Professional Doctorate

Health Psychology
This course will train you to develop scientific and practitioner skills in Health Psychology, and to be eligible to become a health psychologist. It is based on real-world placement learning, and includes brief periods of teaching and workshops.

On successful completion of Stage 2 training, you’ll be eligible for registration with the HCPC under the protected title of ‘Health Psychologist’.

You will also be eligible to apply for full membership of the Division of Health Psychology and can become a BPS Chartered Health Psychologist.

The course focuses on developing high quality practice and research and your capacity to work as an independent scientist-practitioner. It emphasises person-centred and collaborative ways of working, which are characteristic of Health Psychology approaches.

This course will aim to prepare you for working in multidisciplinary contexts, in the context of the Scottish Government’s targets for improvement of the nation’s health. This acknowledges the interplay of biological, psychological, socio-economic and cultural factors.

University of Stirling has an excellent international reputation in the field of health psychology. We have a well-established health psychology team with a record of high quality research into health and health behaviour.

Psychology at the University of Stirling has a long history of collaboration with local and national health care providers, and community groups. Course team members have been involved in many collaborative research projects, teaching and professional consultancy.

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Course team members have been involved in many collaborative research projects, teaching and professional consultancy. Existing links to the local, national and international health and healthcare community will be fostered and developed in the Professional Doctorate. Stirling is also committed to increasing patient and public involvement (PPI) from the local community and a Stirling Health and Behaviour PPI group has recently been established. We have PPI representatives on our Course Steering Group and will involve patient and carer groups as far as possible in different aspects of the course.
The Professional Doctorate award is also available for study via a two year parttime top-up research doctorate route. Applicants who already hold a doctoral level (practitioner) qualification in Health Psychology via the British Psychological Society (QHP), and are eligible for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as a ‘Health Psychologist’ will be eligible to complete the research module for award of the Professional Doctorate degree.

Students following this route will be required to complete the 240 credit ‘Applied Research in Health Psychology’ module, via one-to-one supervision.

"Using health psychology in practice can make a big difference to peoples’ lives – come and ‘be the difference’ by studying health psychology with us at Stirling."

DR VIVIEN SWANSON
Reader in Psychology
Five Reasons
WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1. The course follows the competencies included in the BPS Qualification in Health Psychology.
2. You will gain professional skills in relation to health and health care, such as teaching patients and health professionals, skills in motivational enhancement or stress management.
3. We have a beautiful campus environment.
4. 100% of psychology research is rated world-leading or internationally excellent (REF2014).
5. Stirling has an excellent international reputation in the field of health psychology. We have a well-established health psychology team at the University of Stirling with a record of high quality research into health and health behaviour.
This course primarily focuses on placement learning, to enable you to develop as an independent scientist-practitioner in Health Psychology. There are 4 modules in the programme described below. Sessions will be in the format of interactive or skills-based learning. This will include: Year 1, Induction week at the start of the programme and 2 further blocks of teaching. Year 2, 2 further teaching blocks (around 20 days over the 2 years in total). Year 3 will primarily comprise one-to-one research and continued supervision. Students will have the opportunity to attend or revise any of the taught components offered in years 1 and 2 in Year 3. Students also attend the University for at least 6 sessions of face-to-face supervision per annum.

**MODULES**

**Year 1**  
- Professional Practice in Health Environments  
- Evidence-based Interventions  
- Teaching and Training  
- Applied Health Psychology Research

**Year 2**  
- Professional Practice in Health Environments  
- Evidence-based Interventions  
- Teaching and Training  
- Applied Health Psychology Research

**Years 1, 2 and 3**  
- Applied Health Psychology Research

**TOP-UP DOCTORATE**

**Years 2 and 3**  
- Applied Health Psychology Research

**YOUR PLACEMENT**

Placements are an integral part of this course and you can work in a wide range of settings, including the NHS, local government, health and social care, third sector (charities) or other organisations. In most cases you’ll identify your own main placement, and this will need to be organised and approved as part of the application and admissions process. Placements can be paid or unpaid, in your own workplace or elsewhere, or can be carried out on a voluntary basis. Placements must cover at least two broad areas of work. This could be one main placement supplemented by shorter pieces of work elsewhere, or by time split more or less equally between two placements, or they can be sequential over time.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must:
• Hold a good (2:1 or above) honours degree in psychology
• Be a graduate member of the BPS or hold the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC)
• Have successfully completed a BPS Accredited (Stage 1) MSc in Health Psychology within the past 5 years to a minimum of merit grade or equivalent
• The University of Stirling has been operating a very successful MSc in Health Psychology since 2003. You can apply for a place on this MSc if you do not currently meet this entry requirement.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Students whose first language is not English will be expected to have Level 7 IELTS (minimum of 6.5 in each band) or equivalent for students where English is not their first language.

TUITION FEES & FUNDING

Details of tuition fees can be found at: stir.ac.uk/1I5
You can find up to date financial information and funding opportunities here: stir.ac.uk/scholarships

CONTACT INFORMATION

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stir.ac.uk/2ca

Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: marketingtools@stir.ac.uk

This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

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