**MSc in Psychological Science: LM446**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What are the entry requirements?**

Normally a 2.2 honours degree in psychology is the minimum qualification required. In addition, we will consider relevant work experience and equivalent qualifications in cognate fields (e.g., sociology, economics) with substantial research methods and statistics experience. This means, even without a psychology degree you may be considered for the master programme that you are applying for. For more detailed questions about this matter, please contact the Course Director, Dr Jenny Roth (jenny.roth@ul.ie). More information on the course can be found at <https://youtu.be/R0hta9qHeL8>

**If I do not have a Psychology background can I still apply?**

Even though your primary degree was not in psychology it does not preclude you from applying. However, as the research methods and statistics modules are a core component of this masters we would expect applicants to have some prior training in these areas; these need to be developed before entry to the programme.

If you have prior research methods and statistics training and your previous degree is not psychology you can still apply. The variety of modules on offer are wide and varied (see our brochure for list) to suit most cognate disciplines that are interested in learning about psychological science and its applications.

**Are there special requirements for international applicants?**

In the case of international candidates, the overseas equivalent to a 2.2 honours degree as determined by the Course Board and the guidelines of UL Graduate School Admissions is required. A 2.2 honours degree equates to GPA of 2.6 or higher. Where candidates are non-native English language speakers, certified demonstrable achievements in a Standard English Language Competency Test will be necessary. Candidates may be interviewed as part of the selection process. Fees for non-EU students are also higher, but these fees may also be less than your home country, or could be offset by gaining international educational experience.

There is some further information about studying at UL as an international candidate [here](https://www.ul.ie/international/sites/default/files/International_Student_Handbook.pdf.) and [here](https://www.ul.ie/international/sites/default/files/Pre_arrival_hand_book_2016-17.pdf). The UL [International Education Division](https://www.ul.ie/international) also has a number of resources for those who wish to study at UL.

**How many places are there on the programmes?**

The maximum amount is 20 places in total for the MSc in Psychological Science, with no threshold for streams.

**The MSc in Psychological Science programme contains a menu of electives** **offered by several departments. Is access to all modules guaranteed?**

Access to elective modules cannot be guaranteed. That is, it may happen that access is limited because the maximum amount of students in an elective module is reached.

**Is the MSc 'accredited' by Psychological Society of Ireland?**

Accreditation is the official recognition of the degree by the professional psychological body in Ireland - the [Psychological Society of Ireland](http://www.psihq.ie/) - PSI. Our BA in Psychology and Sociology and BSC are accredited by the PSI. We will explore options for accreditation of the master programme in the future, however, at this stage this is not intended as applicants to this programme usually come from accredited degrees and the MSc is a general postgraduate degree and not a specific one (as postgraduate degrees accredited by PSI are usually specific as they educate students for a very specific profession, e.g., ‘forensic psychology’). If you have an accredited degree (e.g., BA or BSc), you are qualified to pursue a career as psychologist and to become a member of PSI or BPS or international equivalent. In this case, the master education *adds* to your qualification independent of any accreditation. For more specific information on this matter, please contact the Course Director, Dr. Jenny Roth.

**Can I become a Psychologist with this MSc?**

If you have an undergraduate degree (or higher diploma) that is accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) or its international equivalent (e.g. BPS) then this MSc will add to that qualification in terms of knowledge and expertise (see Accreditation above). However, if your previous undergraduate degree is not accredited with the PSI this MSc will not give you eligibility to become a psychologist in Ireland. If you want to become a psychologist and do not have an accredited undergraduate degree you need to convert your old degree to a psychology one. We offer a route to doing this through our one year [MA in Psychology conversion course](https://www.ul.ie/gps/course/psychology-ma).

**What will I do during the 12-month programme?**

This depends very much on your preferences. The MSc has three streams, one in **Research Methods**, one in **Clinical Psychology**, and one in **Applied and Social Psychology**. The Research Methods stream offers more research methods modules than other streams. The Clinical Psychology stream offers more clinical modules.

The Applied and Social Psychology stream offers more applied and social modules than the other streams. In addition to the core modules on your stream, you will complete electives from diverse and interesting areas of psychology. Core modules and electives are taught by various experts from the University of Limerick. By the end of your programme you will be able to undertake a piece of independent advanced research (Major Research Project) under the supervision of a member of staff.

**How intense is the programme?**

The one-year programme is designed to provide a high quality education, so that our students are highly qualified for the international job market or for pursuing a PhD. Note, ninety credits (ECTS) are required. Students will take five modules in each of the first two semesters. The programme ends with the Major Research Project in the summer. It is a full-time programme and quite demanding but also very rewarding. So please bear this in mind when considering other commitments as the timetable is scheduled from Monday to Friday 9am-6pm.

**How do I know that the MSc programme is good for me?**

If you have a degree in Psychology, you should consider your interests and your career preferences. If you are generally interested in Psychology and want to pursue a career in research, then the Research Methods stream seems to be a very good choice. If you are most interested in Clinical Psychology, you may choose to apply for the Clinical Psychology stream. If you are particularly interested in applied or social psychology, then you should take advantage of the Applied and Social Psychology stream. Note also that in terms of content, this stream reflects the expertise of the Department of Psychology. That is, we offer high-quality modules that will broaden your knowledge base regarding social and cognitive processes, how they interact, and how social psychological research can be applied (e.g., community work, advertising, mental health, policy making).

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

A lot of our graduates move on to careers such as assistant psychologists (with the intention of applying to clinical psychology programmes), others as researcher assistants in the sphere of public health, non-government agencies. Others go on to pursue PhDs. Our graduating cohorts have been extremely successful in getting these positions.

In fact, our most recent statistics (January 2016) show that 82% has secured work in psychology related fields (e.g. assistant psychologists, counselling or mental health services), 9% in non-psychology fields and the remaining 9% were volunteering in mental health charities. In short, there are a wide range of careers open to you after completing this MSc from more applied work to research positions.

**Can I work alongside the course?**

The course if full-time with an estimated 16 hours contact time and the timetable will not be available until the start of each semester. You can get a copy of the current timetable on the UL website if you type in Timetable and put in Course Code: LM446 to give you an idea of what modules are covered. So it depends on the modules you take each for each stream and the electives. Some of our students do work, but it depends on where they live (most work locally) and precedence should be to modules/coursework as we do not make allowances for people who work in regards to this. Note that juggling study and work can sometimes be difficult and students enrolling on this MSc should prioritize their studies.

**When should I apply and when will I hear back?**

Apply as early as you can. Our systems open in November each year, and we make decisions on a rolling basis until our applications system closes. Applying early increases your chance of success and will ensure that you have all the necessary documentation in place and outstanding issues resolved so that decisions can be made quickly.

**If I apply and get an offer of a place on the course can I defer?**

Yes it is possible to defer your place if accepted on to the course, but this must be done only after contacting the relevant parties (e.g. Course Director) well in advance of the actual start date. This advance notice will also us to give adequate notification to a student on our reserve list.

**What are the fees?**

The current rate for both one-year programmes is EUR 5,746 for EU applicants. For more [information on fees please click **here**](http://www.ulsites.ul.ie/finance/student-fees). Alternatively you can contact student.fees.office@ul.ie.