Studying Psychology at UQ

Dr. Aarti Iyer
Deputy Head (Teaching & Learning)
School of Psychology

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brief review of your study options

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

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

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

what you should do
Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

(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

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

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

(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

(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)
### (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

### (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

### (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

### (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)**

### what about careers?

**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
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

- If A equals success, then the formula is $A = XYZ$.
  - X is work, Y is play,
  - Z is keep your mouth shut.
  — Albert Einstein
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

for more information, go to the School website:
www.psy.uq.edu.au

Current Students ➔ Undergraduate