

Changes to Programme Regulations and Programme Specifications for 2010/2011

This form is available as item 2.4 at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/ar/templateshop/>.
Spaces can be expanded as required.

<p>1. Name of Department and Departmental contact</p> <p>Department of Social Sciences: Sue Simmons (Administrator) and Elizabeth Stokoe (Programme Director)</p>
<p>2. Programme Title and Award</p> <p>BSc Social Psychology</p>
<p>3. Please tick any of the following which apply. At least one box should be ticked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The status of one or more modules will change from compulsory to optional<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The status of one or more modules will change from optional to compulsory<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The module choice available to students will be reduced<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The semester(s) in which modules are taught will change<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In one or more Parts of the programme, the proposal is to withdraw optional modules with a total weight of 30 or more<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Progression or degree qualification rules will change <p>Do you consider these changes to be <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major</p> <p><i>The above changes should be outlined in Section 5 below</i></p>
<p>4. Reasons for the proposal: its purpose and relevance; how it will maintain or enhance the quality of teaching and learning; implications for existing programmes and modules</p> <p>We are proposing to make major structural changes to Years 2 and 3 of the BSc Social Psychology. Year 1 remains the same. We want to make the changes for a variety of reasons: partly in response to our British Psychological Society (BPS) accreditation visit in 2008 (with recommendations for streamlining the degree), partly in response to recent Departmental discussions about 'student contact hours', partly in response to University regulations about teaching students in distinct year groups, and partly in response to staff retirements, replacement appointments and the resultant need to delete and replace current modules.</p> <p>Although the new programme, with its new and replacement modules and new structure, constitutes a 'major' change, the result will be a more effective programme for delivering core BPS content, with a simpler structure. Furthermore, it will build in substantially more 'contact hours' that the current programme currently delivers. The programme will be organized a streamlined, core 'backbone' for the degree. Optional modules will then be able to be added or deleted easily, according to current staff and their interests.</p>

5. Outline of new/amended content: what elements are new, what is changing

In brief, the changes involve replacing, refining, or amalgamating existing modules to produce a new diet of compulsory and optional modules. The resulting compulsory modules will map exactly onto the BPS's list of core areas for accreditation. The BPS requires that all accredited programmes cover the following content areas at Honours level.

- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Individual Differences
- Research Design; Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
- Practical Component
- Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology

In the old degree programme, we ran a complicated system of *core*, *optional* and '*advisory*' modules. '*Advisory*' modules were *Forensic and Criminal Psychology*, *Human Sexualities*, *Children with Difficulties*, *Health and Illness*, *Abnormal Behaviour and Mental Illness*. Students had to take two out of these five to meet BPS accreditation criteria. This was because, until 2006, *Cognition and Perception* and *Brain and Behaviour* covered core content but were located in Year 1. We therefore covered this core content through '*advisory*' modules (note that five of the old '*Advisory*' modules listed above have stopped running this year due to staff retirements).

However, when the BPS stipulated that core content must be delivered at Honours level, *Cognition and Perception* and *Brain and Behaviour* were relocated to Year 2-3. This created space in Year 1, which we filled with two 3-hour per week Social Psychology-only courses: *Controversies in Psychology* and *Social Psychology and Relationships*. At this point, contact time increased considerably for year 1 students (which is at approx 13 hours per week).

During our recent BPS accreditation visit, the inspectors told us that this relocation and addition of modules meant that there was no longer any need for '*advisory*' modules, as all the core content was now covered at Year 2/3. They suggested we streamline our core modules which would be the focus of any future visit.

Following the APR (2009), the Department was told it must increase contact hours for Year 2/3 students, and must ensure that the majority of its teaching is at the right level (i.e., 90/120 credits for Year 2 at level B, and the same percentage for Year 3 at level C).

Below, then, we set out our proposed changes.

1. Year 2 and Year 3 students are separated into year-cohort groups across 100% of modules. That is; Year 2 students take '*B*' modules and Year 3 students take '*C*' modules.
2. Year 2 comprises 100% Core BPS teaching and is delivered every year.
 - *Cognition and Perception* and *Thought and Language 1*, currently both compulsory modules, become amalgamated into one, streamlined '*Cognitive Psychology*' '*supermodule*', which will run as a 2-hour per week lecture course.

