

# Doctoral Programme Profile

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## Psychology

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| Awarding Institution                    | University of Chichester |
| Teaching Institution                    | University of Chichester |
| Final award                             | PhD                      |
| Name of academic discipline             | Psychology               |
| FHEQ level of final award               | Level 8                  |
| Research Degree Coordinator for area    | Dr Roy Spina             |
| Date Programme Profile was last revised | 22/09/2018               |

All PGR Programme Profiles should be read alongside the [University of Chichester's Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy](#) and the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

## Programme Outline

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### Brief outline of the programme

The research degree programme aims to provide students with an outstanding learning experience in a supportive community of learning. The department is known nationally and internationally for excellence in research and teaching and all of its staff are engaged in conducting their own research. Information on staff research interests and achievements can be found on the Departmental web pages.

<http://www.chi.ac.uk/department-psychology-and-counselling/psychology-research>

Although the Department of Psychology is relatively new at the University, it already has a thriving research culture among its staff and students and an active research centre, the POWER Centre (People & Well-being in the Everyday Research), through which it interacts with external individuals and organisations. The POWER Centre enables psychologists and counsellors to work together on projects and help increase the impact of research through professional practice. In addition, the Centre is developing a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities of use to those in the workplace within the aegis of a strategic agenda to approach local and regional commercial, business and public sector organisations for funding, research, and consultancy.

Psychological studies have gained increasing importance across a wide range of activities, including human resources, education, sport, social care and the creative industries. Recent projects have included collaboration with the local NHS Hospital Trust and consultancy for Lloyds Pharmacy and the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Aims of the Programme

The main aims of the programme are:

- a) the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, or of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication;
- b) a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of the academic discipline;
- c) the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- d) a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry appropriate to the discipline.
- e) maximising the impact of our research, scholarship, and interventions.
- f) the development of research-based practical interventions that promote self-managed everyday well-being.

## Programme Outcomes

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## Knowledge and Understanding

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Having successfully completed this programme you will:

- have demonstrated a systematic understanding of a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field
- have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity
- have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication
- are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas
- be able to communicate with your peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about your areas of expertise
- be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society.

### Learning and Teaching Methods

The PhD programme is delivered through a supervised research project. Each student will have a supervisory team of at least two appropriately qualified academic staff, one of whom will be the Director of Studies. A description of the responsibilities of the supervisory team can be found in the [Code of Practice](#).

### Assessment methods

The award of MPhil or PhD is assessed through submission of a written thesis or equivalent for practice based disciplines and an oral examination with a panel of examiners (*viva voce*). The viva is compulsory for PhD and optional for MPhil.

### Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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The majority of subject specific intellectual and research skills are gained through the process of doing research within the context of supervisory meetings and support. On occasion it may be helpful for a student to undertake specific research skills training such as that taught as part of Masters programmes or as part of the postgraduate research training programme coordinated by the Research Office.

### Professional Development and Transferable Skills

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Those completing their doctoral programme will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

Research students have access to the University's Staff Development Programme as well as a range of other formal and informal training activities coordinated at the department, area or University level.

# Programme Structure

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## Admissions

MPhil/PhD students can register either at the start of October or the start of February. Admission requirements are described in the [Code of Practice](#) (in particular see clauses 11 to 25).

## Candidature

Maximum candidature is 48 months in Full Time registration, 84 months in Part Time Registration.

## Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's [Higher Degree Regulations](#) as set out on the University website.

During the programme there are a number of academic milestones that the student will need to complete.

These include:

- Confirmation of research project (2000 word proposal and completed Form 1) after three months (full time) and six months (part-time)
- Satisfactory Annual Review reports with supervisory committee
- Major Review to upgrade from MPhil to PhD programmes (only for PhD programmes).

## Support for student learning

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There are facilities and services to support your learning. Some of these are accessible to students across the University and some of these will be geared towards students in your particular Faculty or discipline.

The Department of Psychology provides the following laboratory equipment & psychological tests:

### Specialist advanced research equipment:

- Functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) neuroimaging equipment: NIRScout - NIRx Medical Technologies
- Immersive Virtual Reality System for Neuroscience Research: System includes aLIAS Laptop, Biopac MP15
- Virtual Reality development platform: Vizard, Oculus Head set (DK2 and Rift), 3D Shopping Centre Software, 3D Shopping Centre Interior Software
- Physiological data acquisition system: BioPac
- 12x Neuro-anatomical brains
- Anatomical Model – Torso

### Specialist advanced research software:

- AMOS
- CMA - Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software: <https://www.meta-analysis.com/>
- Data Miner
- E-prime
- Inquisit
- NOLDUS – The Observer XT: Software package for the collection, analysis, and presentation of observational data: <http://www.noldus.com/human-behavior-research/products/the-observer-xt>
- Nvivo
- Qualtrics
- SPSS
- SuperLab

### Neuropsychological Assessment Tools:

- Behavioural Assessment of the Dysexecutive Syndrome (BADS)
- California Verbal Learning Test – 2nd UK Edition
- Cambridge Prospective Memory Test
- Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System

- Doors and People
- Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-BIT) (lan personal copy)
- MAE Token Test
- Middlesex Elderly Assessment of Mental State
- MMSE Test Forms
- Raven's Progressive Matrices (lan personal copy)
- RAVLT - Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test
- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 4th Edition, UK
- Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS)
- Wisconsin Card Sorting Test 64 - Card Version

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high-speed access to online electronic learning resources from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. A wide range of application software is available from the PCs in each LRC.
- computer accounts that connect you to a number of learning technologies including the Moodle virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the University's intranet.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online support and a dedicated helpdesk at the SIZ at each of the LRCs.
- Enabling Services offering assessment, guidance and facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- Student Support Services to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards (studentadviser@chi.ac.uk )
- Careers support, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
- a Research Office which coordinates a programme of professional development and skills training ([pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk](mailto:pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk))
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the [Code of Practice](#)

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of elected Student Voices in every department, Academic Representatives for both campus', and the SU President and Vice President. UCSU provides training and support for those who represent students' views to the University.
- extracurricular activities and volunteering opportunities
- free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal or apply for mitigation
- opportunity to thank and reward staff through the SU Teaching Awards

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

The POWER Centre - we specialise in using evidence-based approaches to research, identify, create and develop high quality evidence-based knowledge and interventions to better understand and improve everyday well-being, with a focus on individual differences across three main areas:

1. Health promotion effectiveness
2. Cognitive, emotional, and social efficacy in managing well-being
3. Cultural and work influences related to well-being.

The POWER centre holds eight qualified Psychologists, with expertise in Behavioural Analysis, Biological, Cognitive, Cultural, Developmental, Health, Individual Differences, Neuroscience, Social, and Workplace and

Organisational Psychology, and four Counsellors/Psychotherapists specialising in Humanistic Counselling, Neuro-linguistic Programming and Arts Therapy.

### **Fees information**

Current information about the fees for postgraduate research degree programmes are available on the University's website <http://www.chi.ac.uk/study-us/fees-finance/tuition-fees>

### **Further information**

For general queries about research degree programmes please contact the research office using [pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk](mailto:pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk)

For queries specific to the Department of Psychology please contact Dr Roy Spina ([r.spina@chi.ac.uk](mailto:r.spina@chi.ac.uk))  
<http://www.chi.ac.uk/staff/dr-roy-spina>