School of Psychology and Speech Pathology

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Information for Prospective Students

Bachelor of Psychology
Bachelor of Science (Psychology and Human Resource Management)

Make tomorrow better.
Curtin University is Western Australia’s largest and most preferred university, recognised for the practical and applied nature of its courses.

Curtin is ranked in the top two per cent of universities worldwide in the highly regarded Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). In addition, Curtin has been ranked 26th most international university in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016.
The study of psychology encompasses all aspects of human behaviour, using tested theoretical frameworks to examine, explain and predict what we do as individuals and in groups.

This course focuses on key areas of psychology including perception, cognition, emotion, personality, behaviour, and interpersonal relationships. This knowledge is applied to various spheres of human activity, including issues related to daily life such as family, education and work, and the treatment of mental health problems.

The Bachelor of Psychology emphasises the application of knowledge to problems arising in professional practice, and graduates are able to apply for provisional registration upon graduation.

The fourth year of this course includes a research component and gives students more opportunities to learn applied skills. In addition, students undertake advanced study in selected areas of psychology, and in relation to professional development.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- **Apply psychological theory to evidence based practice and extend the boundaries of knowledge through research**
- **Discriminate between valid discipline knowledge and questionable esoteric theory and practice**
- **Apply logical and rational processes to critically analyse problems and generate innovative solutions to psychological questions**
- **Access, evaluate and synthesise relevant information and evidence from a range of sources applicable to psychology**
- **Communicate effectively with individuals, groups and communities**
- **Select and effectively use appropriate technologies relevant to psychological research and practice**
- **Demonstrate ability for self-directed learning and reflective practice**
- **Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of international perspectives in psychology**
- **Demonstrate understanding and respect for human rights and cultural diversity**
- **Independently and collaboratively apply professional skills in an ethical manner.**

Students undertake advanced study in selected areas of psychology.
Entry into the Bachelor of Psychology Honours Stream requires that students achieve an average of 70% in the core second and third year psychology units. If this average is achieved, students are guaranteed a place in the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited honours stream.

Students may exit the program after three years with an APAC accredited Bachelor of Science (Psychology).

**ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION**
This course enables graduates to progress into the next stage of the process towards registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia. Registration as a psychologist requires completion of either a two-year provisional psychologist internship, a one-year professional post graduate qualification and a one-year internship, or the completion of a two-year Master of Psychology program.

**GRADUATE DESTINATIONS**
Psychologists work within organisations concerned with health, community services, employment and training, ergonomics, education, youth and family services, defence forces, industrial relations, human resources and management, alcohol and drug problems, prisons, mental health, rehabilitation and disability programs.

Employers include:
- Private health sector
- Private industry sector
- Community, non-profit and non-government organisations
- Government departments (e.g., Department of Child Protection).

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
No prior study in a particular subject is required. Applicants must meet the University’s standard entry requirements, which include English competency.

Desirable:
Mathematics Applications ATAR.

**DURATION**
The course length is four years full-time or part-time equivalent.

There are two fourth year streams. The Bachelor of Psychology stream requires students to achieve an average of 60% across the core psychology units in second and third year. If this average is achieved, students are guaranteed a place in the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited fourth year stream.
ABOUT THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (PSYCHOLOGY AND HR MANAGEMENT)

This degree is designed to provide a basis in and appreciation of the scientific discipline of psychology as well as the human resource management profession. This combination provides graduates with a highly marketable knowledge base that allows them to relate to a broad range of managers, professionals and consultants, and also provides a foundation for graduate studies in either professional application or research.

Students study a combination of psychology and management units in each semester. In addition the course provides a broad appreciation of human behaviour and experience by including units relating to interdisciplinary health practice.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must meet the University’s standard entry requirements, which include English competency.

**Desirable:** Mathematics Applications ATAR.

**DURATION**

The course length is four years full-time or part-time equivalent.

**PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

The degree is accredited by the Australian Human Resource Institute. Graduates are eligible to apply for membership of the Australian Human Resource Institute.

This course is an accredited three-year sequence of study in psychology. A further year in psychology is necessary to apply for associate membership of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and to apply for provisional registration as a psychologist.

This further year of study must be an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council accredited fourth year of study in psychology. After this you must complete two years supervised psychological practice, or a one year professional postgraduate qualification and one year of supervised psychological practice, or a two-year master program for full registration as a psychologist.

This course is accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council.

Our staff are highly experienced professionals with considerable clinical, teaching and research expertise.
GRADUATE DESTINATIONS
Graduates will have the skills necessary to work in a range of business environments, including human resource management, welfare agencies, labour market industry, and training and development in both government and private enterprise.