- *Development and Socialization and Thought and Language 2*, currently compulsory modules, become amalgamated into one, streamlined 'Developmental Psychology' 'supermodule', which will run as a 2-hour per week lecture course with tutorials.
- *Brain and Behaviour* becomes 'Biological Psychology', mapping the module title directly with the official BPS term for this area. It will run as a 2-hour per week lecture course with tutorials.
- *Personality and Psychotherapy* becomes 'Individual Differences and Personality', mapping the module title directly with the official BPS term for this area. It will run as a 2-hour per week lecture course with tutorials.
- *These 'core' modules are taught to Year 2 Social Psychology students ONLY.* Previously, the old modules were taught to Years 2 and 3 together, and some were available to, though seldom taken up by, other students in the Department. One of the old modules, 'Thought and Language' was a core module for students on the BSc Psychology in Human Sciences, who have been consulted about the change.

3. Year 3 will comprise the Project, two new core Advanced Social Psychology modules (A and B, each for Social Psychology students only working in their cohort, each 3 hours per week) and Options. We will run six optional modules in rotation: three each in alternate year, and these will be available to students across the Department, in Year 2 or 3, as 10 or 20 credit modules.

4. Contact hours meet the Department's target in Year 2 and Year 3 at approximately 10 in Year 2 and 7 in Year 3.

The six new core modules, when added to the existing *Methods and Ideas in Psychology* practical modules in Year 2 and the *Social Psychology Project*, comprise the nine compulsory modules that will be the foundation of our degree programme.

6. Outline of proposed measures to inform prospective students offered a place on the programme of programme changes

Potential new students will be informed via the new Social Psychology brochure (currently being updated) and at Open Days – although applicants will not 'see' changes happening. They will, from this year, apply to the programme as advertised.

7. If the revised Regulations apply to existing students, state the implications for students currently on placement/ leave of absence and resit students.

These changes will have to be managed such that no student cohort misses BPS core content.

- Current Year 3 take *three remaining* core BPS modules in the current academic year (*Thought and Language 1, Cognition and Perception, Brain and Behaviour*), and graduate with the necessary BPS content covered.
- Current Year 2 take their *first three* core BPS modules this year (*Thought and Language 1, Cognition and Perception, Brain and Behaviour*). As third years in 2010-11, they must take the new *Developmental Psychology* and *Individual Differences and Personality* as third years (i.e., 'B' versions, because all 'B' modules will be Year 2, 20 credit modules by then).
- Current Year 1; that is, 2009-10 entrants, take the existing Year 1 and the new course from 2010 when they enter their second year.
- Next year's Year 1; that is, 2010-11 entrants, start on the new programme.

In 2009-10: No programme changes; new option *Political Psychology* runs alongside *Human Sexualities* and *Health and Illness*.

In 2010-11: New Year 2 modules *Cognitive Psychology, Biological Psychology, Individual Differences and Personality, Developmental Psychology* run for the first time; two *new options* run alongside *Gender and Psychology*. Current Year 2 will be third years, so will take *Developmental Psychology* and *Individual Differences and Personality* (40 credits), project (40 credits) and 2 options (40 credits) to make up their 120 total.

In 2011-12: New Year 3 modules *Advanced Social Psychology A* and *Advanced Social Psychology B* run. The new course is complete.

It is unavoidable that the current Year 2 cohort will take the 'wrong' level in 2010-11, while the new programme rolls out. Although we've picked 2010 as the new Year Zero because it will be the end of the cycle of BPS modules, we will have to run old/new together for one year.

8. Staffing implications - adequacy of existing departmental resources; net increase/reduction in staff teaching effort or demands on support staff

It is important for BPS accreditation that Staff-Student ratio, under which we received accreditation, remains at the current level, which is 11 FT staff. We need to replace staff members who retire with suitably qualified psychologists who can teach the core BPS curriculum and supervise dissertations.

9. Financial implications - anticipated effect on departmental income and expenditure

There are no anticipated additional financial implications.

10. Additional Library requirements

As the basic content of the degree remains the same, there are no additional library requirements.

Library consulted N/A

11. Additional Computing Support required

As the basic content and delivery of the degree remains the same, there are no additional IT requirements.

IT Services Consulted N/A

12. Other resource implications, e.g. - lecture room, lab and other space requirements; equipment, materials; timetabling constraints (block-teaching for example); any special residential requirements

The majority of our teaching is delivered in two or three-hour blocks. We will make the most use of the new Social Psychology Laboratory suite, which opened at the start of 2009-10.

13. Implications for other departments, both providing and receiving

Within the Department of Social Sciences, the new Year 2 modules, delivering core BPS content and research methods training, will be taught to Social Psychology students only. This means that a couple of previously 'core' modules, which were open to other students in the Department, will no longer be able to take their replacements. However, the group maintains its commitment to the interdisciplinary nature of the Department and all our remaining and new optional modules will be 'open' as previously.

For other Departments, one module, Thought and Language 1, was previously a 'core' module for Human Science students. These students are still able to take our optional modules.

Both staff groups, within and outside the Department, have been consulted and support our proposals.

14. Any other relevant information

Attached are:

Draft Programme Regulations for 2010/11 (with any Distance Learning modules identified) ✓

Programme Regulations for 2009/10 annotated with proposed changes

Draft Programme Specification for 2010/11 (only if significant changes) ✓

Programme Specification for 2009/10, annotated with changes (if relevant)

Curriculum Map (for major structural changes involving 1/3 or more modules)

Consultation Forms, as appropriate - *see e-mail regarding Psychology programme*

Approval Route

Head of Department/Chair of Department's Learning and Teaching Committee

Signature  X

Date 15/12/09

Associate Dean (Teaching) Decisions (tick as appropriate)

- AD(T) approves
- Proposal raises strategic issues
- Proposal requires referral to Chair of CSC

AD(T) comments:

Associate Dean (Teaching) Signature _____

Date sent to Jennie Elliott _____
(please attach all papers)

Chair of CSC Signature _____

Date _____

Actioned by Jennie Elliott and notified back to Department on

Date _____
[February 2009]

To: Elizabeth Stokoe
Subject: RE: SSC102 Thought and Language

Dear Liz

Never mind - I will include this to show that we did the consultation, since we are also setting out the solution. I do not think it will make any difference to them in the long run. I just hope that the modules they are going to put on for their students will prepare them sufficiently as they are pulling out of our first year modules.

Many thanks
Sue Simmons

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Stokoe [mailto:E.H.Stokoe@lboro.ac.uk]
Sent: 16 December 2009 15:38
To: Susan.Simmons
Subject: RE: SSC102 Thought and Language

Don't think so!

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan.Simmons [mailto:S.E.Simmons2@lboro.ac.uk]
Sent: 16 December 2009 14:31
To: Liz Stokoe
Subject: FW: SSC102 Thought and Language

Dear Liz

Did we ever have a response from the Psychology Department?

Best wishes
Sue

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Stokoe [mailto:E.H.Stokoe@lboro.ac.uk]
Sent: 27 October 2009 14:23
To: Susan.Simmons
Subject: RE: SSC102 Thought and Language

Thanks Sue.

Liz

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan.Simmons [mailto:S.E.Simmons2@lboro.ac.uk]
Sent: 27 October 2009 14:07
To: Liz Stokoe
Subject: FW: SSC102 Thought and Language

Dear Liz

Just to let you know that this consultation is underway, so whatever the response is, we can print off and submit with the 'change in programme regulations' paperwork.

Best wishes
Sue Simmons

-----Original Message-----

From: Adrian D. Bailey [mailto:A.D.Bailey@lboro.ac.uk]
Sent: 26 October 2009 17:24
To: Susan.Simmons
Cc: T.M.Dovey
Subject: RE: SSC102 Thought and Language

It has been commonplace for us to offer different SSC modules on alternate years.

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Adrian D.Bailey, Information and Systems Manager,
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Community Warden. Out-of-hours Tel: 01509 563263

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Susan.Simmons [mailto:S.E.Simmons2@lboro.ac.uk]
> Sent: 26 October 2009 16:47
> To: A.D.Bailey
> Cc: Liz Stokoe
> Subject: SSC102 Thought and Language

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> Dear Adrian

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> I just thought I should formally let you know that we will
> not be able to offer you the above module next year. I guess
> that we will have to find you something from the optional
> selection. Am I right in thinking that you just need to be
> able to offer 2 x 20 wgt Part C modules to your Psychology
> students, and that ideally you would like to be able to offer
> a choice?

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> Best wishes
> Sue Simmons

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