



## **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

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| <b>Programme Title:</b>             | <b>BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development</b>                     |
| <b>Awarding Body:</b>               | <b>Staffordshire University</b>  |
| <b>Teaching Institution:</b>        | <b>Staffordshire University</b>  |
| <b>Final Awards:</b>                | <b>BSc(Hons) Psychology and Child Development</b>                      |
| <b>Intermediate Awards:</b>         | <b>Diploma in Higher Education<br/>Certificate in Higher Education</b> |
| <b>Mode of Study</b>                | <b>Full time (3 years)<br/>Part time (6 years)</b>                     |
| <b>UCAS Codes:</b>                  | <b>C891</b>  |
| <b>QAA Subject Benchmarks:</b>      | <b>Psychology</b>  |
| <b>JACS Code:</b>                   | <b>C800</b>  |
| <b>Professional/Statutory Body:</b> | <b>British Psychological Society</b>                                   |
| <b>Entry Year:</b>                  | <b>2017/18</b>   |

**(For students unable to continue with the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development at the end of Level 4, a non- accredited programme, BSc (Hons) Psychological Studies, is also available from the start of Level 5)**

**If you require this document in a larger text or a different media please contact us.**

## EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development award aims to:

1. Provide a firm foundation in the core areas of the psychology discipline, along with opportunities for diversification into more specialised areas within child development.
2. Develop students' skills in the scientific and ethical evaluation of theory, empirical research and debates in psychology and particularly in child development.
3. Enable students to develop transferable skills, including the Staffordshire Graduate Attributes, which will enhance their employability both in the Psychology profession and in other employment.
4. Provide opportunities to evaluate diverse perspectives applied to a range of contemporary issues in psychology, and to consider realistic responses to these issues.
5. Enable students to experience a range of high quality learning, teaching and assessment methods, in a supportive and responsive student environment.
6. Provide opportunities for students to engage with enthusiastic and well-qualified staff who engage in research, enterprise and/or scholarship that informs learning and teaching at all levels.
7. Meet the requirements of the professional body (BPS), and enable students to (upon successful completion of the award with a 2:2 or above), register with the BPS for Graduate Basis for Chartership.

### **What is distinctive about this programme?**

- The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development programme is fully accredited with the British Psychological Society, and on completion of the programme (with a minimum of a 2:2 degree) you will be able to claim Graduate Basis for Chartership, which is the first stage towards becoming a professional psychologist.
- This course offers you the opportunity to gain in depth knowledge and skill in the area of the psychology of child and infant development, which will be invaluable for a number of careers in both psychology and a wide range of other professions.
- We offer some fascinating options for you to choose from, including the opportunity for you to earn credit towards your degree by gaining work experience through volunteering or research assistantship at Level 5, and a blend of applied and professionally aligned options at Level 6, including specialist options informed by cutting edge research in Psychology.
- As you move through the programme, you will develop the 'Staffordshire Graduate Attributes', designed to make you use your Psychology degree to demonstrate a range of skills and attributes attractive to employers in the future.
- We offer excellent levels of support to our students, including a well-structured and supportive personal tutoring programme, with regular timetabled sessions with your personal tutor.
- Your programme is located in the 'Science Centre', a £30 million purpose built facility with cutting edge resources and facilities, including the Psychology Human Sciences Suite, an observation room, and video editing facilities.

## The Staffordshire Graduate – BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development

The Staffordshire Graduate represents a set of qualities that the University passionately believes is necessary for success in the 21st century. The Staffordshire Graduate is a reflective and critical learner with a global perspective, prepared to contribute in the world of work. Completing the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development will enable you to achieve these attributes through your study of core modules on your degree.

