

# MRes Research Methods in Psychology

## Programme specification

### 1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MRes Research Methods in Psychology
b) Programme code(s)	710033C (previous version 710033B)
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Dr Karina J Linnell
e) Entry requirements	<p>You would normally have, or be expected to gain, a first degree of at least a Lower Second standard in Psychology or a closely related scientific discipline (e.g., neuroscience, speech sciences, medicine, cognitive science) with a research component. You will also be considered even if you are not a graduate or your degree is in an unrelated field but you have relevant experience and can demonstrate that you have the ability to work at postgraduate level. In practice, most students taking the programme have a first degree of an Upper Second standard or better.</p> <p>Applications from overseas students are welcome and we accept a wide range of international-equivalent qualifications. If your first language is not English, you need to be able to demonstrate the required level of English Language competence to enrol on our programmes. Goldsmiths' normal requirement is an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent.</p> <p>A preparatory statistics workshop is offered to all students who have been accepted on PG psychology programmes. It takes place before the beginning of term and covers basic descriptive (measures of centrality and variance) and inferential (t-tests and univariate analysis of variance) statistics. It is offered at no additional cost. Completion of the preparatory stats course is not a prerequisite for starting on the programme but it is recommended, in particular for students with little knowledge in statistics or students whose UG degree in Psychology was completed some time ago.</p>
f) Academic year effective from	2026-2027

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## 2. Programme Aims & Overview

### Aims

Across the sciences, concerns about the replicability and credibility of research have prompted a global movement toward more rigorous and open scientific practices. Psychology has been at the forefront of this transformation, developing innovative tools and methods to improve the quality and reproducibility of its findings.

Through modules focused on research design and the fundamentals of both quantitative and qualitative approaches to research, advanced analytical techniques, critical analysis, and open and credible science, the MRes aims to equip you with an advanced understanding of the research methods and skills necessary to conduct high-level rigorous research in psychology and to make you into a critical and reflective consumer and producer of psychological research and data-based knowledge.

You will have the opportunity to acquire practical, 'hands-on' experience of research by conducting a research placement under the direction of a member of academic staff and to develop your own research interests by conducting an empirical research project under the supervision of a different member of academic staff.

### Overview

The 180-credit MRes Research Methods in Psychology programme of study is taken over one year full-time or two years part-time.

You can also take the first 60 credits of the MRes part-time over 9 months (between September and May) as a PG Cert in Research Methods in Psychology or the first 120 credits either full-time over 9 months (between September and May) or part-time over two years - each year involving 9 months of study (between September and May) - as a PG Dip in Research Methods in Psychology.

All students take Research Design & Analysis (quantitative and qualitative approaches), Multivariate Statistical Methods, Credible and Open Research in Practice, and Core Qualitative Research Methods.

Students enrolled on the MRes and PG Dip also take Advanced Quantitative Methods, Coding in Python and MATLAB, Critical Analysis, and the Research Placement.

MRes students complete their studies with a 60-credit Research Project.

The programme will appeal to you if you would like to develop your career in experimental research or enhance your ability to apply research skills in either the public or the private sector. The programme's structure and content reflect the fact that such careers currently span a wide range of settings (including academic, civil service, industrial, educational and clinical contexts).

For more than twenty years now, the MRes has been providing the research training required by doctoral students in psychology. Between 2011 and 2016, the programme was the research methods training programme for the Psychology pathway within the Goldsmiths and Queen Mary ESRC-funded Doctoral Training

Centre (2011-2016). Between 2017 and 2023, the programme provided research methods training for the Psychology pathway within the South-east Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) and - since 2024 - it has provided research methods training for the Psychology pathway within the South & East Network for Social Sciences (SENSS) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP).

### 3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	N/A
c) HECoS Code(s):	(100497) Psychology
d) QAA Benchmark group:	Psychology

### 4. Awards

Item	Information
g) Awarding institution:	University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' University)
h) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
i) Home School:	Mind, Body & Society
j) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. Computing 2. Other 3. <b>If other, name here:</b> Graduate School
k) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
l) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
m) Final awards:	MRes

### 5. Delivery

Item	Information					
a) Language of study:	English					
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify:					
c) Mode of study:	On Campus					
	Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the table below.					
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;"><b>Total hours directed learning/year</b></td> <td colspan="2" style="background-color: #FFD700;"><b>1800</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-person hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1800</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>100%</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Total hours directed learning/year</b>	<b>1800</b>		In-person hours	1800
<b>Total hours directed learning/year</b>	<b>1800</b>					
In-person hours	1800	<b>100%</b>				

Item	Information		
	Online hours	0	0%
d) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time		
e) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months		
f) External accreditation:	N/A		
g) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A		

## 6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

### Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

### On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

Learning Outcome		Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Demonstrate critical understanding of psychological methods and analytical techniques	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Demonstrate conceptual understanding of coding and advanced quantitative methods	7	Responsible agency
D3	Communicate critical understanding of the psychological theories, research methods, and existing literature relevant to a novel psychological research question	7	Diversity of perspective
F1	Apply understanding of psychological methods and analytical techniques to address empirical research questions	7	Diversity of perspective
F2	Apply knowledge of coding and advanced quantitative methods techniques to analyse data	7	Responsible agency
F3	Design, implement, analyse, and communicate in its appropriate theoretical context an original piece of empirical psychological research in a credible, transparent and reproducible way	7	Responsible agency

P1	Apply best practices in psychology to enhance the credibility, transparency, and reproducibility of empirical research	7	Responsible agency
P2	Apply coding and advanced quantitative data analysis skills	7	Responsible agency
P3	Apply advanced research, critical thinking, project management, and communication skills	7	Collaboration

## 7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

**Compulsory** modules must be taken by all students.

**Option** modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

### Academic year 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Research Design & Analysis	PS71054D	15	7	Compulsory	1	1	N/A
Multivariate Statistical Methods (formerly taught in 'E' version using JAMOV but now in 'F' version with R).	PS71020F	15	7	Compulsory	1	1	N/A
Credible and Open Research in Practice (formerly Data Analysis and Visualisation)	PS71083C	15	7	Compulsory	2	1	N/A
Critical Analysis	PS71052B	15	7	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Research Placement	PS71085A	15	7	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A
Introduction to Coding in Python & MATLAB (formerly Introduction to Coding in R & MATLAB)	PS71089C	15	7	Compulsory	1	2	N/A
Advanced Quantitative Methods	PS71082B	15	7	Compulsory	2	2	N/A
Research Dissertation	PS71097B	60	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	2	N/A
Core Qualitative Research Methods (Grad School)	PS71053B	15	7	Compulsory	2	1	N/A

## 8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

### Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your time on campus. You are expected to attend all your timetabled learning activities.

**Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:**

The programme will be taught through lectures and linked labs and seminars, as well as 1on1 or small-group supervision during the research placement and 1on1 supervision during the research project.

### Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range of ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

**Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:**

The assessment strategy for the MRes integrates a range of assessment methods (including written research reports and homeworks, individual and group oral presentations, critical analyses, communications for non-specialist audiences, research proposals and pre-registrations, and research dissertations) to evaluate your acquisition of research skills, from foundational knowledge to the execution and defense of an independent project. The program is structured to progressively build competence, with assessment heavily weighted toward the final independent research project.

**Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)**

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	1	1
Exam	0	0	0	0	4	4
Live (presentation, performance etc.)	0	0	0	0	3	3
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Written	0	0	0	0	7	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Of which...</b>	<b>Individual:</b>	15	<b>Group:</b>	1		

## 9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	<a href="https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/">https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/</a>
b) Placement opportunities	The Research Placement module provides experiential learning opportunities that are research-relevant in the broadest sense. It has the aim of enhancing and consolidating theoretical learning, as well as providing the opportunity to promote professional and personal development, through a 70-hour research placement in the research lab of an academic member of staff in Psychology.
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A

Item	Information
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	

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## 10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

## 11. Curriculum map

### Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Research Design & Analysis	PS71054 D	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multivariate Statistical Methods	PS71020 E	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Credible and Open Research in Practice (formerly Data Analysis and Visualisation)	PS71083 C	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critical Analysis	PS71052 B	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Placement	PS71085 A	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introduction to Coding in Python & MATLAB (formerly Introduction to Coding in R & MATLAB)	PS71089 C	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Quantitative Methods	PS71082 B	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Project	PS71097 B	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Core Qualitative Research Methods	PS71053 B	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>