- **BSc Psychology Clinical & Cognitive Neuroscience** examines the relationships between the brain and higher functions such as decision-making and consciousness, the causes, symptoms and treatments of common brain disorders such as stroke and Parkinson’s disease, and methods for studying the brain such as functional MRI.

All students take the same courses in the first and second year, regardless of their overall degree option. In the final year, students on the BSc Psychology course continue to cover a broad range of fields of Psychology, while students on the specialised programmes study a more focused set of options relevant to their degree title.

Admissions and entry requirements

We admit around 180 undergraduate students across all our single honours programmes each year (with no limits on individual programmes). We welcome applications from candidates with a diverse range of backgrounds.

Admission is on the basis of attainment at A-level or equivalent qualifications. Applications from international students, mature students and candidates who wish to defer entry are all welcomed. Applications should be made through UCAS.

UK-based applicants holding offers are strongly encouraged to attend one of our Applicant Visit Days when possible. These provide an opportunity to gain a full picture of our courses and facilities, meet academic staff and tour the campus with one of our current students.

**TYPICAL OFFERS**

We consider applicants taking Arts, Humanities, Social Science or Science subjects, since no previous knowledge of the subject is required. With the exception of General Studies, all A-level subjects are acceptable. We also consider applications based on Access courses, the International Baccalaureate or other appropriate qualifications.

Applicants are normally required to hold, or attain prior to entry, a grade B or better in GCSE Mathematics (or equivalent).

Please check our website for current entry requirements.

If you have any queries please contact the Departmental Admissions Tutor.

Royal Holloway has a comprehensive admissions policy which sets out how your applications will be dealt with. For further information visit: royalholloway.ac.uk/admissionspolicy

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES:**

Royal Holloway scholarships and bursaries are available (eligibility criteria apply). Please see our website for details.
Degree structure

Example course structure - BSc single honours programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Psychological Research</td>
<td>Psychological Research Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan Development</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>PLUS six modules dependent on BSc programme. Some options include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Foundations of Psychology</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Criminal and Forensic Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Memory</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Language, Communication and Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>Personality and Individual Differences</td>
<td>The Ageing Brain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self and Society</td>
<td>Brain and Behaviour</td>
<td>Human Performance: Work, Sport, &amp; Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>Conceptual Issues in Psychology</td>
<td>Developmental Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The full range of modules for each degree programme including the Joint Honours programme Criminology & Psychology is available online.

FIRST YEAR COURSES
Single Honours students take four courses in each term of the first year. One of the courses running all year focuses on how to design and run research, providing first year students with practical experience in carrying out simple experiments and analysing data, and includes the Psychology Toolkit of essential transferable and specialist skills. There are also introductory courses in Lifespan Development, Biological Foundations of Psychology, Learning and Memory, Abnormal Psychology, Self and Society, and Sensation and Perception.

SECOND YEAR COURSES
Courses in the second year build on the knowledge gained in the first year. They are more specialised and give students the chance to learn about particular topics in greater depth and introduce new topics such as Individual Differences and Brain and Behaviour. Second year students are expected to carry out more independent reading and to begin to design their own research.

THIRD YEAR COURSES
During this year, students on the BSc Psychology can select from a broad range of modules, while students on the specialised programmes focus on options relevant to their degree programme. As one of their modules, students have the option of writing a theoretical dissertation on a topic of their choice. All students carry out an empirical research project.

Modules are closely linked to the research interests of members of staff and are highly specialised such as: Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, Criminal and Forensic Psychology and Developmental Disorders. They give students an opportunity to learn about the most recent developments in their chosen areas. We offer all students the opportunity to register for an additional placement option which they can evidence using placements carried out at any time during their degree.

For full listings of our current courses for all three years, visit: royalholloway.ac.uk/psychology/prospectivestudents.

as more information about the department and the staff.