Graduates also have the skills that are sought by employers in government departments concerned with health, community services, employment and training, and youth and family services.

Employers include:
- Private sector businesses
- Department of Health
- Department for Child Protection
- Department for Corrective Services
- Disabilities Service Commission.

COURSE STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1, Semester 1</th>
<th>Foundations for Professional Health Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science and Professional Practice in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fundamentals of Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1, Semester 2</td>
<td>Foundations of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence Informed Health Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Cultures and Health Behaviours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organisational Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2, Semester 1</td>
<td>Human Structure and Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychological Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Experimental Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychology of Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2, Semester 2</td>
<td>Brain and Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychological Science Correlational Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Developmental Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3, Semester 1</td>
<td>Advanced Psychological Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance and Conflict Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australian Industrial Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selecting and promoting staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3, Semester 2</td>
<td>Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mixed Methods Research in Health Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remuneration and Reward Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intro to Human Resource Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4, Semester 1</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Differences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Human Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4, Semester 2</td>
<td>Work, Family and Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Developmental Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous and Cross Cultural Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Capstone</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

OUR STAFF
Lecturers who teach within the undergraduate psychology program come from a range of different clinical and research backgrounds. All academic staff have or are working towards higher degrees by research, and clinical staff have extensive clinical experience and ties to the community. For more information on individual staff members please see the following website: http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/schools-and-departments/psychology-and-speech-pathology/people/
### COURSE STRUCTURE

#### Year 1, Semester 1
- Foundations for Professional Health Practice
- Introduction to Psychology
- Science and Professional Practice in Psychology
- Fundamentals of Management

#### Year 1, Semester 2
- Foundations of Psychology
- Evidence Informed Health Practice
- Indigenous Cultures and Health Behaviours
- Organisational Behaviour

#### Year 2, Semester 1
- Human Structure and Function
- Psychological Science
- Experimental Methods
- Psychology of Learning
- Social Psychology

#### Year 2, Semester 2
- Brain and Behaviour
- Psychological Science Correlational Methods
- Child Developmental Psychology
- Human Resource Management

#### Year 3, Semester 1
- Advanced Psychological Science
- Qualitative Methods
- Performance and Conflict Management
- Australian Industrial Relations
- Selecting and promoting staff

#### Year 3, Semester 2
- Perception
- Mixed Methods Research in Health Psychology
- Remuneration and Reward Management
- Intro to Human Resource Development

#### Year 4, Semester 1
- Abnormal Psychology
- Individual Differences
- Cognition
- International Human Resource Management

#### Year 4, Semester 2
- Work, Family and Community
- Adult Developmental Psychology
- Indigenous and Cross Cultural Psychology
- Business Capstone

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**GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS**

I knew during my undergrad days that I was getting a wonderful education. Unique and interesting opportunities were always provided to students wanting to gain real world experiences to cement the theory taught. Staff cared about you as an individual, not just as the numbers you represent. It wasn’t until I started my postgrad degree in another state that I realised how first-class the psychology degree from Curtin really is. It became clear that my time at Curtin had provided me with an incredibly strong foundation that few other Masters students had. Accepting my place at Curtin University’s psychology degree is one of the best decisions I ever made.”

**Denise Abreu**

“Curtin provided me with the theoretical knowledge, and an abundance of other skills that I put into practice every day as a School Psychologist. The course is very well renowned, and favourably looked upon by many psychologists and employers. Almost every day I can appreciate where my skills originated from and work to build on them, however that wouldn’t be possible without the foundation that Curtin provided me.”

**Kelly Lewis**

“The course provides real-world application of the theoretical frameworks underlying psychological science. With access to experienced, supportive staff and new, innovative research technology, the degree provides pathways for future studies in clinical psychology and research. With multiple career opportunities stemming from the one degree, the Curtin psychology degree opens doors no matter which direction you choose to go.”

**Emily Corti**

“Curtin’s Undergraduate Psychology course provided me with integral knowledge and experience in Psychology that has continued to remain relevant throughout my career across a number of areas, in helping people, organisations, and teaching others.”

**Benjamin Pearcy**
Disclaimer
This publication has been written specifically for prospective students who are Australian or New Zealand citizens, or have Australian resident status. Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing, but may change from time to time. For the most up-to-date details on Curtin’s prerequisites, refer to the TISC website at tisc.edu.au
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Please read the material regarding supplementary information required: http://futurestudents.curtin.edu.au/postgraduates/how-to-get-in/supplementary-info.cfm

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