

# PGT Virtual Open Day



MSc Psychology of Mental Health  
(Conversion) Programme

20 November 2025



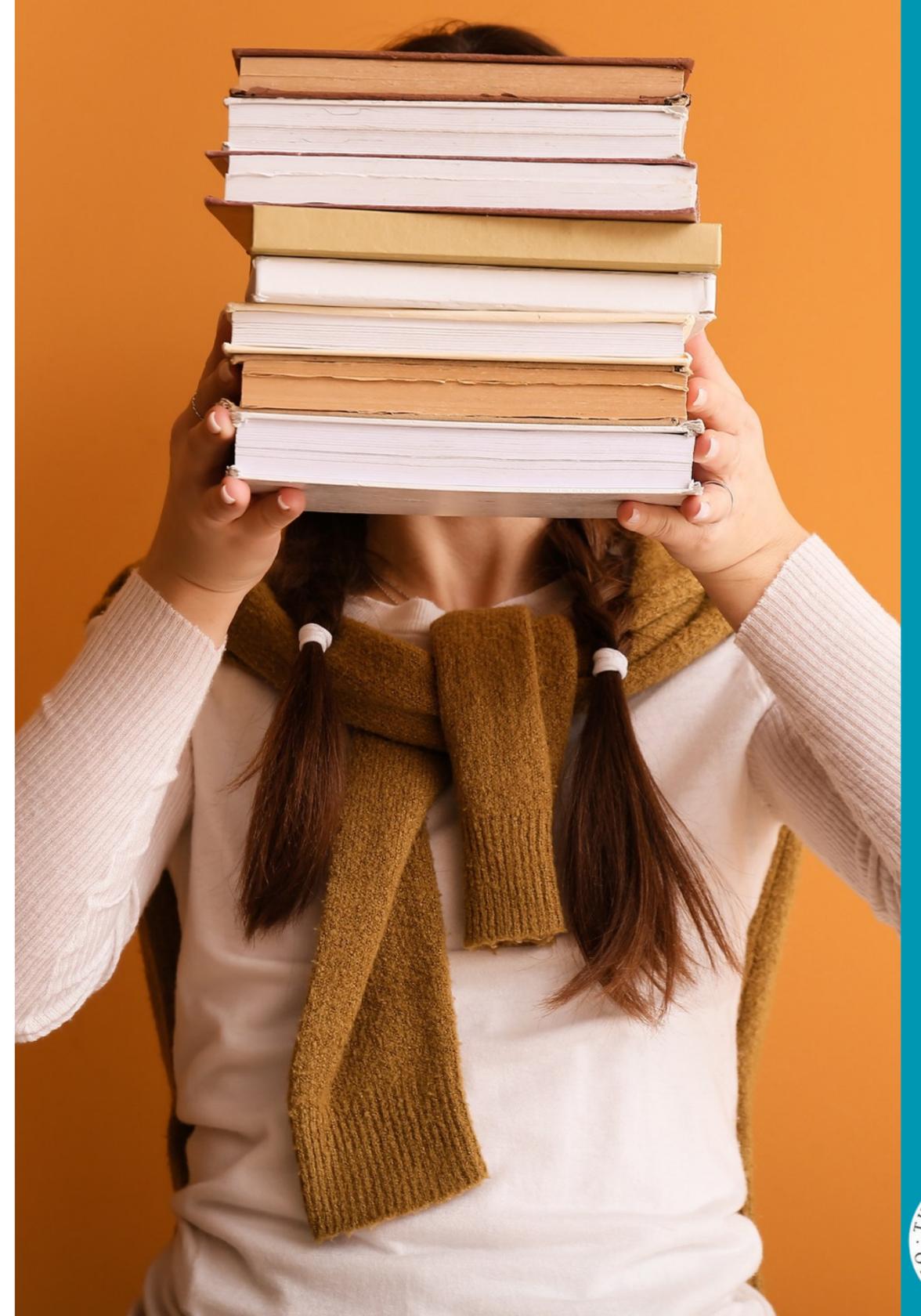
THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

Dr Zara Brodie | Programme Director  
Dr Emily Pacheco | Interim Programme  
Director



# Welcome & Overview

The University & Programme .....	03
What you'll study: What is Psychology? .....	04
Looking to the future .....	05
Questions for us .....	06



# The University of Edinburgh

1583

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS



- Ranked 5th in the UK and is Scotland's top ranked institution (Times Higher Education) on both research and teaching
- Clinical Psychology, together with Psychology, Neuroscience and Psychiatry was ranked 2nd in the UK for overall quality of its research.

- Research on brain, mind and mental health across the lifespan
- Particular strengths in cognitive neurosciences, psychological treatments, and theoretical and applied work in contextual and social predictors and applied child development.

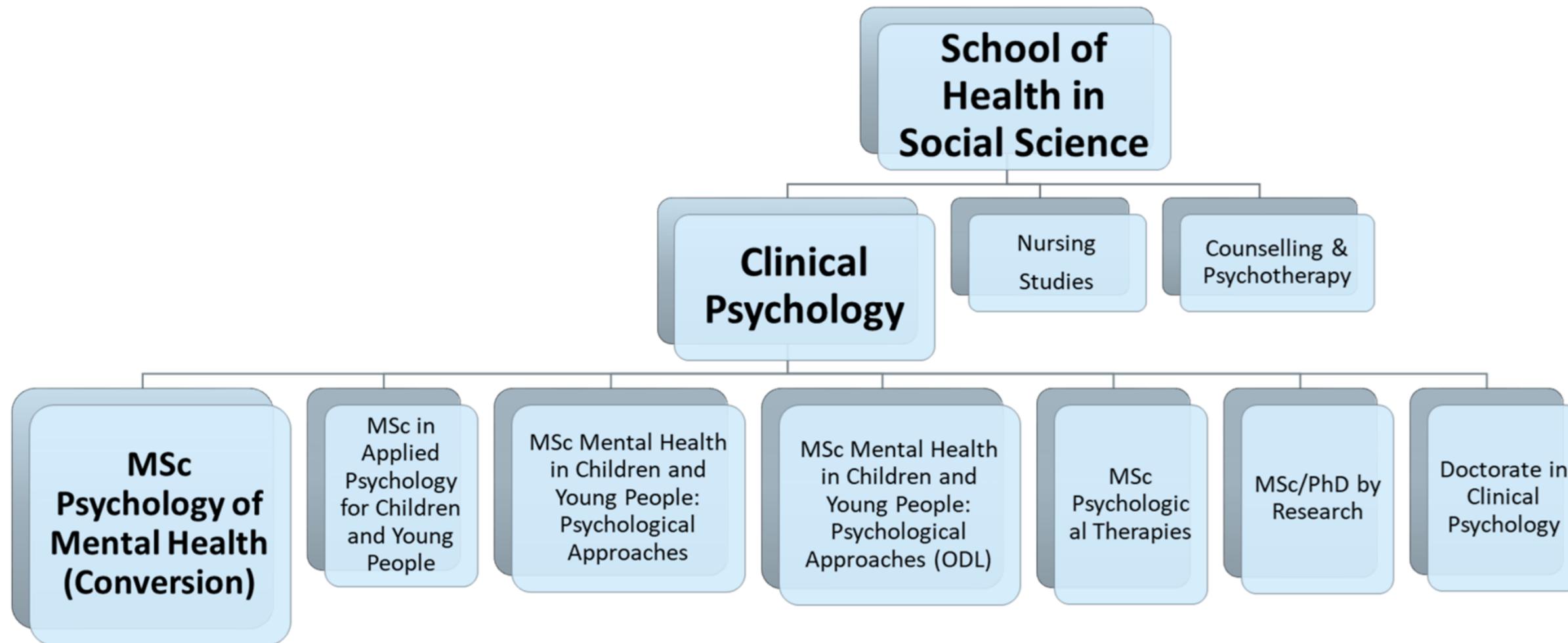


# School of Health in Social Science

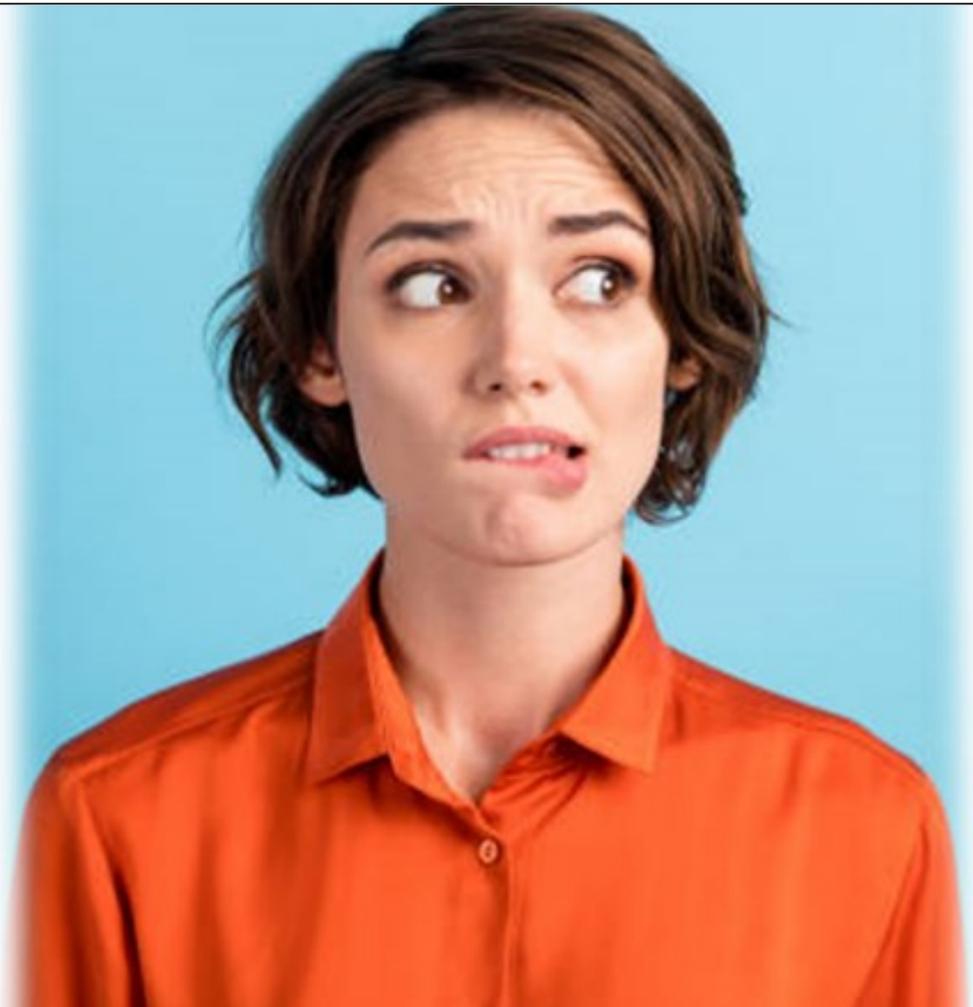


Old Medical School Building; Doorway 6

# School Format



# → What is a “conversion” programme?

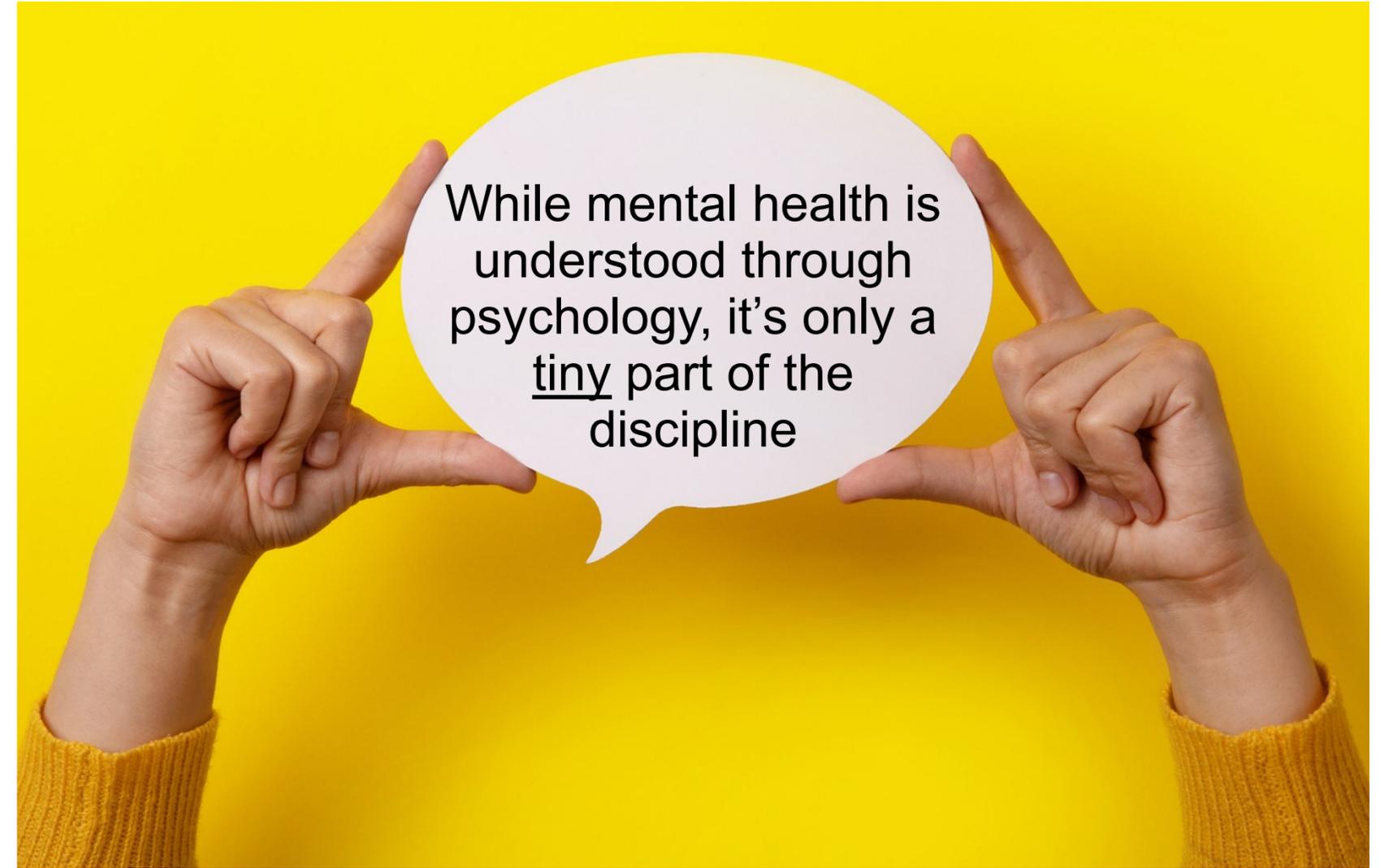


- Provides an opportunity for graduates to build on their first-degree qualification to become eligible for the Society's Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the BPS
- Four years of undergraduate psychology condensed into a 1-year full-time MSc programme (or 2-6 years part-time)
- Don't worry, we have your back!

# → Aims of the Conversion Programme

- Enable you to develop in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of psychology as a science and its applications to everyday life
- Help you critically consider how psychological perspectives can aid our understanding of mental health and illness
- Enhance your research knowledge that will enable you to discuss, share, present and analyse data and information in various formats and from a range of sources
- Develop your research methods and data analysis skills
- Develop your critical writing skills

# → Common Misconception..



→ But in actual fact...

# So what is Psychology?

“...the **scientific study** of the **mind** and how it dictates and influences our **behaviour**...and how this understanding can help us address many of the **problems and issues in society** today”



the british  
psychological society  
promoting excellence in psychology



# Core Areas

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- Developmental
- Cognitive
- Social
- Individual Differences
- Biological
- +
- Conceptual/Historical Issues
- Research Methods



# Research Methods

Theoretical underpinnings of research design and the practical considerations & constraints of real-life research.

E.g., designing research, data collection approaches, ethical considerations of research, theoretical & practical understanding of the use of statistics in psychology.



## **Courses:**

Research Methods in Applied Psychology (RMAP; 20 credits)

Psychological Research Methods (PRM; 20 credits)

## **Semester: 1**

**Assessment:** Coursework



# Conceptual/ Historical Issues

- Covers important conceptual issues relevant for psychology and research
- Explores the recent history of major schools of thought in Psychology, linking present day research with the underlying historical debates

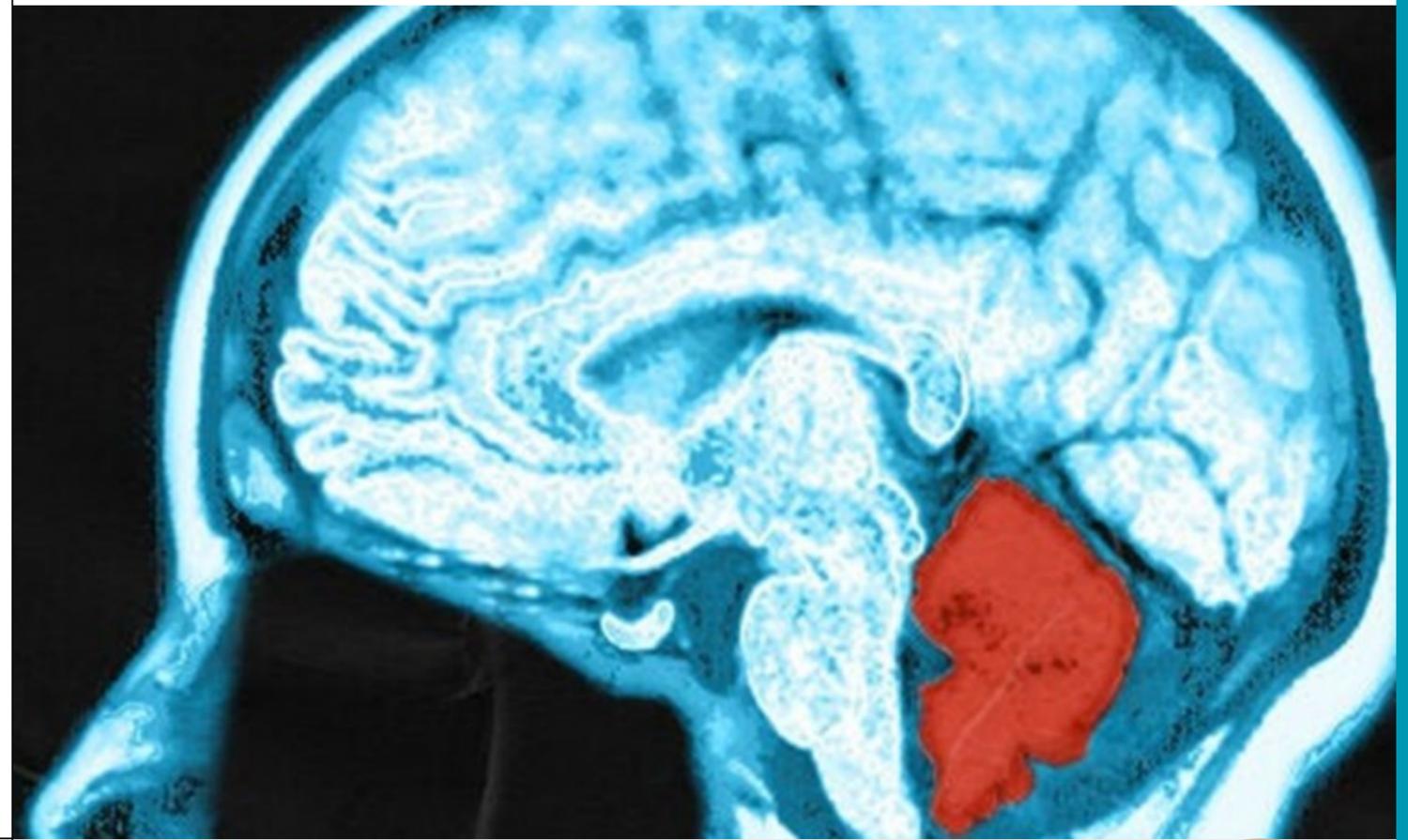
**Course:** Conceptual & Theoretical Psychology (10 credits)

**Semester:** 1

**Assessment:** Written Exam



# Biological Psychology



- How biological processes influence mental processes & behaviour
- Understanding physiological effects of hormones and drugs
- Neuropsychology: the relationship between the brain structures/ processes and behaviour
- How mental processes influence biology
- Genetic influences on behavior and mental health

**Course:** Biological Psychology  
(10 credits)

**Semester:** 1

**Assessment:** Written Exam



# Social Psychology

- How we behave with others
- Examines relationships
- How groups are formed – identity, ingroups and outgroups
- How we form attitudes
- How we process social information



**Course:** Social Psychology & Mental Health (10 credits)

**Semester:** 1

**Assessment:** Critical Portfolio (coursework)



# Individual Differences



Focuses on differences between people, and what outcomes those differences may lead to

- Personality traits and characteristics
- Intelligence and cognitive ability

**Course:** Individual Differences in Mental Health (10 credits)

**Semester:** 2

**Assessment:** Coursework

# Developmental Psychology



- How we develop and change over the lifespan
- Many focus on children and adolescents:
  - Intellectual and cognitive development
  - Social and emotional development
  - Moral development
  - Atypical development and risk of mental illness

**Course:** Developmental Psychology & Developmental (10 credits)

Psychopathology

**Semester:** 2

**Assessment:** Written Exam



# Cognitive Psychology

- How people think and process information
- Mental processes including:
  - Memory
  - Attention
  - Visual perception
  - Impact of emotions on cognitive processes



**Course:** Cognitive Psychology & Cognitive Disorders (10 credits)

**Semester:** 2

**Assessment:** Written Exam



# Psychological Therapies



Current practice in psychological therapies, including cognitive-behavioural, psychodynamic and third wave therapies.

Covers case formulation, the importance of scientific evidence in treatment, and the role of the practitioner.

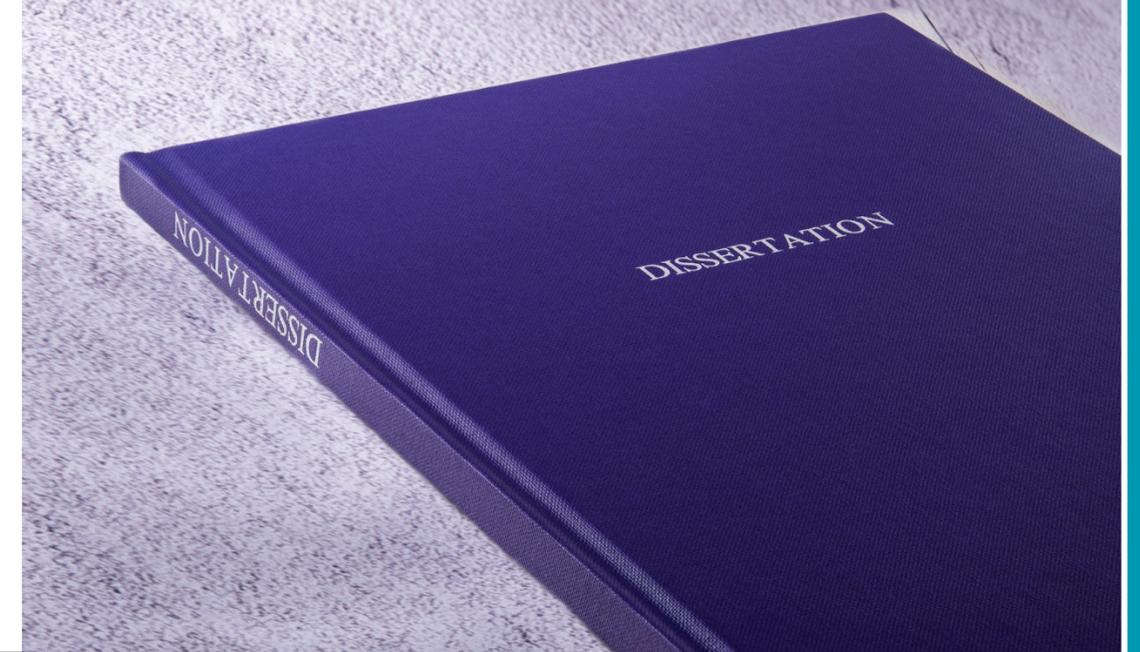
**Course:** Psychological Therapies  
(20 credits)

**Semester:** 2

**Assessment:** Case Study Exam



# Full Year



<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Empirical Dissertation (60 credits)		Empirical Research Project

## student adviser

- Team of support professionals in HiSS
- Pastoral care and sign-posting

**Jason Andreas**

## academic cohort leads

- Academic support
- Community building

**Lizzy Kirkham**

**Daniel McKay**

# Support

# Support



01

## Disability & Learning Support Service

If you have a disability, learning difference, are neurodivergent, or have a health condition that may impact on your studies, please make contact with the Disability and Learning Support Service as soon as possible to discuss your needs.

02

## Counselling Centre

If you need to talk to someone, you can make an appointment for a video or telephone call support

03

## International Students

Edinburgh Global - support international students with orientation and visa issues.



# What next?



the british  
psychological society

 Sign in

My BPS

The Psychologist

About BPS

[Become a member](#)



Network & communities

Careers & education

Resources

News & events

Psychological testing

Find a psychologist

## Find your career in psychology

Find all you need to know about becoming a psychologist and what career options are available.



[Find your career path](#)

[www.BPS.org.uk/find-your-career-psychology](http://www.BPS.org.uk/find-your-career-psychology)



# Questions



Enjoy  
the  
ride!



Any follow-up questions? [Psychology-Conversion@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Psychology-Conversion@ed.ac.uk)

