

# Bachelor of Psychology in Psychological Science

## Unit Description

### **Advanced Quantitative Research Methods**

This unit provides students with a sophisticated appreciation of the foundations of statistical and methodological techniques in psychological research, as well as their application. Advanced statistical procedures will be addressed, including causal models in the form of directed acyclic graphs (DAGs), the general linear model, multilevel modelling and models with latent variables, including factor analysis and structural equation modelling.

In addition to gaining a conceptual understanding of these procedures, students will apply them to the practical analysis of data using statistical software.

### **Introduction to Cultural Psychology**

This unit demonstrates the interdependent nature of human psychology and culture, how psychological processes and human behaviour are influenced by culture, and how culture is influenced by individuals and groups. It examines the relationship between culture and many of the topics that will be studied in future units such as cognition, developmental processes, personality and psychological disorders. The unit also introduces students to social psychological principles around group norms, interactions and stereotyping within and between groups.

### **Introduction to Psychological Research Methods**

This unit introduces students to methods of research used to answer psychological questions. Students will explore basic approaches to research design and analysis, and epistemological issues that influence research. The aims of this unit are to provide a foundation of epistemological, historical and methodological issues in psychological science for understanding the process of psychological inquiry and to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to critically evaluate studies in the psychological literature.

### **Introduction to Psychological Science**

Psychological science seeks to explore and understand the realms of human behaviour, emotion and thought using scientific methods that allow us to pose and answer questions about ourselves and our societies. Do IQ tests really measure intelligence? Why can I see colours? What causes schizophrenia? Why are some people intolerant of others? These and many other questions are addressed in modern scientific psychology, with this unit providing an introduction to the discipline of Psychology.

### **Psychology of Ageing**

Psychology of Ageing is an advanced-level unit in developmental psychology, providing an overview of the field of psychology of ageing or geropsychology, including neuroscientific, psychological and social aspects of ageing. Psychology of Ageing will introduce theory and research on the psychology of ageing and will discuss clinical and practical issues pertaining to this aspect of human development.

In addition to pathological, psychological and social changes associated with ageing, this unit will discuss healthy ageing and how psychologists can contribute using psychological assessment, rehabilitation and treatment methods.

### **Psychology: Abnormal Behaviour**

This unit will introduce how abnormal behaviour is defined, and will explore the symptoms, causes and treatment of common and less common psychological disorders. These disorders and their treatments will be conceptualised through various theoretical frameworks, including behavioural, cognitive, neuropsychological and systemic approaches. Current issues relevant to both clinical practice and research will also be explored.

### **Psychology: Biological Bases of Behaviour**

This unit introduces students to the biological foundations of human behaviour. Topics include the organisation and functions of the nervous system, the role of drugs and neurotransmitters in this system, the psychophysiology of motivational states such as sleep, temperature and eating, and the biology of learning, addiction and mood disorders. Biological influences on emotion and psychopathology and the impact of negative emotions on health will also be addressed.

### **Psychology: Cognitive Processes**

In this unit, we will explore how the mind works, aiming to understand basic processes such as how memories are encoded and retrieved, and how our attention is focused and allocated. We will also work to understand higher-level processes, such as how we create language and how our experiences shape our perception. Broadly, we will investigate topics relevant to our everyday experience, including attention, illusions, language, learning, memory, neuroscience, perception and thinking.

### **Psychology: Human Development**

This unit examines human life span development from conception through to death. The developmental theories are presented and the biosocial, cognitive and psychosocial influences on the individual are studied and integrated to understand the developing person. The unit aims to 1) provide an overview of the nature and scope of developmental psychology, including theories, research methodologies and applications, 2) promote understanding of the developing person at different periods in the lifespan, and 3) develop analytical skills regarding the application of human development research.

### **Psychology: Individual Differences and Performance**

This unit explores the major psychological determinants of human performance with a focus on personality and motivation. In the unit, we will consider the issues associated with conceptualising and measuring performance and the lack of it.

The complex relations between individual differences in personality, situational factors and relationships, and motivation will be discussed. The application of theory to practice will be investigated in various contexts where people seek to optimise human performance.

### **Psychology: Measurement, Design and Analysis**

This unit will provide students with knowledge of fundamental concepts involved in data analysis, interpretation of published research, psychological methods and research design. Students will develop skills in assessing which designs and methods are appropriate to test different hypotheses, understanding which types of analyses are most appropriate to analyse different types of data, conducting analyses using statistical software and communicating their results clearly.

### **Psychology: Social Bases of Behaviour**

This unit explores how we make sense of ourselves and others, and how the “actual, imagined or implied” presence of others influences our thoughts and behaviours. We will examine what social psychology can tell us about fundamental questions like “who am I?” as well as “real-world” topics like “why are people cruel (and when will they be kind)?”. In doing so, students will learn about the major theories, methods and classic studies of social psychology.