JOINT HONOURS DEGREE
BSc Criminology and Psychology is a joint degree with the Centre for Criminology and Sociology and consists of equal units in each department in the first two years, with some flexibility in the final year. It gives students an understanding of the biological, social, clinical and cognitive factors that influence behaviour alongside the study of crime, criminality, and the criminal justice system. The School of Law is the home department for students choosing to take this programme. The BSc Criminology and Psychology degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society which means it gives graduates the opportunity to gain Graduate and/or Chartered Membership of the Society. To find out more about this programme visit: royalholloway.ac.uk/psychology/prospectivestudents.
Teaching and assessment

Teaching in the Department of Psychology involves lectures, workshops, practical classes and small-group tutorials. In the final year, students also benefit from individual and small-group supervision of research projects and dissertations by academic staff members.

Throughout year 1 and 2, students attend tutorials where they get the chance to discuss topics in small groups with a member of academic staff or a postgraduate. Students also regularly meet with their personal advisor, a member of academic staff, to discuss the student’s progress and receive advice throughout all three years of the degree. Personal advisors give advice on how to prepare coursework, how to develop written and spoken communication skills, and careers. Students fill out questionnaires to provide us with feedback about all our teaching. There is also a staff-student committee where student representatives from each year of the course have an opportunity to discuss issues with members of the academic staff.

In the National Student Survey (NSS 2015), our students gave our staff a 99% rating on their explaining skills, and 95% for making the subject interesting.

STAFF PROFILE

“Applicants often ask me how our Psychology degrees are different to those offered by competing universities. One of the things I tell them is to look at the research interests of staff, because in the final year of an undergraduate degree, staff integrate their own research into their teaching, and students have an opportunity to work under the supervision of a member of staff on a research project. It’s therefore in the final year that you can often notice the most differences between Departments. Here at Royal Holloway, students are fortunate that we have world-class researchers in all core, as well as many applied, areas of Psychology, and this is reflected in an exciting array of optional courses in the final year of our degree programmes.”

Dr Marco Cinnirella,
Undergraduate Admissions Tutor

ASSESSMENT

We use a variety of different methods of assessment. Most courses have a coursework component. This might be an essay about a controversial issue, an analysis of a video, a report of an experiment or a critical analysis of a recent paper. Some courses involve oral presentations. Many courses also have a written examination in May or June. Progression to the next year is dependent on passing compulsory courses.
THE EIGHTH YEAR

FOR MY THIRD YEAR PROJECT, I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECT OF THE HARRY POTTER STORIES ON CHILDREN’S UNDERSTANDING OF FANTASY. THE PROCESS WAS NOT ONLY A LEARNING EXPERIENCE, BUT IT ALSO PUTS RESEARCH INTO A REAL WORLD CONTEXT.”

Louise Bunce, BSc Psychology

THE research environment within the department is of international quality and our staff bring a global perspective to their teaching, research and collaborations.

In the third year of the degree, students carry out a group research project. This is supervised by a member of academic staff who works closely with students on how to develop a research idea, design a study, analyse the results and write a report. The range of topics for research projects reflects the wide research interests of our academic staff. Recent project themes include:

• children’s understanding of emotions
• the relation of anxiety, depression and life difficulties to the cognitive capacity of students
• the effects of leading questions and line-up format on eye-witness testimony
• factors influencing the drop-out of young females from exercise in the school years
• investigating the neural mechanisms of working memory
• psychological stress, problem-solving skills and alcohol consumption
• the influence of hands-free mobile phones on attention in drivers
• stereotyping of females who play male-stereotyped sports
• neural basis of the ACHOO syndrome: Why do some people sneeze in strong sunlight?

