**MA in Psychology: FAQ LM628**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What are the entry requirements?**

Normally a 2.2 honours degree (NFQ Level 8) is required, with a minimum of 60 ECTS (about one year of study) or equivalent experience in core areas of psychology. The core areas are: Research Methods, Biological Psychology, Cognition, Developmental Psychology, Personality Psychology, Social Psychology. The amount of credits associated with psychology modules must be equivalent to more than 50% of the overall credits. In the case of international candidates, the overseas equivalent as determined by the Course Board and the guidelines of UL Graduate School Admissions is required. Where candidates are non-native English language speakers, certified demonstrable achievements in a standard English language competency test in line with UL requirements will be necessary. Where necessary, candidates may be interviewed as part of the selection process. For more detailed questions about this matter, please contact the Course Director, Prof. Stephen Gallagher, Email: Stephen.gallagher@ul.ie

**Overview of Course**

The MA provides a very sound education of core area undergraduate psychology and postgraduate psychology. It is a 12-month fulltime course, whereby students are required to do a Major Research Project during the summer period. The course has been accredited by the PSI and, as noted above, is designed for students with prior experiences in psychology, including research methods (e.g., BA Joint Honours). The MA Psychology provides students with a menu of modules that reflect the breadth of psychological research and its applications and is therefore partly a conversion course. Accreditation of this course means that students are eligible for Graduate membership of the PSI and BPS (British Psychological Society).

**What are the fees?**

The current rate for both one-year programmes is EUR 4,588 for EU applicants. For more [information on fees please click **here**](https://ulsites.ul.ie/finance/student-fees). Alternatively, you can contact student.fees.office@ul.ie.

**Course Structure**

Overall, a student will take 11 modules over the course of 12 months. There are two taught semesters with five modules in each, plus a summer semester with one large

module that relates to the Major Research Project. This link here will provide you with full detail of the programme content and the details of all modules. http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/course/psychology-ma

**How intense is the programme?**

It is a full-time course. There are no online lectures offered on this programme, and the students are expected and required to physically attend lectures and labs.

**What careers are open to our graduates?**

The MA in Psychology surpasses standard BSc or BA degrees in Psychology that have been accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI): Similar to these degrees, the MA has been accredited by the PSI, however, the MA is a level 9 degree (Masters level) instead of a level 8 degree (Bachelors level).

This means that the MA provides a very sound education of undergraduate psychology and elements of postgraduate psychology. The programme is not focused on a specific area of psychology (e.g., health, forensic, clinical) but it provides a very good basis for further study, Masters programmes and/or PhD. The MA also provides a good basis for employment in various areas, similar to standard BSc or BA programmes. For example, companies often hire psychologists in areas such as advertising, public relations, human resources, management. Some graduates may also apply for assistant psychologist posts. The British Psychological Society has an informative website on careers in psychology: <http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-in-psychology>.

**Difference between MA in Psychology and MSc in Psychological Science**

Both the MA in Psychology and the MSc in Psychological Science are masters level programmes in psychology. Both courses are 12-month courses and students do a Major Research Project during the summer semester.

 However, the MA in Psychology is a conversion course. It has been designed for students with some prior experience in psychology (specifically 60 ECTS), which is roughly equivalent to 1 year of study. An example for such a course would be an Arts degree with different subject (Joint Honours). Successful completion of this study gives people graduate membership in the PSI.

By contrast, the MSc in Psychological Science was designed for students with a greater amount of existing specialist knowledge in psychology; normally students come in with a PSI accredited undergraduate degree. This is important because the MSc does not provide accreditation. The MSc has 3 streams (specializations): a) Research, b) Social & Applied Psychology, c) Clinical Psychology. For more details on the MSc, please contact Jenny.Roth@ul.ie

**Difference between our MA and Higher Diploma conversion courses**

Our MA in Psychology is quite similar to Higher Diploma (H.Dip.) conversion courses that you see at other colleges. However, the crucial difference is that our course is a level 9 degree, a Masters course, whereas the higher diploma is a level 8 degree. Our course is higher level both because some modules on the MA are delivered on Masters level, but also because of the length of the degree. Our course is a 12-month course, not a 9-month course. The job qualifications after the degree are comparable, although for some positions or further study options, it may be preferable to have a Masters level qualification.