The Psychology subject area aims to create a learning culture for students based around independence, autonomy, enquiry, self-motivation and personal growth, leading to highly skilled learners, fully equipped with the Staffordshire Graduate Attributes, and who are ready to meet new challenges either in employment, professional practise or further study. We encourage students to develop the graduate attributes through the following:

- Across all levels of the degrees and across all Psychology modules, we aim to provide our graduates with up-to-date **discipline expertise**. We encourage a critical knowledge of cutting edge theory and research underpinned by the expertise, research and scholarship of the academic staff, and which strives to reflect contemporary issues within the psychology discipline. (Programme Aims 1 & 5)
- As part of our commitment to ensuring that Psychology graduates demonstrate **professionalism**, we aim to produce graduates who are well equipped to enter the world of work. This is achieved through a variety of teaching and assessment methods including, lectures, seminars, personal and academic tutorials; group discussions; exercises; individual and group presentations. All of these are intended to encourage and extend **communication, presentation and team working** skills, furthering their development of the transferable skills that employers seek. All Psychology courses are fully accredited by the British Psychological Society, an additional indicator of **professionalism** in the field. (Aims 3 & 7)
- It is our aim to produce graduates who are **enterprising or entrepreneurial**. To achieve this students are continually encouraged to develop **independence of thought**, reflect on application of ideas to real world examples, and critically evaluate theoretical concepts. They are required to create innovative **solutions to problems**, and think **creatively** (particularly evidenced through the final year Project). We encourage students to develop **global citizenship** through an awareness of cultural diversity as well as individual differences, through discussions and exercises, cultivating cultural competence as well as developing self awareness and acceptance. (Aims 2 & 4)
- These are essential attributes of the **critical, reflective** and **life-long learners** that Staffordshire graduates are expected to become. Throughout the three years of the degree, students are encouraged to develop their understanding through critical reflection; to question different views and perspectives and to use both their generic and specialist skills (including psychology specialist **digital technologies**) to recognise and resolve problems. (Aims 1-7)

## PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

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| <p><b>Knowledge &amp; Understanding</b><br/>Full and detailed knowledge and critical understanding of a range of theoretical and conceptual issues of functioning within core and some specialist areas of psychology, with a particular emphasis on child development.</p>   |
| <p><b>Learning</b><br/>The ability to adopt, reflect upon and evaluate multiple perspectives within psychology and child development, to interpret meaningful patterns in behaviour and experience, and to reflect upon and evaluate some specialist psychological issues, with a particular emphasis on child development.</p>   |
| <p><b>Enquiry</b><br/>Well developed information literacy skills, including Independence in using and evaluating a range of appropriate resources including e-resource and primary source material.</p>   |
| <p><b>Analysis</b><br/>The ability to reason scientifically, through appropriate and critical analysis of a range of psychological and child development issues, evidence and debates.</p>  |
| <p><b>Problem Solving</b><br/>The ability to critically evaluate within a wide variety of contexts the different approaches to solving complex psychological problems, and to achieve an appropriate solution.</p>  |
| <p><b>Communication</b><br/>The ability to coherently and analytically communicate psychological and child development related arguments, ideas, debates, and solutions to problems, using a range of different means, and to effectively communicate a critical appreciation of ideas, concepts, debates and evidence in a wide range of areas.</p>  |
| <p><b>Application</b><br/>The ability to extend the application of psychological knowledge and skills to devise and sustain enquiry and argument in a variety of contexts, with a particular emphasis on child development.</p>   |
| <p><b>Reflection</b><br/>The ability to learn independently, to exercise initiative and take personal responsibility for learning and to possess a wide range of skills valued by employers or those necessary for further study at a professional or equivalent level.</p>   |
| <p><b>Psychological Research Skills</b><br/>Independently, but with appropriate supervision, demonstrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specialist detailed knowledge of a particular area through a literature search</li> <li>• the ability to create valid research questions pertinent to psychology and child development</li> <li>• design and operationalise the methodology to address these issues,</li> <li>• skills in the analysis and evaluation of empirical data collected for this purpose</li> <li>• report and evaluate findings in the form of a written project.</li> </ul> |

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS

### Programme Title: BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development

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|--------------------------------|------------------|--|---|--|
| L<br>E<br>V<br>E<br>L<br><br>4 | Teaching Block 1 | HSPSE85116-4<br>Foundations in Psychology<br>(30 credits)  | HSPSE85117-4<br>Introduction to<br>Research<br>Methods in<br>Psychology<br>(30 credits) | SHS85105-4<br>Growing and<br>Changing<br>(15 credits)  |
|                                | Teaching Block 2 | HSPSE85118-4<br>Perspectives in Psychology<br>(30 credits) |   | SHS85115-4<br>People Behaving<br>Badly<br>(15 credits) |

(To progress to Level 5 at least 90 credits at Level 4 must be passed)

|                                |                  |   |   |  |   |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---|---|--|---|
| L<br>E<br>V<br>E<br>L<br><br>5 | Teaching Block 1 | HSPSE85211-5<br>Cognitive and<br>Biological<br>Determinants of<br>Behaviour<br>(30 credits) | HSPSE85212-5<br>Understanding<br>the Social World<br>(30 credits) | HSPSE85214-5<br>Childhood:<br>Contexts and<br>Applications (30<br>credits) | <i>1 module (15<br/>credits) from list<br/>of available<br/>Options</i>         |
|                                | Teaching Block 2 |   |   |  | HSPSE85213-5<br>Further<br>Research<br>Methods in<br>Psychology<br>(15 credits) |

(To progress to Level 6 at least 210 credits of must be passed including a minimum of 90 credits at Level 5)

|                                |                  |   |  |   |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---|--|---|--|
| L<br>E<br>V<br>E<br>L<br><br>6 | Teaching Block 1 | SHS85300-6<br>Psychology<br>Project<br>(30 credits) | HSPSE85354-6<br>Typical and<br>Atypical<br>Development<br>(30 credits) | HSPSE85355-6<br>Child<br>Psychology:<br>Theory to<br>Practice<br>(30 credits) | <i>2 modules (30<br/>credits) from list<br/>of available<br/>Options</i> |
|                                | Teaching Block 2 |   |  |   |  |

#### Illustrations of Options:

**Level 5:** Volunteering (15), Psychology of Crime (15), Research Assistantship (15).

**Level 6:** Advanced Research Methods(15), Health Psychology (15), Families in Context (15), Neuropsychological Disorders (15), Behavioural Medicine (15), Psychological Interventions (15), Children and Pictures (15).

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

### Teaching and Learning

We aim for you to be responsible, reflective and progressive learners. Our teaching and learning methods reflect this, encouraging you, as you move through your studies, to become more evaluative and more independent in your learning. Opportunities for personal development planning exist at all levels, encouraging you to reflect on your personal development, your current and future learning needs and your achievements as a student on the programme. Modules are designed to be progressive, with each level building on the previous level in terms of skill and knowledge, and you are encouraged to reflect and build on your previous learning.

We recognise that not all people learn in the same way, so we use a range of different methods including group work, individual work, lectures, tutorials, laboratory classes and workshops. At each level, we combine the more innovative methods (eg. problem based learning) with the more traditional methods (eg. lectures). All modules have explicit learning outcomes which we aim to enable you to achieve, and each Psychology module is supported through the University's Virtual Learning Environment, Blackboard. This allows you to access a range of materials via the internet to support your scheduled classes.

### Assessment

Again reflecting the different needs of learners, we use a wide range of assessment methods. These are carefully designed and monitored to enable you to demonstrate the learning outcomes for each module. Methods range from traditional essays and exams, through to case study analysis, report writing, critical reviews, group presentations, log books and reflective writing. We ensure that you will meet a variety of assessment methods at each level of every programme, and that they are interesting and challenging.

Because of British Psychological Society requirements, there are two specific assessment regulations for this programme:

1. To progress on a BPS accredited award you must receive a non-compensated pass in Research Methods modules at levels 4 and 5 (Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology, Further Research Methods in Psychology and Psychology of the Social World). If you are compensated for any of these modules, you will have to transfer to the non accredited BSc (Hons) Psychological Studies award.
2. The Level H (6) Psychology Project is not compensatable in any circumstances.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Entry Requirements (including IELTS score)

#### What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

- For details of UCAS tariff points please see the current online prospectus at: <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/undergraduate/>
- International Students must also have IELTS level 6.0

Other qualifications are considered on their own merits. We also have a flexible approach to the admission of mature students over the age of 21, and each application is considered individually.

### Disability Statement

Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at: [http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study\\_here/disabled\\_students/index.jsp](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp)

## AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Please see the Special Assessment Regulations for this Programme, in the Assessment section above.

**Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, learning outcomes at levels below honours, student support, and academic regulations.**

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