Programme Specification

Programme award and title:
Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Psychology and X Subject
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Psychology and X Subject

UCAS code:
With Biology CC18
With Business Studies CN81
With English Studies QC38
With European Language (French or Spanish) CR89
With Film and Media CP83
With Human Resource Management NC68
With Marketing CN85
With Mathematics CG81
With Philosophy CV85
With Politics LC28
With Sociology CL83
With Sports Studies CC68

SCQF Qualification Level:
8-10 (all modules in semesters 5-8 for honours programme and 5-6 for ordinary degree at level 10)

SCQF Credit Value:
484 (hons degree)
352 (ordinary degree)

Educational aims of the programme:
Concise (e.g. a few sentences), general statement of aims and broad purposes of the programme

• Psychology is a broad discipline that embraces the study of phenomena ranging from the activity of neurones in the brain to the effects of social representations on our attitudes and behaviour. The first year represents an introduction to the broad field of Psychology, the second year is an intermediate year that develops key cognitive, practical and subject-specific skills that provide an excellent launch pad from which students can embark on more advanced, and independent study in their third and fourth years. We have three key aims:

1) To facilitate our students in understanding this diverse subject in both breadth and depth. Our students are particularly encouraged to develop a critical and analytical approach to the subject. Our Combined Honours programmes satisfy the Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the British Psychological Society and in addition provides opportunities to study parts of the subject where we have particular strengths and expertise.

2) To inculcate an ethos of enquiry and research into our students. From the very start of the programme there is opportunity and encouragement for students to undertake independent study alongside the taught elements. The significance of research is carried throughout our modules, and students have opportunities to engage in research projects in the early stages of the programme and to conduct their own research projects in the later stages of the programme.

3) To help students develop their employability skills and enhance their future contribution to society.

Intended programme learning outcomes:
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) of what the student will know, understand and be able to do as a result of their learning, expressed in the categories below. Please consider the contribution made to the student's personal development planning (PDP) and future employability.

Knowledge and understanding
• The minimal level is that required by the British Psychological Society as the graduate basis for chartered membership.
1. ability to understand the key concepts of psychological thought
2. ability to plan psychological studies, to acquire and analyze relevant data
3. ability to evaluate critically psychological research and theory
4. ability to understand ethical and professional accountability
5. an understanding of:
   - psychological determinants of behaviour, thought and experience
   - relationships and communication between individuals and groups, and their consequences for the individual and the group
   - the neural, biological and social basis for behaviour, thought and experience
   - the manner in which behaviour, thought and experience change during lifetime
   - individual variations and psychopathology
   - applications of psychology

Subject-specific skills and other attributes

- Knowledge and understanding of a broad range of topics in Psychology, as outlined above
- Numeracy
- Data and statistical techniques
- Other intellectual skills, such as literacy, information handling, critical and analytical thinking and creativity

Generic skills (e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem-solving abilities) and other attributes

- Interpersonal and communication skills, such as oral communications skills, essay writing, research report writing, collaborative working and negotiation in group work, ability to write for varied audiences.
- Self-management skills, such as planning and organising work, working under pressure, time management and meeting deadlines.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies:
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) on overall approach taken to develop and assess learning outcomes, including any distinctive features

- The approach taken to develop learning outcomes is through a combination of lectures, seminars/tutorials and practical classes. All modules have lectures and nearly all have tutorials and practical classes. Lectures enable the teaching and learning of the key concepts of psychological thought; students gain personal experience of critical evaluation and further develop their interpersonal and communicatoin skills through tutorials; and students develop the ability to plan and execute psychological studies in a range of different practical classes, such as laboratory classes involving practical experiments and psychological measurements, and through workshops designed to promote experiential learning. In addition, students are given reading lists and encouragement to pursue independent reading.
- The approach taken to assess learning outcomes is through a combination of coursework and examination. Coursework involves a wide variety of assessments including essays, laboratory reports, research proposals, public information leaflets and oral presentations. An important aim within psychology is to allow our under-graduates to develop not only as psychologists but in ways that will serve them well throughout their lives in whatever career path they choose. We are committed to developing transferable skills alongside academic and factual bases. For this reason assessments that tap both academic knowledge and transferable skills are included throughout the programme. These assessments have been carefully considered in relation to the learning outcomes of the programme, and future employability prospects.

Professional/statutory body accreditation or recognition:
Accredited as conferring eligibility for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society, provided the minimum standard of a Second Class Honours is achieved.
Further details:

Entry requirements: http://www.stir.ac.uk/undergraduate-study/entry-requirements/general-entry-requirements

Programme structure: http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/

Relevant Subject Benchmark statement: http://www.gaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: http://www.scqf.org.uk/The%20Framework/

Introduction/revision date: December 2013