

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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[UG Programme Directory](#)

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### Award titles

#### Programme Title(s)

MSc Seicoleg Gymhwysol

MSc Applied Psychology

#### Internal Programme Title(s) (if different to the title on the certificate)

N/A

#### Programme to be included in Graduation Ceremonies

Yes

### Delivery period

September 2024 – September 2028

### Intake points

One intake each September

### Regulatory details

<b>Regulatory details</b>
<b>Awarding body</b>
Wrexham University
<b>Programme delivered by</b>
Wrexham University
<b>Location of delivery</b>
Plas Coch Campus
<b>Faculty/Department</b>
FSLS, Psychology department
<b>Exit awards available</b>
Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Psychology Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Psychology
<b>Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation</b>
N/A This information is correct at the time of validation, please refer to the PSRB register for current accreditation status.
<b>Please add details of any conditions that may affect accreditation (e.g. is it dependent on choices made by a student?) e.g. completion of placement.</b>
N/A
<b>HECoS codes</b>
100497

<b>Regulatory details</b>
<b>UCAS code</b>
Not applicable as postgraduate programme
<b>Relevant External Reference Points</b>
Subject Benchmark Statement: Psychology, QAA, September 2023. <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-psychology-23.pdf?sfvrsn=5b58ae81_3">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-psychology-23.pdf?sfvrsn=5b58ae81_3</a>
<b>List the programmes that offer the Foundation Year route</b>
N/A
<b>Mode of study</b>
Full & part time
<b>Normal length of study for each mode of study</b>
Full time- 1 year Part time- 2 years
<b>Language of study</b>
English
<b>Transitional arrangements for re-validated provision if applicable</b>
N/A
<b>Repeat year students</b>
N/A
<b>The following University Award Regulations apply to this programme (<i>highlight the appropriate ones and delete the others</i>)</b>
General Regulations and Definitions Regulations for Taught Masters Degrees Language Admissions Policy

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date of validation event:	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024
Date of approval by Academic Board:	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Approved Validation Period:	September 2024 – September 2028
Transitional arrangements approved (if revalidation)	N/A
Date and type of revision:	<i>Enter the date of any subsequent revisions (Detail the type of revision made and the implementation date)</i>

## Criteria for admission to the programme

### Standard entry criteria

Undergraduate degree (BSc) in Psychology, or closely related field. With a minimum of a 2:1 degree classification, or a 2:2 with relevant experience.

### Non-Standard entry criteria

N/A



## **Record of Prior (Experiential) learning**

Applicants may enter the programme at various levels with Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Recognition of Prior Experiential learning (RPEL) in accordance with the University General Regulations. Any programme specific restrictions are outlined below.

## **DBS Requirements**

A DBS may be required for the placement component of the programme or research where the placement involves regulated activity working with vulnerable children and/or adults. This will be checked as part of the placement process, identifying where required, the appropriate type and level of DBS. Where required, the relevant DBS will be conducted prior to commencement on the placement. The type and level of DBS check required will be confirmed to you during the DBS application process.

Failure to declare a conviction, which is subsequently revealed by a DBS check may result in exclusion from the programme. The nature of declared convictions is taken into consideration following our Consideration of Criminal Convictions Policy & Procedure. In line with the Universities Disciplinary Procedure for Students, all students are required to disclose a criminal record acquired during the student's enrolment with the University.

## **Suitability for Practice Procedure**

Suitability for practice will apply to this programme as it has been designed to enhance employability for students. Most students who enrol on this master's degree will have completed a BPS accredited undergraduate degree and therefore will be familiar with the expectations of a professional course.

In addition to this, the nature of the course content means students will need to receive and discuss potentially sensitive topics and information where professionalism is expected. Students will also be undertaking work experience in their professional development module and therefore suitability for practice should be considered.

## **Aims of the programme**

The aim of the programme is to enhance students' theoretical, applied, and practical knowledge of psychology to prepare them for future careers. The programme is designed to build on theory taught within the BSc Psychology undergraduate programme and develop the ability for students to apply this knowledge to applied settings. The programme also aims to further develop transferable skills, including problem-solving, advanced research planning, increased ethical awareness, reflective skills, social and personal responsibility.

## **Distinctive features of the programme**

The unique selling point of this programme is the focus on gaining further knowledge and skills that will prepare students for graduating and working in an applied psychology setting. Currently there is no postgraduate psychology provision offered at Wrexham University. Many MSc Psychology programmes offered at other institutions put their focus on either a specific applied area (i.e., Clinical Psychology) or are entirely research focused. This programme will allow students to gain core skills in both application and research within different applied psychology settings.

The programme would also equip students with the skills and knowledge required for potential Level 8 study within an applied psychology discipline (such as professional doctorates in Educational, Counselling or Clinical Psychology). The opportunity for students to develop their skills through the professional development module will also be advantageous for students and is a distinct feature of this Masters degree. The overall focus of the programme is on developing professionalism within students and the opportunity for work-based learning will further enhance this.

Within the psychology department there is a diverse range of staff expertise and interests, which include different areas of research, as well as a variety of experience from practice. The staff body contribute to the knowledge and understanding of our student cohort via their own experience of working within those areas of expertise, drawing on how theory is applied within practice settings.

Further, our staff body draw on a diverse range of research interests and methodologies, which is reflected in the approach that is taken when teaching research methods. Within the programme there is the inclusion of both qualitative and quantitative research methods and how these can be utilised effectively, whereby students explore both qualitative and quantitative approaches with equal weighting. Research is embedded across the programme and students develop an understanding of how different research methodologies might be applied within different core areas; giving students the opportunity to explore research, how it applies within practice, and how it interacts with theory. Across the department staff research and scholarly activity underpins the curriculum, and the student cohort benefit from hearing from different perspectives and diverse experiences.

### **Credit Accumulation and exit awards**

#### **Exit Awards**

Successful completion of 60 credits at Level 7 entitles the student to the exit award of Graduate Certificate in Applied Psychology.

Successful completion of 120 credits at Level 7 entitles the student to a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Psychology

Successful completion of 180 credits at Level 7 entitles the student to a MSc in Applied Psychology (Ordinary)

### **Programme Structure Diagram, including delivery schedule**

New intakes of students will commence at the beginning of the academic year (September) and students will study for one-year full time and two-years part time. Students will receive an induction onto the programme which will outline the programme delivery, along with the expectations of the course. Students will also be assigned a project supervisor who will engage with them during their Research Project module.

Taught modules will be delivered across semester 1 and 2. Within semester 1, students will build on their theoretical knowledge within the Applied Psychology Across the Lifespan module and gain skills in Therapeutic Approaches. Students will also further their research skills in the Applied Research Methods module, which will help develop skills required for their research project. In semester 2, students will focus on practice-based theoretical

knowledge and skills in the Professional Development and Contextual and Contemporary Practice modules. They will also undertake the Assessments in Psychology Practice module.

Taught modules will be delivered using both synchronous and asynchronous methods. Teaching and learning will take place through a range of methods, including, but not limited to, lectures, seminars, small group tutorials and one-to-one sessions. Students will be provided with module content on Moodle to engage with for each module. Taught modules are all assessed through coursework have a range of assessment methods including, written assignments, presentations, and portfolios.

The research project module will run across semesters 1, 2 and 3 and will take place mainly through supervision with the students' assigned supervisors. The submission of the research project will take place in semester 3 to ensure students have completed their taught modules effectively and can concentrate on write-up from their research project, along with prepare for their VIVA examination.

Students who wish to study the programme part time will complete four taught modules in their first year (80 credits) and will then complete the two final taught modules in their second year (40 credits), along with the Research Project (60 credits).

Students who successfully complete three taught modules (60 credits) can exit with a PGCert in Applied Psychology. Students who successfully complete all taught modules (120 credits), but not the research project, can exit with the PGDip in Applied Psychology. Students who successfully complete all taught modules, and the research project, will achieve an MSc in Applied Psychology.

#### Full-time delivery

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2 )
Level 7	PSY765	Applied Research Methods	20	Core	1
Level 7	PSY766	Therapeutic Approaches	20	Core	1
Level 7	PSY767	Psychopathology Across the Lifespan	20	Core	1
Level 7	PSY768	Contextual and Contemporary Practice	20	Core	2
Level 7	PSY769	Professional Development	20	Core	2
Level 7	PSY770	Assessments in Psychological Practice	20	Core	2
Level 7	PSY771	Research Project	60	Core	1, 2 & 3

#### Part-time delivery

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)	Year of Study
7	PSY766	Therapeutic Approaches	20	Core	1	Y1
7	PSY765	Applied Research Methods	20	Core	1	Y1
7	PSY768	Contextual and Contemporary Practice	20	Core	2	Y1
7	PSY770	Assessments in Psychological Practice	20	Core	2	Y1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)	Year of Study
7	PSY767	Psychopathology Across the Lifespan	20	Core	1	Y2
7	PSY769	Professional Development	20	Core	2	Y2
7	PSY771	Research Project	60	Core	1, 2 & 3	Y2

## Intended learning outcomes of the programme

### Knowledge and Understanding

	Level 7
A1	Knowledge of how psychological theory from the core areas of psychology (biological, cognitive, developmental, individual differences, social) is utilised in professions within applied psychology.
A2	Knowledge of different psychological assessments and their appropriate use within research, and applied settings.
A3	Knowledge of applied psychology professions and the theories which underpin their practice.
A4	Knowledge of the importance of historical issues within psychological theory and how these inform modern understanding and practice.

### Intellectual Skills

	Level 7
B1	Ability to problem solve by utilising theoretical knowledge and critical-thinking skills.
B2	Ability to search and retrieve information relevant to psychology and view this through a critical lens to appreciate differing perspectives and influences.
B3	Enhance knowledge and understanding of planning, conducting, interpreting, and disseminating research.
B4	Ability to communicate verbally and non-verbally with a variety of different audiences.

### Subject Skills

	Level 7
C1	Enhanced understanding of a variety of methods of inquiry with an emphasis on research within an applied psychology discipline.
C2	Integrate ideas and findings across multiple perspectives and approaches in psychology
C3	Demonstrate digital literacy through use of online databases and analytical methods
C4	Apply psychological knowledge ethically, professionally, and safely, to real world scenarios.



### Practical, Professional and Employability Skills

	Level 4
D1	Develop skills including time-management, active listening, project management, and personal reflexivity that enhance employability.
D2	Understanding of the role of effective supervision in relation to both applied psychological practice and research environments.
D3	Enhanced knowledge of ethical considerations relevant to practice in applied psychology and research.
D4	Develop skills in working both independently and as part of a team.





## Learning and teaching strategy

A variety of learning and teaching strategies will be used to support learning on this programme. The Active Learning Framework (ALF) embedding synchronous and asynchronous learning, with face-to-face and remote sessions facilitates a truly blended learning format for the programme. Synchronous sessions will be face-to-face teaching on campus and remotely via MS Teams. Asynchronous learning will be facilitated remotely via VLE with recorded lectures, educational videos, and resources. Students will also access textbooks, journals, and other publications through the library.

**Lectures:** students will have both in-person and pre-recorded lectures during the MSc Applied Psychology to develop their knowledge and understanding of the subject area.

**Seminars:** students will also have seminars for their taught modules to further consolidate their knowledge and understanding. This will include class discussion and engaging with materials prior to sessions (such as online lectures, or specific resources such as journal articles). Depending on numbers on the programme, seminars may take place in smaller groups than the cohort has in total, to allow for discussion.

**Workshops:** students may engage with workshops to further support their subject-specific and practical skills. This may involve working in the Psychology lab, or utilising computer-based software to enable students to further develop their analysis skills. This will also enable students to enhance their knowledge of psychometric tests and assessments in applied psychology.

**Guided independent study:** students will be guided to take part in further reading for their modules, along with being given formative tasks to complete to enhance their knowledge and understanding, along with developing their professional skills by allowing them to work independently. Students may also be asked to complete tasks in small groups, but independent of their lecturer to enhance their group-work.

**Work-experience element:** as part of the professional development module, students will be required to complete work-experience within a related field. This could be academic, research, or applied in focus. This will allow students to reflect on their experience, improving their professional, practical, and employability skills.

**Assessments:** the programme adopts a range of assessment methods to ensure students improve their skills in different areas. Written assignments may take the form of essays, literature reviews, reflections, and critical appraisals which develop students' intellectual skills. Presentations are also used to develop students' ability to disseminate information to a wide range of audiences. Portfolios allow students to complete small pieces of work throughout the module which will develop into a complete portfolio of work.

## The University Skills Framework

At Wrexham University we aim to help students develop and enhance key employability skills and capabilities during their study. There are three key areas with different attributes, attitudes and skillsets and the aim is to help students have the opportunity to enhance and develop skills such as resilience, adaptability, confidence, team working, emotional intelligence and communication, creativity and acting ethically and sustainably. Programmes are designed to enable students to develop and enhance these skills via module content, module learning outcomes and assessment opportunities. Each module will help provide different opportunities for developing and enhancing these capabilities.

The programme has been designed using an Employability Level Descriptor in collaboration with the Careers and Employability team. The Employability Level Descriptor document is reviewed as part of validation and following approval will be published in the student programme handbook.

The Careers and Employability team are available to provide additional careers education activities for all programmes as well as individualised information, advice and guidance. Learners gain access to self-directed learning resources by logging into our [careers portal](#). Here students can book professional careers guidance appointments and make employment and volunteering applications and learn to build and develop their CV and applications.

### **Work based/placement learning statement**

As part of the Professional Development module, students will be required to undertake work experience in an academic, research, or applied psychology setting. This work experience will enable students to reflect enhance the taught content delivered within this module, and allow them to reflect on their experience.

### **Welsh medium provision**

The programmes will be delivered through the medium of English. Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh. Students who wish to communicate with their personal tutor in Welsh will be offered the opportunity to do so.

Optional module, Welsh in the Workplace will be offered to students to undertake alongside their studies. This is to enhance employability of graduates in line with the University's Employability Strategy. This will not count towards the credits required for the MSc Applied Psychology (or exit awards).

### **Assessment strategy**

The assessment types used for this programme include a range of course work rather than examinations to support and capture the diverse strengths of students whilst assessing them. This is in recognition of how students may differ in their strengths when learning different topics and offer students the chance to perform at their best possible whilst tapping into their strengths.

Assessments have been designed to increase student's ability to present work in a variety of formats (such as essays, reports, presentations, course work, poster presentations etc.). It is hoped that this will also offer students the opportunity to develop transferrable skills such as; written communication skills, verbal communication skills, articulation skills, public speaking etc.

Students will be expected to submit assignments via the VLE. Feedback will be provided back to the student online via the VLE within the usual turnaround times as stated by the university (three weeks). Students will be able to arrange one-to-one tutorials for additional verbal feedback if required (in person or via MS Teams) if requested.

Module code & title	Assessment type and weighting	Indicative submission date
PSY765 Applied Research Methods	Written assignment- critical appraisal (50%) Portfolio (50%)	Semester 1 Middle of semester  End of semester
PSY766 Therapeutic Approaches	Written assignment- essay (50%) Portfolio (50%)	Semester 1 Middle of semester End of semester
PSY767 Psychopathology Across the Lifespan	Written assignment- literature review (100%)	Semester 1 End of semester
PSY768 Contextual and Contemporary Practice	Presentation (30%) Written assignment- essay (70%)	Semester 2 Middle of semester End of semester
PSY769 Professional Development	Portfolio (100%)	Semester 2 End of semester
PSY770 Assessments in Psychological Practice	Written assignment- essay (70%) Written assignment- reflection (30%)	Semester 2 Middle of semester  End of semester
PSY771 Research Project	Written assignment- research project (80%) Presentation- VIVA (20%)	Semester 3 End of semester End of semester (following marking of the research project)

### Assessment and award regulations

#### Derogations

50% pass grade for all modules.

#### Non Credit Bearing assessment

Work-experience for the professional development module

#### Borderline Classifications (Undergraduate programmes)

N/A

#### Ordinary Degrees

N/A

#### Restrictions for trailing modules (Taught Masters)

N/A

#### Prerequisites for processing to MRes research component

N/A



## Accreditation

N/A

## Quality Management

All provision is expected to comply with the University processes for quality assurance, the QAA Quality Code and any specific PSRB requirements to ensure the quality of the learning and teaching on the programme. The University uses the following mechanisms to help evaluate, enhance and review programmes delivery;

Student Evaluation of Module Questionnaire  
Student Voice Forum  
Individual student feedback  
Student representatives  
Continuous Programme Monitoring and Enhancement reports  
Periodic review and re-validation process  
External Examiner reports  
PSRB requirements and accreditation activities  
National Student Survey (NSS)

## Support for Students

The University has a range of departments that offer support for students such as:

- Library & IT Resources
- Inclusion Services
- Careers Service
- Chaplaincy
- Counselling & Wellbeing
- Student Funding and Welfare
- Student Administration

Please access the University's website at [www.wrexham.ac.uk](http://www.wrexham.ac.uk) to find out more about the Departments.

The Student Union offers support for students, please access their website at to find out more. <https://www.wrexhamglyndwrsu.org.uk/>

All students at Wrexham University are allocated a Personal Tutor whose main responsibility is to act as the first point of contact for their personal students and to provide pastoral and academic support throughout their studies at the University.

## Equality and Diversity

Wrexham University is committed to providing access to all students and promotes equal opportunities in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 legislation. This programme complies fully with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy, ensuring that everyone who has the potential to achieve in higher education is given the chance to do so. Please click on the following link for more information about [equality and diversity](#).

