

Studying Psychology at UQ

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brief review of your study options

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Bach. of Psych. Science (BPsySc)

- accredited 4 year undergraduate degree
- preparation for postgraduate (PG) programs in Psychology and related disciplines
- 4th year takes one of two forms:
 - **Honours stream:** pathway to all PG psychology programs (PhD, Doctor of Psychology, Masters)
 - **Pass stream:** pathway to Masters programs
- **need GPA > 5.5 to get into Honours stream, but final cutoff depends on space constraints**
 - all core courses in Year 2 and Year 3
 - specified Psychology area electives in Year 3

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BA & BSc – extended major

- accredited 3 year undergraduate degree
- allows you to apply for Honours in Psychology: competitive entry, depending on spaces
- BA (Honours) & BSc (Honours) in Psychology = accredited 4 year degree
 - pathway to all psychology postgraduate programs
- no pass stream option for BA / BSc programs
- **GPA > 5.5 to gain entry into Honours program, but final cutoff depends on space constraints**
 - all core courses in Year 2 and Year 3
 - specified Psychology area electives in Year 3

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BA & BSc – single major

- unaccredited 3 year undergraduate degree: fewer requirements than extended major
- no pathway to Honours or postgraduate study in Psychology
- can be studied as part of a dual degree
- useful if you know you don't want to pursue psychology, but are still interested in the subject

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what you should do

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Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

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(1) take the right classes

1st year – Bachelor of Psychological Science

- **PSYC1020** Introduction to Psychology: Physiological & Cognitive Psychology
- **PSYC1030** Introduction to Psychology: Developmental, Social, & Clinical Psychology
- **PSYC1040** Psychological Research Methods I
- **COMU1030** Communication Skills
- **4 #2 unit elective courses** outside Psychology
 - *whatever you want* (see 1st year courses on BA/BSc lists)

→ *spread core courses across the year*

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(1) take the right classes

1st year – Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Science

- **PSYC1020** Introduction to Psychology: Physiological & Cognitive Psychology
- **PSYC1030** Introduction to Psychology: Developmental, Social, & Clinical Psychology
- **PSYC1040** Psychological Research Methods I
- **remaining units** depend on your specific major
 - COMU1030 recommended for extended majors
 - check your program requirements

→ *spread core courses across the year*

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(1) take the right classes

2nd & 3rd years – all programs

- 2nd & 3rd years: various core & elective courses
- best to complete Year 1 Psychology core courses before attempting Year 2 courses
- must complete relevant Year 2 core courses before attempting Year 3 courses (see specific requirements)
- go to Psychology website for full list of courses:
www.psy.uq.edu.au
current students section → *undergraduate* section
programs & courses tab

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(2) be an active learner

- explore **new topics and subjects**
- be open to **new perspectives** and **embrace uncertainty**
- be **fully present** in lectures and tutorials
- **interact** with class-mates and teachers
- go **beyond the classroom**
 - research experience courses & programs
 - Study Abroad program (but have to plan in 1st year)
 - UQ Advantage Award: added value to degree

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(3) manage your workload

- keep track of **assessment due dates**
- maintain a **steady pace** throughout the semester
 - 2 unit course = 10 hours of work each week
- give yourself **enough time** to get work done
- join a **study group**
- develop your **study / writing / exam skills**:
 - workshops run by Student Services
 - Psychology Student Support Tutors (PSST)

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(4) get advice when needed

- **information and help for 1st year students = Jenny English, Meg Cridland, Nicola Martin**
 - firstyear@psy.uq.edu.au
 - phone: 3365 6368 or 3346 9019
 - McElwain Building (24A), Room 313
- **Study Abroad = Astrid Sirowatka**
 - astrid@psy.uq.edu.au
 - phone: 3365 6426
 - McElwain Building (24A), Room 313

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(4) get advice when needed

- **changes to program of study = your Faculty**
 - BA = Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences**
 - email: hass@uq.edu.au
 - phone: 3365 1333
 - BSc = Faculty of Science**
 - email: science.enquiries@uq.edu.au
 - phone: 3365 1888
 - BPsySc = Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences**
 - email: habs@uq.edu.au
 - phone: 3365 7487

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(5) get help when needed

if your studies are compromised by ill health, personal misfortune, or other crises:

- talk to School staff **sooner rather than later**
- **document your circumstances**
- take **actions to help address the problem**
- if **short-term issues**, work around them
 - apply for extensions (check course guidelines)
- if **chronic issues**, consider taking a break
 - talk to School staff about options
 - can come back when rested and refreshed

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(5) get help when needed

general resources at UQ

- **Student Services** www.uq.edu.au/student-services
 - free counselling
 - academic workshops
 - help to accommodate disabilities & chronic conditions
 - housing listings
 - careers and work experience
- **myAdvisor** www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor
 - information about UQ academic policies
- **Student Help on Campus (SHOC)**

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what about careers?

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to be a psychologist

- **national registration required** to practice as, or use the label, *psychologist*
- **to become a registered psychologist, you must do two things:**
 - complete 4 year accredited psychology degree
 - ❖ BPsySc **or** BA (Hons) **or** BSc (Hons)
 - complete 2 years of supervised practice **or** obtain an accredited postgraduate degree in psychology (Masters or Professional Doctorate)
 - ❖ note: PhD provides training for a research career, not a pathway to registration

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accredited postgraduate psychology programs at UQ

- **Clinical or Counselling Psychology**
 - Masters of Clinical Psychology
 - Masters of Applied Psychology - counselling
 - Doctor of Psychology: clinical / neuro / gero
 - PhD
- **Sport & Exercise or Health Psychology**
 - Masters of Applied Psychology – s&e or health
- **Organisational Psychology**
 - Masters or PhD
- **Cognitive / Developmental / Social / Biological / etc**
 - PhD

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options beyond “psychologist”

- **can focus on a related helping field**
 - counseling, social work, occupational therapy...
 - Bachelors degree (3 or 4 yrs) offers pathway to postgraduate study (check program requirements)
- **can focus on a career path outside of psychology**
 - what you learn in psychology can be applied to other fields and occupations
 - general methodology & statistics skills
 - theories and research on particular topics / issues
 - Bachelors degree may be sufficient *or* additional training may be required
 - example careers are listed on the next slide

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options beyond “psychologist”

- Human Resource Management
- Work Force Selection and Training
- Mediation
- Market Research
- Advertising
- Government Policy & Planning
 - Health, Disability Services, Corrections, Education, Department of Families, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Test Development and Evaluation
- Residential Care Work
- Technology: Product Development and Evaluation
- Fund-raising for Non-Profit Organisations

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keep calm and carry on

- **try not to stress** about careers right now – plenty of time for that later
- **use 1st year to explore** your interests in psychology and reflect on options
- **starting in 2nd year, attend info sessions**
 - careers and work experience
 - preparing for Honours
 - postgraduate programs

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one last piece of advice

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*If A equals success,
then the formula is A = XYZ.
X is work, Y is play,
Z is keep your mouth shut.*

— Albert Einstein

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have a life outside the classroom

- pursue your **hobbies and interests**
- **broaden your horizons**
 - try new activities
 - learn new skills
 - meet new people
- **lots of options** at UQ – learn more @ Market Day
- **be part of the psychology community**
 - Psychology Students' Association

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for more information,
go to the School website:

www.psy.uq.edu.au

Current Students → **Undergraduate**

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