

PSYCHOLOGY

Postgraduate Study and Research

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GET READY TO TAKE YOUR CAREER TO NEW HEIGHTS



The School of Psychology places an emphasis on research-led teaching delivered by internationally respected academics who are experts in their field. We're passionate about better understanding behaviour, its stimuli and advancing the research landscape. We're proud to deliver a wide range of programmes and look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant learning community.

Professor Helen Poole, Director School of Psychology

Step up and take your place at Liverpool John Moores University

With a passion for teaching excellence, high calibre research and boasting invaluable links with key industries, our programmes are highly respected. Whether you are planning to specialise or take a complete change of direction, you'll be fully supported in achieving your ambitions.

Shape your future in historic Liverpool

Inspiration surrounds you at LJMU. On and off campus. As a former Capital of Culture 2008, our vibrant city has so much to offer, with museums and theatres seemingly on every corner. Breathtaking architecture, world-class music, a dynamic art scene and striking docklands are all part of Liverpool's very fabric each with their own story to tell.

Supported all the way

The support on offer at LJMU is something which resonates with many of our students. As a recent graduate or more experienced professional, you can look forward to the same.

We're with you all the way.



TAKE A VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR

Take a tour



SYNONYMOUS WITH EXCELLENCE. SINCE 1823.



At LJMU you don't feel like anything is out of reach career-wise. There are many amazing opportunities. 

Alison Robinson, postgraduate student

FIND YOURSELF IN GREAT COMPANY

Home to around 25,000 students from over 100 countries, LJMU is intrinsic to Liverpool's justice landscape. The city itself is also home to the 8th largest police force in the UK – Merseyside Police (Statista, 2024) and one of the busiest law centres in England.

We have excellent links with the Liverpool Civil and Family Courts, and Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts as well as other local and national legal and criminal justice agencies.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Two extensive libraries

Mount Pleasant Campus Library
City Campus Library

- 2,000 study spaces with dedicated postgraduate areas
- Over 1.25 million items including 303,000 printed resources
- 123,300 electronic journal titles
- PCs with access to over 2,000 applications
- Our Student Life Building is open 24/7



RESEARCH THAT LIFTS YOU HIGHER

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

Pioneering research is at the heart of our innovative interdisciplinary psychology programmes. According to the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021), our Research Power for psychology, psychiatry and neuroscience was rated as 76% and 44% of research submitted was considered world-leading or internationally important. As a postgraduate student you'll have the chance to become part of this world-class community with excellent resources at your fingertips.

Research grounded in passion

The Research Centre for Brain and Behaviour is a multidisciplinary meeting point for researchers with a passion for all things brain and mind. A catalyst for transformational psychological research, here you'll find a wealth of expert teaching and quality research, all waiting to be tapped into:

- Neuroscience
- Health psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Cognition; education and language
- Somatosensation; pain, itch and touch
- Suicide prevention
- Mindfulness, mental health and wellbeing

- 900+ university wide research community
- #49 out of 129 universities in the UK for research power (REF 2021)
- 97% of the research environment at LJMU is rated internationally recognised or world-leading (REF 2021)
- 241 unique peer-reviewed articles published by staff in 2021-22
- 86% research-active tutors

Scan and Discover

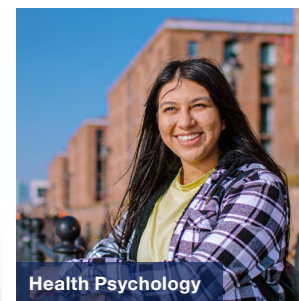


My research informs all of my teaching, and I take pleasure in sharing what I have learned with my students. Seeing them develop their own questions, develop enthusiasm for new methods and ideas and building the skills to understand and measure the brain and behaviour is extremely rewarding.

Dr David Moore, Programme Leader, MSc Brain and Behaviour



Neuroscience



Health Psychology



Forensic Psychology



Touch



Suicide Prevention

POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

Whether you're looking to take that next step, specialise, or change your career altogether, postgraduate study offers many pathways to success. We've put together this handy table to help illustrate the different qualifications on offer.

Choosing your postgraduate qualification

LJMU programmes are taught (lecture-led) or research-led. Each path with its own benefits and merits. **Scan the QR code and head online to find out more.**



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

PSYCHOLOGIST

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGIST

HEALTH TRAINER

TEACHER

FORENSIC SPECIALIST

CLINICAL SUPPORT
WORKER

CONSULTANT

RESEARCHER



WHERE WILL YOUR PASSION TAKE YOU NEXT?

Though you are the key to your success, one thing is certain – our postgraduate courses are specially created with your aspirations in mind and will help you unlock the doors to your future.

Prepare for rich and diverse opportunities

However ambitious your aspirations, our programmes are designed to power your career potential. Supported by highly experienced and research-active tutors, with the aid of a dedicated supervisor you'll be well placed to achieve further success. Many of our graduates have gone on to take up key roles within the field of psychology, as clinical psychologists, health psychologists, lecturers, forensic specialists and more...



Studying the MSc in Health Psychology at LJMU was a transformative experience that opened doors to unparalleled support, networking opportunities, and profound learning and development. It has provided me with a clear path towards my career aspirations, and I can confidently say that without LJMU, I wouldn't be where I am today, in terms of my personal and professional development and with a clear goal to becoming a Health Psychologist through their Professional Doctorate programme. 

Georgia Mulvaney (2022 Graduate)

MSc BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR

Gain advanced knowledge of the neural, pharmacological and physiological mechanisms underlying behaviour and the approaches used to study them. Learn cutting-edge techniques and enrich your academic knowledge in order to further understand brain function in health and disease. Develop the essential transferable research design, analysis and presentation skills needed to excel within research settings in both the public and private sector.

- Hands-on experiential learning will give you an appreciation of real life applications
- Take your understanding of neural, pharmacological and physiological mechanisms to the next level
- Study in state-of-the-art facilities including fully-equipped psychology and neuroscience labs in our purpose-built Tom Reilly Building
- Active researchers add invaluable insights to your postgraduate learning
- Benefit from a mixture of academic learning and practical experience on a modular curriculum
- Study full-time over one year. Entry requirements are a 2:1 to include minimum mark of 60% in your final year project

- A member of the Network of European Neuroscience Schools (NENS)



Where could your MSc in Brain and Behaviour take your career next?

Your time here at LJMU will prepare you for a career in the private sector such as the pharmaceutical or the consumer goods industry. Alternatively, excellent research opportunities within academic university or research departments await.



The MSc Brain and Behaviour course was one of the best decisions that I made for my academic career after completing a BSc Psychology. It's delivered by experts in the field, who are welcoming, motivating and encouraging. The staff go out of their way to alleviate any anxiety or doubts relating to their studies. Both staff and students created a supportive environment, which improved my confidence with things such as presenting to a group. The labs contain state of the art equipment and I particularly enjoyed hands on training in various brain imaging and brain-stimulation techniques, supplemented by incredibly interesting neuroscience lectures.

In preparation for a PhD, the MSc Brain and Behaviour developed my neuroscience knowledge, research and writing skills, data analysis, and most vitally an ability to collaborate in an academic team. The MSc truly put me ahead of the competition as I was head-hunted for a funded PhD position in industry. 

Warren Moore
MSc Brain and Behaviour Graduate



MA COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY PRACTICE

Qualify as a Counselling and Psychotherapy Practitioner on this flexible masters programme, which includes a two year clinical diploma level component. It develops practitioner-researchers via a challenging, contemporary curriculum.

Our programme locates counselling and psychotherapy in its social, political, ecological, and economic context. It explores counselling through an intersectional lens and advocates anti-oppressive practice.

Integral to the course are considerations of power and prejudice, including those pertaining to class, disability, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

- Develop research in your chosen field, taking your study further using the best facilities and supported by dedicated tutors
- Delivered by practicing therapists and supervisors, registered with counselling and psychotherapy professional bodies such as the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and the National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society (NCPS)
- Learn to work with issues such as loss, bereavement, anxiety, trauma, stress, mental health issues, depression, suicidal ideation, and sexual abuse
- Teaching and assessment incorporates a balance of academic learning, face-to-face communication and independent research

- Entry requirements include a good honours degree plus Counselling Skills Level 2 or relevant work experience

Shape your future with an MA in Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice

Many graduates go onto rewarding careers in the NHS, private and voluntary sector. Popular positions include: qualified psychotherapist, practitioner researcher, wellbeing practitioners, support workers and mental health workers. You may also like to consider higher management or developmental initiatives within your existing role - providing the ideal opportunity to showcase your increased level of autonomy and responsibility.



It is much more than an academic course of study. The tutors have helped to create a rich learning experience, as they bring together diverse groups of enthusiastic trainees to encourage individual expression in a genuinely person-centred way. Graduates leave prepared for a career in the field of psychotherapy, as a contemporary course emphasises the need for research-informed practitioners.

Ryan Paden, MA Counselling and Psychotherapy graduate



**FIND OUT
MORE AND
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MSc FORENSIC AND INVESTIGATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Prepare to go on a journey of psychological investigation as you explore offending behaviour. This exciting BPS-accredited programme expands your understanding of why individuals engage in criminal activity and how they can be managed and rehabilitated. Our dedicated teaching staff bring their research and extensive practice experience to this advanced curriculum.

- Learn in a renowned and respected school with a thriving research culture
- Carefully balanced programme offering the ideal blend of forensic and psychology topics - widening your career opportunities
- Many offenders may have experienced adversity too - this thought-provoking programme explores many viewpoints
- Work closely with staff and peers in a supportive group
- Entry requirements require a minimum 2:1 psychology degree, 60% minimum pass mark for your final dissertation/project and BPS agreed standards for GBC. IELTS level 7.0 minimum is a must for international students

How could an MSc in Forensic and Investigative Psychology power your potential?

Our careers and employability team ensure that your postgraduate experiences increase your

employability factor. From visiting speakers and mock interviews through to CV support we'll help you face future interviews armed with all you need to succeed.



I am keen to support students to develop their career aspirations. I aim to show students just how their academic learning can inform their work with different clients in forensic and mental health settings.

Dr Kirsty Alderson, Co-Programme Leader

I really enjoy sharing my knowledge and research with students who are passionate about pursuing a career within the field of Forensic or Investigative Psychology. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing them succeed.

Dr Victoria Blinkhorn, Co Programme Leader



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psychological society
accredited sport and exercise
psychology



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MSc HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

If you're working towards BPS accreditation and a career as a registered Health Psychologist, this advanced programme will help you achieve your goals. With a strong focus on psychological investigation and ethical issues you'll take your understanding of key aspects to new heights. If you are set on enhancing patient wellbeing and encouraging healthier lifestyles, our multidisciplinary programme will give you all you need for a successful career in child or adult health psychology.

- Already or intending to work with clients with long-term conditions? This insightful programme examines key issues such as coping, adjustment and caregiving
- Take your learning to the next level in state-of-the-art facilities where you'll also receive personalised academic and pastoral support
- Learn from experienced professionals - our academic staff include registered psychologists and approved supervisors, certified to sector standards
- Our modular curriculum is delivered via a range of teaching and assessment methods underpinned by continuous support and feedback
- Flexible course options over one year full-time or over two years part-time - entry requirements are a minimum 2:1 degree and IELTS level 7.0 (for international

students) with the key transferable skills required to undertake original, empirical research

What could your future look like with an MSc in Health Psychology?

When it comes to health psychology careers you'll be spoilt for choice: you could choose from various demanding and desirable roles including PhD Researcher, Health Trainer, Health and Migration Consultant, Assistant Psychologist and Smoking Cessation Advisor.



The course was both challenging and stimulating, inspiring me to pursue a career as a health psychologist. The breadth and depth of the course content was exceptional, and I had the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that I developed on the course to real-world research which was invaluable experience for my future career.

Ruth Quaglieri-Woods, graduate



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psychology

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MSc POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND WELLBEING

With a strong focus on the human traits, strengths and skills that lie at the heart of happiness, wellbeing and social engagement, this dynamic programme is the perfect option if you want to explore positive psychology and promote wellbeing. Place yourself at the forefront of this rapidly evolving field as you boost your theoretical knowledge, practical skills and experiential insights. Research-led teaching keeps your learning in line with current practice as you progress towards your career goals.

- From positive neuroscience and meditation to mindfulness and wellbeing, you'll take your understanding of positive human development to the next level
- Through a practice-based module you will deepen your experience in mindfulness-based strengths practice
- Internationally leading research-active academics bring current real-world experience to your postgraduate learning
- State-of-the-art facilities support your learning and our dedicated team is here to support you

- Learn at your pace over one or two years. Applicants must have a 2:2 Psychology or 2:1 in an alternative relevant subject

What does a career in Positive Psychology and Wellbeing look like?

Graduation can be your next step towards a career in applied psychological practice, clinical psychology or talking therapies. As a professional you will broaden your perspective and bring the best from positive psychology into your work. Of course further education or research including doctoral level study are also natural progression routes.

Where could an MSc in Positive Psychology and Wellbeing take you?

The degree can support your progression towards a career as a psychological wellbeing practitioner, clinical psychologist, talking therapist, or as a researcher through PhD study. The course offers a unique opportunity to formally develop your mindfulness meditation practice as a step towards mindfulness teacher training. As professional in health and wellbeing, education, coaching, and various related fields you will broaden your expertise by embedding positive psychology into your professional practice.

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PgCert PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING PRACTITIONER

If you are currently working in primary care and would like to take your career to the next level and become a registered Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, our British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited postgraduate certificate will help get you there.

The programme aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills to implement and evaluate a range of evidence-based low-intensity psychological treatments for people with common mental health problems in primary care settings. Within the NHS, this is mainly working in Talking Therapies for Anxiety and Depression (formerly IAPT), helping people manage and recover from anxiety disorders and depression.

You will learn how to function effectively as mental health practitioner using core knowledge and skills in engagement, assessment, problem formulation, collaborative decision making and evaluation.

It will prepare you to manage your own caseload, liaising and networking widely with other statutory and non-statutory agencies to facilitate patient-centred individualised mental health care for the primary care population. You will be able to recognise and respect the cultural diversities that arise in health care, challenge discriminatory practice and always strive to give your best without prejudice.

The course also supports you to develop the knowledge and ability to engage in, and disengage from, therapeutic relationships through the application of appropriate interpersonal theories and skills, demonstrating

ethical discernment and sound clinical judgement.

Accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) against the requirements for qualification as a Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

- Study full or part-time
- Start months: March, October
- Entry requirements: 2:2 Honours (Level 6) degree or above, currently employed full-time in a primary care area with employer support, interview required
- An alternative Level 6 (undergraduate) route is also available as both direct entry and as a degree apprenticeship for employees of participating organisations

Where could this qualification take you?

There are nine pay bands and you'll usually be paid at band 4 while you train. After completing your training you'll be paid at band 5 with opportunities to progress with experience. As a qualified and experienced PWP you can apply for more senior posts at bands 6, 7 and 8a with additional management and leadership responsibilities or a clinical specialism. Terms and conditions can vary if you are employed outside the NHS. (Source: healthcareers.nhs.uk)



DHealthPsych

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approved, this advanced programme is designed to meet BPS Stage 2 training and provide eligibility for registration - taking you closer to achieving your career aspirations. Develop your skills in teaching, training, behaviour change and interventions as you propel your learning within our award-winning Byrom Campus. You will benefit from access to our team of Practitioner Health Psychologists who have a wealth of professional experience and insights to share.

- Small teaching groups provide you with focused and dedicated support
- Use your current experience and combine it with taught sessions and extensive supervision to take your learning to new heights
- Varied teaching and assessment methods including professional practice, viva voce examination and published papers
- Studying over two, three, four, or six years gives you the flexibility to learn and work at a pace to suit your lifestyle
- Applicants must have a good honours degree, a BPS Accredited MSc in Health Psychology (or BPS Stage 1 Qualification), normally at merit level or higher, and suitable ongoing placement

Where could a Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology take you next?

This advanced course opens the door to a multitude of career opportunities including health education, promotion and administration. You'll also find rewarding roles in healthcare, research or teaching.



I am really enjoying the Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology. Although it is very challenging, university lecturers and supervisors are always on-hand to support me. I definitely think that I have made the right decision in choosing this course as it will inevitably prepare me for my career.

Rupy Kaur



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psychology

hcpc health & care
professions
council

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MORE AND
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SURROUND YOURSELF BY PEOPLE WHO BRING OUT YOUR BEST

"My role is exciting and interesting, overseeing the development of Health Psychology trainees and working with a diverse range of Health Professionals and health conditions. It is rewarding to see our trainees progress into practitioners who effect real world change to the profession and practice, enhancing civic engagement in Liverpool and beyond".

DR RACHEL TARLING, Programme Leader
of the Professional Doctorate in Health



A

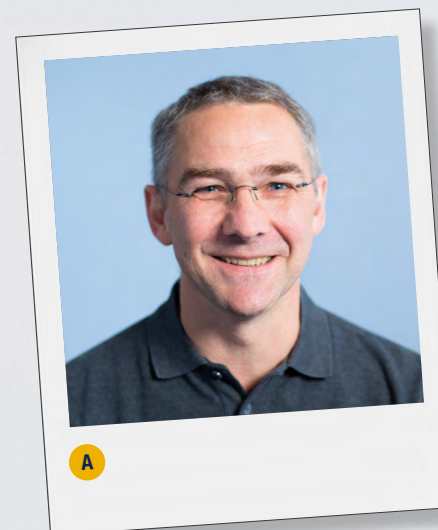
"The most rewarding aspect of my work at LJMU is that my research into meditation and my positive psychology teaching contribute to the development of greater inner freedom for our students."

DR PETER MALINOWSKI
MSc Positive Psychology and
Wellbeing Co-Programme Leader

B

"Universities need to understand that the community won't always come to them, they're going to have to step outside and talk to people and LJMU is very good at doing just that. I am passionate about creating real change through research impact, and sharing this with students, such as my work with James' Place male suicide prevention charity."

PROFESSOR POOJA SAINI,
Professor of Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention



A



B

"I found the course stimulating and the teaching outstanding. The course provides a current and relevant grounding for a career in health services."

Katie Davis, MSc Health
Psychology graduate

**Learn more
about your
tutors**



BE AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

Our vibrant city welcomes you

Wings open wide. With more cafes, restaurants, bars and clubs than you can imagine, you'll feel totally at home and inspired. Something you'll know well if you're a local.

One of the top ten cities to visit in the world (Rough Guide), Liverpool boasts a culturally diverse community, with galleries and museums seemingly on every corner.



EXPLORE LIVERPOOL



LIVERPOOL IS THE #1 BEST UK STUDENT CITY

Student Crowd, 2023



HOST OF BBC RADIO 1's BIG WEEKEND 2025



PURPLE FLAG CITY SOCIALISE SAFELY

Liverpool Express and ATCM, 2025



EXPERIENCE A RANGE OF CULTURAL EVENTS: LIVERPOOL SOUND CITY, AFRICA OYE AND RIVER OF LIGHT TO NAME A FEW



TAKE A LOOK



LEARN MORE



“Liverpool is such an inspiring city to study in. It's vibrant, full of life, and there's always something happening.”

Jeffrey Shijo, MSc Artificial Intelligence student

Make yourself at home

All our new students are guaranteed accommodation. We've a wide range of high quality homes to choose from; both university endorsed and private rentals, including a range suitable for those with disabilities.



International Student?

Our international opportunities are in high demand. Get all the advice you need, including funding and how to apply.



REACH OUT

We're with you all the way



FINANCE AND FUNDING

From loans to grants and scholarships, there are lots of funding options to explore to make postgraduate study a reality. Extra help might be available for those facing unexpected hardship and those with dependants and/or care responsibilities. Some students may be able to claim benefits while studying and further support is also available if you have an ongoing disability or specific learning difficulty.

Whatever you need, we're here for you. Our student support is all-encompassing:

- Disability co-ordinators
- Funding and finance advice
- Career guidance
- Spiritual support
- Health and wellbeing
- Entrepreneur Start-up Hub
- LJMU Campus Connect allows you to get to know fellow students even before you start your course



As well as having some of the best learning facilities in the country, I've found the support invaluable. I was able to speak to my supervisor before beginning, and that was so reassuring. 🗨️

Elysia Greenway, PhD Forensic Facial Reconstruction



**FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
SUPPORT**



CAREER GUIDANCE

Our first-class support extends to expert career advice and workshops - helping to nurture your talent and power your future.



As an LJMU student, regardless of your level, we're with you all the way. Before you start, you'll have the opportunity to come to a range of events and speak to tutors and staff. Even in the run up to graduation and beyond, we'll support you with lifetime career advice and guidance. 🗨️

Paul Dawson, Student Futures



SEE MORE



97%

**OF POSTGRADUATES
GO INTO EMPLOYMENT
OR FURTHER STUDY
15 MONTHS AFTER
GRADUATING**

Graduate Outcomes Survey,
Published 2025







SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

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ljmu.ac.uk



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The information in this publication is correct at the time of going to press (October 2025). Some changes will inevitably occur between publication and the academic year to which the publication relates and the university reserves the right to withdraw or make alterations if necessary.

Information contained in this publication is a general guide. It does not constitute or form part of any contract and it is not binding on prospective students, students or the university.

Applicants should therefore not rely solely on this publication and should use it in conjunction with information provided on our website: **www.ljmu.ac.uk**.

For further information on the LJMU admissions policy please visit: **ljmu.ac.uk/admissions**.

This brochure is available in different formats, please contact us for more information.