

PS117-15 Becoming a Psychologist

24/25

Department

Psychology

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Jagjeet Jutley-Neilson

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 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.

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 and evidence
- Effective referencing and academic integrity
- Planning and structuring essays 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.
- Understand how to plan and write evaluatively

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

effective written communication and paraphrasing

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 A2

| | Weighting | Study time |
|--|-----------|------------|
| On-line Test 1 | 40% | 20 hours |
| Online test taken outside class time via Moodle | | |
| Research Training vidoes | 5% | 10 hours |
| 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%) | | |
| Group Vlog Submission | 25% | 20 hours |

| | Weighting | Study time |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Students will work together in groups to create a vlog | | |
| Essay | 30% | 30 hours |
| Essay marked by personal tutor | | |

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-C801 Undergraduate Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 1 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- Year 1 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics