

Module specification

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Module Code	PSY426
Module Title	Biological Development
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100497
Cost Code	GAPS
Pre-requisite module	None

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (hons) Psychology	Core
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Foundation Year	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module will equip students with an understanding of biological human development. Students will gain an understanding of the structure and function of cells, genes, and chromosomes, along with building knowledge of their role in psychological function. Students will also develop their understanding of the biological changes which occur during key developmental periods including childhood, adolescence, and older adulthood.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	To synthesise and articulate knowledge of a particular area of biological development.
2	Demonstrate knowledge of research surrounding a particular area of biological development.
3	Identify key scientific terms and their meaning.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: A presentation focusing on a given topic in biological development (e.g., 10-minute power point presentation, 5-minute Q&A).

Assessment 2: An in-class test (e.g., MCQ).

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1,2	Presentation	15 Minutes	50%	N/A
2	3	In-class test	1 hour	50%	N/A

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A range of different learning and teaching strategies will be utilised in this module, including lectures, seminars, group, and individual activities, directed and self-directed learning, and tutorials. Seminar activities include discussions (whole class and smaller group), relevant online content (i.e., TED Talks or subject specialist videos). Module content will include pre-recorded asynchronous online content that will inform synchronous sessions. This will allow students time to reflect on and further develop their knowledge ahead of consolidating learning through group workshops and/or seminars. All learning and teaching methods are supported by the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where students will be able to access clear and timely information to support the delivery of content such as videos, links to relevant online information, discussion forums, and pre-recorded lectures. The University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) is embedded within the module to achieve optimal accessibility,

inclusivity, and flexibility in terms of teaching and learning. This is in line with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). A learning blend is used that combines synchronous and asynchronous digitally enabled learning with best use of online opportunities and on-campus spaces and facilities.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Cell structure and division
- Conception, genes, and chromosomes
- Genes and evolution
- Biological sex development
- Physical growth (prenatal, childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood)
- Infant and child cognition
- Biological changes in adolescence
- Biological changes in older adulthood

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

Slater, A. & Bremner, G. (Eds). (2017). *An introduction to developmental psychology* (3rd ed). BPS Blackwell.

Barnes, J. (2013). *Essential biological psychology* (1st ed.). SAGE Publications.

Some resources through the medium of Welsh can be found at www.porth.ac.uk, which is the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol resource portal

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	April 2026
With effect from date	September 2026
Date and details of revision	
Version number	



