



## What are degrees with Psychology as an area of study?



- The aim of the programmes with Psychology as an area of study is to provide students with the opportunity to study psychology at a general level in combination with another related or unrelated area.
- These programmes include B.A. with Psychology as a main area of study, B. Communications, B.A. Theology and Human Studies, B. European Studies and B. Library, Information and Archives Studies.

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## What can one do with Psychology as an area of study?



- Such a degree provides openings in other disciplines besides Psychology, such as in education, helping and caring professions, management, human resources, media and communication, diplomacy, and research among others.

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## Do the B.Psy (Hons) and degrees with Psychology as an area of study have different programmes?



The B.Psy. (Hons) programme is an honours degree in Psychology making one eligible for postgraduate professional training in psychology



There is a **different programme** for the B.Psy. (Hons) and for students reading for a degree with Psychology as an area of study.



There are various core study-units which are open to both courses, such as PSY1610 Major Paradigms in Psychology, but there are other study-units in Psychology **which are not available for students reading for a degree with Psychology as an area of study.**



All programmes can be found on the Course Finder.

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### What does the degree with Psychology as an area of study consist of?

- Usually such degrees are spread over three years with students doing about 80 ECTS in Psychology.
- Students follow the core courses in Psychology such as Major Paradigms, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, and Psychopathology, together with the B.Psy. Hons students.
- In the third year they also do the Psychology Synoptics, where they integrate the various stands and core courses in Psychology through synoptic seminars and examinations.

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## ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) and study units

- 1 ECTS = 50 hours of work - usually split into 5-7 hours of lecturing, with the rest spent on reading, studying, and working on assignments.
- Since each semester consists of 14 weeks,
  - A 2 ECTS study unit usually runs for one hour every week for a semester
  - A 4 ECTS study unit usually runs for 2 hours every week for a semester or 1 hour every week for a whole year
  - A 6 ECTS study unit usually runs of 3 hours every week for a semester or 1 hour a week in 1 semester and 2 hours in the other

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## ECTS and study units (continued)

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Three hours of reading per one-hour lecture is the rule of thumb

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Study Units are evaluated by examinations, assignments and participation, indicated in the course descriptions

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The course description is an important source of info regarding what to expect from each study unit, including the aims and objectives, reading list, and method of assessment

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It is up to the lecturer to choose the mode of assessment/s

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## Do I need Biology at Intermediate level to take Psychology as an area of study?



- No, Intermediate Biology is a prerequisite for the B.Psy. (Hons) only.
- However, students intending to continue studying Psychology, such as the **Higher Diploma in Psychology (HDIP)**, will find Biology Intermediate very useful in their study.

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## What if I would like to continue my studies in Psychology?

- The Department of Psychology now offers a **Higher Diploma in Psychology (HDIP)**, where students who read for a degree with Psychology as an area of study may enrol in an additional one full-time year at the Department provided that they have obtained at least category II in the final classification.
- During this year students take another 60 ECTS in Psychology including a dissertation and the compulsory study-units in the B.Psy. (Hons) which they would not have done in their first degree.
- The HDIP combined with the first degree is considered to be the equivalent of the B.Psy. and makes one eligible for professional training in Psychology.

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## In you intend to follow the HDIP in the future then please note that...

Study-unit PSY1617 Biological Psychology 1 is compulsory for those students who plan on following the Higher Diploma in Psychology.

Students intending to do the Higher Diploma in Psychology may take PSY1617 as an Optional study-unit from the 8 ECTS credits designated for the year instead of an elective study-unit (in the B.A. Psychology course) if they have an Intermediate Biology at grade C or better.

- If not, students are required to register for study-unit PSY1630 **and then register for study-unit PSY1617 as an Elective during their second year.**

\* Study-unit PSY1617 is a pre-requisite for study-unit PSY1635 Cognitive Psychology.