In 2014–15, our academic staff won £1.85 million in research grant funding. In 2015, we published in excess of 160 papers in leading scientific journals. For further information on our research, please visit: www.royalholloway.ac.uk/psychology/research

In the latest nationwide Research Excellence Framework, Psychology was ranked 6th in the UK. Our research is organised around four key research themes:

• Health and Well–Being
• Language, Memory and Attention
• Perception, Action and Decision Making
• Social and Affective Processes

Within each theme, researchers study all levels of human behaviour, from the mechanisms by which the brain processes information, to childhood development, social interaction, and clinical and patient groups.
We are one of the best-equipped Psychology departments in the country, with a variety of research labs reflecting the diverse nature of ongoing research. We have our own on-site magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner for studying brain structure and activity, and instruments for recording electrical changes in the brain (EEG). We also have a range of other facilities including apparatus to stimulate focal areas in the brain (TMS), technology for tracking eye movements, systems for tracking precise body movements in very young children and adults, the ability to create virtual reality environments, CCTV and video systems for discreet observation of behaviour, and a dedicated baby lab for studying the development of young infants.

The department has its own computer hub and photocopying facilities for student use. There are extensive computer labs with a wide range of up-to-date software across our campus and the library is extensively stocked with Psychology books and journals.

Our undergraduate students run a Psychology society, hosting a variety of talks and workshops. Recent events have included an end-of-term pantomime put on for students by the Department’s academic staff.

We have a lively community of PhD students working in many different areas of Psychology, all of whom benefit from the extensive supervisory expertise of our academic staff.

The department has a growing portfolio of Masters courses in the form of an MSc in Applied Social Psychology, MSc in Clinical Psychology and an MSc in Forensic Psychology.

Unlike many Psychology departments, we also have a dedicated Clinical Psychology department providing graduate training in clinical psychology. This provides rich opportunities for undergraduates to learn from staff who treat clients on a daily basis, as well as placement options in clinically relevant research.

Our Doctorate in Clinical Psychology is approved by the British Psychological Society. Such a qualification is the first step to a career as a Clinical Psychologist.

The university has a long and proud history, stretching back to 1849 when Bedford College (which merged with Royal Holloway in 1985) was founded in London, and 1886, when Queen Victoria opened Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey. Since then, Royal Holloway has grown exponentially due to its success, and along the way developed a reputation for cutting edge research and outstanding teaching.

Bedford College was the first English university to appoint a female Professor and, with Royal Holloway College, was at the forefront of providing opportunities for women to study at university.

The Department has been awarded the Athena SWAN Silver Award for our efforts to promote both equality and women in science, and we strongly encourage and support female applicants.

“I run the Vocal Communication Laboratory, where I research all aspects of human vocal communication and their neural underpinnings. This includes work on how we understand and produce speech, the perception and production of emotional vocalisations like laughter and crying, the recognition of vocal identities and aspects of audiovisual communication involving voices and faces. I’m also fascinated by vocal experts such as impressionists and beatboxers, and have had the opportunity to peek inside the brains of the actress Fiona Shaw and beatboxers Reeps One and Intensi T. My main research method is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and with support from The Royal Society and the Economic and Social Research Council, I am developing new methods to record speech and vocalisations using the scanner.”

Dr Carolyn McGettigan
A degree in Psychology from Royal Holloway can lead on to many different career paths and we take an active interest in preparing our students for life after university. Throughout your time with us we offer personal guidance aimed at improving your employability.

**GraDuate DestinatiOns**

Our graduates work for a wide variety of organisations, such as:

- NHS
- Ipsos Mori
- Ernst & Young
- local government agencies
- schools and universities
- mental health charities such as Rethink
- media organisations such as the BBC.

Many embark on professional careers as psychologists in various specialist areas, such as:

- occupational psychology
- health psychology
- educational psychology
- clinical psychology
- counselling psychology
- forensic psychology
- neuroscience.

Graduates also go on to a wide range of other career paths, including:

- management training in industry and the public sector
- human resources management
- work in the financial sector
- management consultancy
- journalism
- recruitment consultancy
- marketing and user experience.

Many graduates also decide to further their studies with the department and stay on to study at postgraduate level.

**HOW MARKETABLE IS OUR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE?**

Our Psychology graduates leave with a portfolio of transferable skills which employers in all sectors look for. These abilities include:

- survey design and interpretation
- logically organising large quantities of information
- analysing and interpreting numerical data
- insight into human behaviour
- critical reading
- challenging established views
- communicating complex detail succinctly
- conducting ethical research and managing research projects
- speaking to a group and expressing ideas coherently

**OUR GRADUATES**

Our graduates join a global, lifelong community which is an extensive professional network, keeping in contact with us and with one another.

Notable alumni of the Department of Psychology include the leading bioscience innovator Professor Jackie Hunter CBE; the founder of the Terrence Higgins Trust, Dr Rupert Whitaker; and Dr Christian Jarrett, author of The Rough Guide to Psychology, Other notable alumni of the College working in psychology include Professor Stuart Cull-Candy FRS, Professor of Neuroscience and Professor Michael Eysenck a former Head of Department, Emeritus Professor and renowned author on anxiety and cognition.
CAREERS SUPPORT AND PLACEMENTS

We take the employability of our graduates very seriously, providing students with careers information and advice during their degree programme via a dedicated online forum and website. We seek to make connections with local organisations and set up placement opportunities to enable students to gain valuable work experience. We also have opportunities for students to work in our research labs. Placements are recognised by the department as part of the Psychology Placement Course or can form part of Royal Holloway’s co-curricular Passport Scheme.

We endeavour to help students to recognise their own strengths, skills and abilities so that they can make strong applications for their chosen job or training course. We run a series of lunchtime careers seminars in which Psychology graduates in a wide range of jobs tell students about their chosen career, their day-to-day work and the route for entry to that career.

The Psychology dedicated careers advisor also provides advice on CV writing, completing application forms and preparing for an interview. Once a year, we hold a popular ‘Meet the Grads’ networking event at which our final year students meet some of our recent and not-so recent graduates, to discuss their developing career paths.

One of the department’s key aims is to help students to stand out in the job market after they graduate. Our close links with local organisations have resulted in a departmental online database of volunteering opportunities for our students, enabling our students to gain valuable experience in organisations such as the Macular Society, Southern Addictions Advisory Service and Bishop Creighton House. We also offer placements in industry linked to third year courses.

All of this hard work to prepare our graduates for employment is reflected in the excellent employment rates students have after graduating.

THE COLLEGE CAREERS SERVICE

As part of The Careers Group, University of London, the Royal Holloway Careers Service is able to provide a wealth of advice and information about local, national and international opportunities.

The careers service can help with practice interviews, CV preparation, and finding placements and voluntary work to enhance CVs. All students have access to webpages, which are full of up-to-date information and opportunities, with links to other useful resources. Students are reminded of forthcoming careers events such as talks, job fairs and recruitment rounds by large organisations and can talk to a dedicated careers advisor.

Alumna: Joanna Swiatek
Subject: BSc Psychology
Graduated: 2010
Place of Work: ETS plc – a HR consultancy

“I chose Psychology because I had always been interested in understanding human behaviour and people’s motives for doing things. I was impressed with how highly the Psychology course at Royal Holloway was rated; it received really high scores in research, teaching and student satisfaction.

The lectures seemed extremely passionate about sharing their knowledge and experience in managing people’s behaviour at work. There was also easy access to London and it had all the university facilities in one place. The College was everything I was looking for.”

Alumnus: Alex Jansen Birch
Subject: BSc Psychology
Graduated: 2004
Place of Work: Ipsos MORI
Position: Associate Director

“We knew that Royal Holloway had a very good psychology department and ran one of the best psychology courses in the country. I was always inspired by the lecturers’ knowledge and how they knew everything about their particular area, I think that’s fantastic. I enjoy coming back to give career talks to current students.

It is good to give something back. When I was giving my last talk, there was such a diverse range of alumni who had gone on to do so many different things with their degrees.”

This brochure was published in May 2016 and the information given was correct at that time. It is intended primarily for those considering admission to Royal Holloway, University of London as undergraduate students in 2017-18. Occasionally it may be necessary for the University to vary the content and delivery of programmes so we advise all applicants to refer to the website prior to making any application. Full terms and conditions of admission can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere.