

For 2017/18 entry

**1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):**

BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience, C8BC

BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a year abroad, C8BC

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study: Full Time**

**b) Type of study: Campus-based**

**4. Registration periods:**

The normal period of registration is three years (four years for those who take one year abroad)

The maximum period of registration is five years (six years for those who take one year abroad)

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

A2 level grades: AAB-ABB (Normal GCSE requirements: Grade C/4 in English Language, Maths or statistics, Biology or Core Science and Additional Science)

International Baccalaureate: 30/32 points

European Baccalaureate: Pass with 80% overall

Access to HE diploma: Pass with 30 credits at distinction (plus the three GCSEs from those stated above).

English Language requirement: IELTS 6.5

**For students on the year abroad:**

Entry to the year abroad variant of a degree will be subject to performance in Years 1 and 2. Students need to achieve a year average of a 2.1 with no failed modules in Year 1 with a good record of attendance (a minimum of 60% across lectures and tutorials is expected). Students need to achieve a year average of a 2.1 with no outstanding modules by the end of Year 2 (records should continue to reflect good attendance with a minimum of 60% across lectures and tutorials expected).

Students who do not meet this criteria by the end of Year 2 will revert to the programme that they entered on.

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

APL not accepted

**7. Programme aims:**

The programme aims to:

- provide a contemporary, exciting degree programme that will inspire and challenge students;
- provide a stimulating curriculum that exploits the School's research expertise and teaching strengths;
- provide students with comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the principles underlying psychology and cognitive neuroscience;

- enable students to evaluate the impact of neuroscientific advances on our ability to study the neural mechanisms underlying human and animal behaviour;
- provide students with an opportunity to explore aspects of cognitive neuroscience that are of particular interest to them;
- satisfy the educational requirements for degree accreditation and graduate membership of the British Psychological Society; and
- facilitate the development and demonstration of a range of skills that will produce confident and independent graduates who will be successful in whatever career they choose.

**For those on Study Abroad or Year Abroad:**

- provide an opportunity for Leicester students to spend their third year, studying at a partner institution in Europe as part of the European Erasmus framework exchange program or a partner institution on another continent as part of the Study Abroad exchange programme;
- develop study skills in another university following a guided programme of learning for the period spent abroad;
- provide an opportunity for exchange students from partner institutions in another country to study in the United Kingdom;
- provide and build on links between the University of Leicester and its partner institutions
- consider the different approaches to the study of psychology adopted by scholars working outside of the UK.

**8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**

- Accreditation reports by the British Psychological Society (Latest review September 2015)
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Psychology (November 2016)  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statement-Psychology.aspx>
- QAA Institutional Audit (2016) <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/Reports/Pages/inst-audit-University-of-Leicester-09.aspx>
- QAA: The UK Quality Code for Higher Education  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code>
- Discovery-Led and Discovery Enabling Learning Strategy  
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report (Latest review Spring 2012).
- National Student Surveys (NSS) - Annual: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/nss/data/>
- Annual Developmental Review
- Destinations of Leavers of Higher Education Survey - Annual
- External Examiners’ Reports – Annual
- Programme Approval Panels’ recommendations

**9. Programme Outcomes:**

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</b>		
<b>(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge</b>		
Master the principles underlying the disciplines of psychology and cognitive neuroscience.  <u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> including principles of debates and research practices outside the UK	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.	Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques</b>		
<p>Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles underlying neural processing and cognition.</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.</p>	<p>Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.</p>
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of contemporary advances in psychology and neuroscience and the techniques available to study how the brain encodes information.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p><u>Those on the Year Abroad:</u> Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of contemporary and cultural advances in psychology and neuroscience and the techniques available to study how the brain encodes information.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Demonstrate how the theory and techniques learned can be implemented to carry out cognitive neuroscience research.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Demonstrate the ability to communicate scientific information and research findings in a comprehensible way.</p>		
<b>(iii) Critical analysis of key issues</b>		
<p>Compare and contrast current opinion in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.</p>	<p>Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.</p>
<p>Evaluate the impact of neuroscientific advances on our ability to study the neural mechanisms underlying human and animal behaviour.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material</b>		
<p>Present coherent arguments in oral and a range of written formats.</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.</p> <p><u>Those on Year Abroad</u> Year 4: Year abroad Information session</p>	<p>Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.</p> <p><u>Those on Year Abroad</u> Year 4: Oral presentation during Year abroad Information session</p>
<b>(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight</b>		
<p>Develop structured and mature arguments reflecting an understanding of prevalent issues in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.</p>	<p>Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.</p>
<b>(vi) Other discipline specific competencies</b>		
<p>Develop a sound understanding of statistical techniques and their applications.</p> <p>Design, execute and present research projects and a dissertation.</p> <p>Understand ethical principles in relation to the conduct of research in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.</p> <p><u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> Reflect on cultural context to ethical practices, comparing principles in the UK with those of host country</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, practical classes, research projects.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>As above.</p>	<p>Problem-solving exercises, written examinations, practical reports, dissertation.</p> <p>Practical reports, dissertation.</p> <p>Problem-solving exercises, written examinations, practical reports, dissertation.</p>
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>		
<b>(i) Oral communication</b>		
<p>Demonstrate the ability to communicate material orally in a clear, fluent and coherent manner.</p> <p><u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> Present information on their experience of studying abroad in a way that is appropriate for prospective year abroad students</p>	<p>Tutorials, presentation sessions.</p> <p><u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> Year 4: Active participation in year abroad Information session</p>	<p>Group discussions, oral presentations, poster presentations.</p> <p><u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> 5 minute long oral presentation</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(ii) Written communication</b>		
Demonstrate the ability to produce written work that reflects clear, fluent and coherent line of argument.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.	Essays, practical reports. Essay-based examinations, dissertation.
<b>(iii) Information technology</b>		
Employ information technology to support and supplement learning.	Computer-based practical classes, research projects, dissertation.	Essays, power-point presentations, use of statistical software for data analysis, practical reports, dissertation.
Produce high quality pieces of work encompassing appropriate use of graphical and statistical software.	As above.	As above.
Search for and retrieve information relevant to a particular psychological or cognitive neuroscience topic.	As above.	As above.
<b>(iv) Numeracy</b>		
Analyse research findings using appropriate statistical techniques.	Statistics lectures, computer practical classes, problem-solving exercises.	Statistical element of degree programme, statistics examinations, data analysis, practical reports, research projects, dissertation.
<b>(v) Team working</b>		
Demonstrate the ability to work effectively as part of a team to explore issues in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.	Tutorials, seminars, group research projects.	Contributions to discussions, group research projects, group presentations.
<b>(vi) Problem solving</b>		
Be able to evaluate issues and problems in psychology and cognitive neuroscience in a critical, balanced and informed manner.	Tutorials, seminars, directed-reading, computer practical classes, problem solving exercises.	Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.
Learn how to translate a research problem into an appropriate research design.	As above.	As above.
<b>(vii) Information handling</b>		
Demonstrate the ability to gather, analyse and present information in a coherent and structured manner.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.	Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(viii) Skills for lifelong learning</b>		
<p>Demonstrate independence in various aspects of work in psychology and cognitive neuroscience: in approaching problems and in communication.</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, directed reading, resource-based learning, group research projects, independent research projects.</p>	<p>Examinations, essays, practical reports, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, oral presentations, poster presentations, dissertation.</p>
<p>Plan for and obtain successful personal, educational and career development.</p>	<p>Tutorials, career development programmes, resource-based learning, personal development planning programme.</p>	<p>Personal development planning activities, curriculum vitae.</p>
<p><u>Those on Year Abroad:</u> Learn about the experiences of professionals in the field in the UK and in other cultures.</p>		
<p>Demonstrate strategies for self-monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in a different culture and institution.</p>		

#### 10. Progression points:

In order for students to pass from Year 1 to Year 2 they must obtain an overall weighted average of at least 40, with no honours modules below 40 and no non-honours modules below 35. They must achieve the relevant level of pass in the four designated pre-requisite modules (PS1000, PS1001, PS1003, PS1004). The honours modules for Year 1 are PS1001 and PS1004. The normal expectation will be that students progress from Year 1 to Year 2 in a 12 month period, however the maximum periods of study require progression from year 1 to 2 within 36 months from first registration on the degree.

In order for students to pass from Year 2 to Year 3 they must pass ALL of their second year modules (i.e. ALL 2<sup>nd</sup> yr modules are prerequisites for progression to Year 3), obtaining an overall weighted average of at least 40, with no honours modules below 40 and no non-honours modules below 35. The normal expectation will be that students progress from Year 2 to Year 3 in a 12 month period, however the maximum periods of study require progression from year 2 to 3 within 48 months from first registration on the degree. The honours modules for Year 2 are PS2021 and PS2022.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

**Progression points for the year abroad:**

In addition to those in the BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience degree, the year abroad degree will have the following progression points:

According to Senate Regulation 5.30, in the case of four-year programmes in which the year out does not count towards the final classification, the second and fourth years are used in determining the degree class, according to the standard scheme for three year programmes.

**Application to Transfer from BSc Psychology to BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a Year Abroad**

Students are invited to apply at the end of their first year to transfer to the BSc with a Year Abroad. Students need to achieve a year average of a 2.1 with no failed modules in Year 1. We will also take into account student attendance with a minimum attendance rate of 60% across lectures and tutorials expected.

**Progression from 2nd year to year abroad**

Students may progress to the year abroad with no outstanding modules by the end of Year 2 and a year average of a 2.1. Good attendance rates (60% across lectures and tutorials) must be maintained throughout year 2. Students who do not meet the requirements will transfer back onto the programme on which they entered.

**Progression from year abroad to final year**

Students must study the equivalent of 120 credits during their year abroad (60 in semester 1 and 60 in semester 2). At least 60% of these modules must be based within the discipline of Psychology, the other 40% may be in a related discipline or be language based modules. All Psychology modules that are studied should be at either Level 5 or 6. It is expected that modules studied from other disciplines will be at Level 4 or 5. For a student to progress to the final year of the BSc Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience with a Year Abroad programme, students must pass the year according to the regulations in the receiving institution. Students who do not meet the pass requirements of their modules during their year will transfer back onto their traditional BSc programme, without a year abroad.

**11. Scheme of Assessment**

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in Senate Regulation 5.

**12. Special features:**

This degree programme enhances innovation and creativity within the School of Psychology. It represents a key innovation in the psychology curriculum through the introduction of a new strand of teaching in cognitive neuroscience. Creativity in the students will be developed through a focus on intellectual independence, for example, through the introduction of new modules such as "Skills and Perspectives in Cognitive Neuroscience" where students are encouraged to independently explore concepts and issues

**For Students on the Year Abroad:**

Students may apply to transfer to the BSc Psychology (with a Year Abroad) after successful completion of the first year and subsequent successful completion of the second year.

The BSc with a Year Abroad provides for students spending their third year at one of our partner institutions and then returning to Leicester for their final year.

Our partner institutions are currently:

- Groningen University, The Netherlands (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)
- Leiden University, The Netherlands

This list is subject to change at short notice.

The exchange is a 'cultural exchange', so that students cannot apply to study at a University in a country/region from which they originally come.

Students for the BSc with a Year Abroad degree must apply originally through UCAS for the BSc degree. Applications to transfer on to the BSc with a Year Abroad degree are made towards the end of the first year. Eligibility is determined on the basis of the first year marks and attendance records.

### 13. Indications of programme quality

The School of Psychology has a robust research base in the field of cognitive neuroscience. As such, it is in a very strong position to offer a degree programme in the fields of psychology with cognitive neuroscience, drawing directly on the expertise available in the School. Students enrolled on this degree programme will be provided with a solid theoretical and practical grounding in contemporary issues in psychology with the addition of a new strand of teaching in cognitive neuroscience. At its core will be a synergy between research and teaching.

The course is accredited by the British Psychological Society and as such confers eligibility for Graduate Membership and/or the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. The BPS continued the accreditation of the programme in their partnership visit of December 2012. The Psychology programmes at Leicester received seven commendations (and no conditions or recommendations) with the review team commenting: These are impressive, high quality and well managed programmes which exceed the Society's expectations.

### 14. External Examiners

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

### 15. Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience			
Semester One		Semester Two	
Year 1 (PC1)			
PS1000	Introductory Psychology 1 (10)*	PS1003	Introductory Psychology 2 (10)*
PS1001	Psychology Practical 1 (20)*	PS1004	Psychology Practical 2 (20)*
PS1010	Intro Perception & Cognition (10)	PS1009	Applied Psychology (10)
PS1014	Approaches to Psychology 1B (20)	PS1016	Psychology Skills (20)
Semester total: 60 credits		Semester total: 60 credits	
Year 2 (PC2)			
PS2021	Psychology Practicals A (20)*	PS2022	Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience Practical B (20)*
PS2005	Abnormal/Individual Differences (10)*	PS2002	Social Behaviour & Development (10)*
PS2015	Abnormal/Individual Differences Library Module (10)*	PS2020	Cognitive Neuroscience Library Module (10)*
PS2011	Cognitive Psychology (10)*	PS2014	Biological Psychology (10)*
PS2016	Cognitive Psychology Library Module (10)*	PS2018	Biological Psychology Library Module (10)*
Semester total: 60 credits		Semester total: 60 credits	
Year 3 (PC3) - Core Modules <sup>2</sup> (or Year 4 in the case of the Year Abroad)			
Dissertation: Either PS3015 Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience Dissertation (40) OR PS3041 Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience Group Dissertation (40)			
PS3002	Brain & Cognition (20)	PS3000	Social Behaviour & Development (20)
PS3023	Research methods and applications in the Neurosciences (10)	PS3024	Skills and perspectives in cognitive neuroscience (10)

Year 3 (PC3) - Option modules, one in each semester chosen from:			
PS3006	Cooperation, Conflict & Social Dilemmas (10)	PS3010	Behavioural Neuroscience (10)
PS3007	Legal Psychology (10)	PS3019	Cognitive & Clinical Neuropsychology (10)
PS3013	Clinical Psychology (10)	PS3020	Individual differences (10)
PS3022	Visual Cognition: From the laboratory to the real world (10)	PS3026	Evolution, Cognition & Behaviour (10)
PS3033	Psychology across the lifespan (10)	PS3028	Judgment and Decision Making (10)
		PS3040	Occupational Psychology (10)
		PS3045	Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity (10)
			Year total: 120 credits

\* Pre-requisites for next year of course<sup>1</sup>

Notes for Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience

1. Note that to allow progression to the next year of your course, you must pass all pre-requisite modules\*. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. The core modules in the third year are compulsory modules.

#### **16. Appendix 2: Module specifications**

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>

#### **17. Appendix 3: Skills matrix**

As attached