Although students may register for study-units PSY1617 or PSY1630 as Optional study-units, other Optional Psychology units may not be taken concurrently.

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Important  
information  
regarding  
**elective**  
study-units  
(Year 1)

PSY1635 Major Paradigms:  
Cognitive Psychology is also  
**compulsory as a pre-requisite for the HDIP.** Therefore students who intend to follow the HDIP course need to take this study-unit in Year 1 SEM 2 or Year 2 SEM 2

- Study-unit PSY1617 Biological Psychology 1 is a pre-requisite for PSY1635

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## Important information regarding compulsory study-unit (Year 1)

- Semester 1:
  - PSY 1610 Major Paradigms in Psychology: Introduction to the Psychoanalytic and Humanistic Paradigms and Systemic Thinking
  - PSY1622 Developmental Psychology 1
  - PSY1315 Understanding Research in Psychology
- Semester 2:
  - PSY1623 Developmental Psychology 2

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## Requirement for regular progression to Year 2:

- 26 credits in Psychology
- 26 credits in the other area
- 8 credits in optional study-units

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## Can students go on an Erasmus exchange visit for a whole semester?

Yes, we had various students who did one semester in a university abroad and we strongly encourage all students to make use of this opportunity.

Students are advised to do the visit in **the first semester of their second year.**

It is important to contact the Psychology and Erasmus coordinators first to decide together which study-units to register for when abroad, keeping in mind compulsory Psychology study-units in year 2, semester 1.

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## Information regarding some of the electives in Years 2 and 3

- Study-units PSY2628 Quantitative Research Methods and PSY2629 Qualitative Data Analysis are strongly recommended for those students who plan on following the HDIP. Students may take PSY2628 **or** PSY2629 as optional study-units during their second year and may **not** take any other optional study-units

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## General Information



Students are to chose from the electives available in their respective programme of study; they may not select electives offered in the B.Psy (Hons) programme



Students may not register for Psychology study-units as optionals



Students who drop Psychology in their second year as a main area of study to the Honours in the other area of study are not eligible to read for the HDIP

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## Student Representatives



- Students are asked to nominate **two** student representatives. These representatives will be asked to attend Board of Studies meetings and give feedback regarding the Psychology component of their studies.
- The student representatives are asked to email me once they have been chosen.

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# Psychology Coordinator

Dr Marta Sant

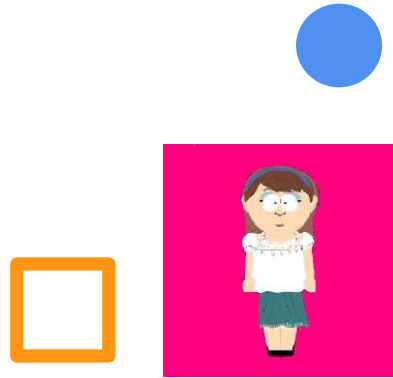
- [marta.sant@um.edu.mt](mailto:marta.sant@um.edu.mt)

A course coordinator is the person who students may turn to if they have academic problems or questions regarding their particular course.

I am here to answer any queries you might have regarding the Psychology component of your studies

When emailing me, kindly state your name and the degree you are reading for e.g. B.A. English and Psychology

Please allow a couple of days for me to respond to your emails, as I might be obtaining information in order to ensure I provide you with the right answer to your queries



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## Other people you might wish to contact

Prof Sandra Scicluna, Dean,  
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

- [sandra.scicluna@um.edu.mt](mailto:sandra.scicluna@um.edu.mt)

Dr Chantal Avellino, Head of  
the Psychology Department

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Dr Lorleen Farrugia, Erasmus  
Coordinator

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Administrator

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## Useful services

- Student Advisory Services
- Health & Wellness Centre
- Access Disability Support Unit
- Chaplaincy
- The Help Hub

***Talk to us if you are experiencing difficulties or have problems. As lecturers, we genuinely care about our students and wish to support them to the best of our abilities***