

PS117-15 Becoming a Psychologist

23/24

Department

Psychology

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Jagjeet Jutley-Neilson

Credit value

15

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is designed to provide students with basic academic skills needed to succeed in a Psychology degree course.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Topics will range from the practical (how to navigate an academic environment) to the theoretical (an in-depth look at the concept of 'evidence' in science), and will cover core course-related academic skills (how to efficiently and critically dissect original research papers, how best to communicate scientific content). Throughout the module, the emphasis will be on developing a coherent skill set based on critical thinking and a deeper understanding of empirical psychological science.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Across the year, the module will cover topics such as

- Effective approaches for learning in higher education
- Evaluation of research evidence
- Finding and reading scientific papers
- The meaning of science
 - The meaning of evidence
- Effective referencing and academic integrity
- Structuring writing and writing arguments in psychology
- Volunteering, study abroad, work experience and careers

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand the difference between learning, teaching, and assessment methods in schools versus higher education.
- Understand the importance of academic integrity and demonstrate appropriate referencing techniques in psychology.
- Understand the basics of scientific thinking, and how they apply to Psychology as a scientific discipline.
- Critically evaluate empirical and theoretical scientific texts and communicate the outcome effectively.
- Understand the basic logic of empirical and qualitative research.

Indicative reading list

Parson, V. (2012) Communication and Study Skills for Psychology. Oxford University Press.

Smyth, T. R. (2004). The principles of writing in psychology. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Selection of Weekly Journals

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

Understand the basics of scientific thinking, and how they apply to Psychology as a scientific discipline.

Critically evaluate empirical and theoretical scientific texts and communicate the outcome effectively.

Understand the basic logic of empirical and qualitative research.

Transferable skills

evaluation of evidence

evaluation of scientific papers

critical thinking

formation of effective and structured arguments
understanding broader opportunities

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)	
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)	
Tutorials	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)	
Online learning (scheduled sessions)	4 sessions of 15 minutes (1%)	2 sessions of 15 minutes
Online learning (independent)	2 sessions of 15 minutes (0%)	
Private study	38 hours 30 minutes (25%)	
Assessment	80 hours (53%)	
Total	150 hours	

Private study description

private guided student study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
On-line Test 1 Online test taken outside class time via Moodle	40%	20 hours	No

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Research Training vidoes	5%	10 hours	No
Participation Marks - Training vidoes			
Participation mark in online training (5% for completion of all three training videos; staggered completion participation mark - 1 training video= 1%, completion, 2 training videos= 2%, completion of three online training videos = 5%)			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Group Blog or Vlog Submission	25%	20 hours	No
Students will work together in groups to create a blog or a vlog			

Reassessment component

Blog or Vlog Creation			Yes (extension)
Can be individual, pair or group			
800 word blog or 3 minute vlog			

Assessment component

Essay	30%	30 hours	Yes (extension)
Essay marked by personal tutor			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Academic guidance for assessed work online via Moodle and Tabula, assessment and feedback hours, through tutorials, and seminars.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
- Year 1 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- Year 1 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics