

PSYCHOLOGY CONVERSION COURSE

The information provided below is intended to act as a prospective student guide to the Psychology Conversion Course should your application be successful, and you decide to register on the course. If you have any queries not answered here please direct them to the course executive officer, psychconv@tcd.ie. We also welcome any suggestions for information you think would be useful to prospective students.

What the Psychology Conversion Course will offer you

As graduates, you have most of the academic skills you need to succeed on the conversion course. Our main objective is to facilitate your entry into the profession of psychology and to train you in the discourse of a new academic discipline. We feel this transfer is best affected via active learning and discussion and to facilitate this much of your teaching will take place in small groups where you are encouraged to be active and collaborative learners.

While some of your classes will be taken with other psychology students, we are the only psychology course still providing very small group academic tutorials to our students.

Throughout your two years you will meet with an academic staff member every fortnight in groups of just 3 of your course peers. This module is intended to complement the core programme and to assist you in your introduction to the academic discipline of psychology as a whole.

Our aim is to train our students to be critical consumers and active producers of psychological knowledge. To that end all teaching in the School of Psychology TCD is research-led and delivered by active researchers in the field. You will be encouraged from the outset to get involved with the many research groupings in the School, whether you want to just sit in on research meetings and talks to experience the diversity of psychological research being conducted or to participate more actively as a research assistant.

In short, we aim to provide a rigorous and comprehensive primary training which will inspire you to take the next step towards a career in or using psychology.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I submit my application?

The closing date for applications for entry in September will normally be 31st March each year.

Applicants must apply online at:

www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/az/course.php?id=DPGPS-PSYC-2F09

Please note, applicants will be permitted 5 working days after the deadline of 31st March to upload all prescribed supporting documentation your application. As it can take some time to obtain academic references it would be advisable to contact referees well in advance of the deadline. Your listed referees will be contacted by email and sent a Trinity reference form and a link to upload it directly to your application. Applications that are incomplete or missing any supporting documents

after 5 working days will not be rejected but it should be noted that precedence when allocating places on the course will be afforded to those applicants who submitted in entirety on time.

How will my application be assessed?

A strictly limited number of students will be accepted, based on the application form with two academic references and a curriculum vitae. In addition to your primary qualification and references, the following will be taken into account in the selection process: any relevant or cognate postgraduate qualifications; any courses or modules taken in psychology; any work experience, paid or voluntary, in a relevant setting.

Will I be required to attend an interview?

No – entry to the course is based on the completed application form only.

What time commitment does the course demand?

This is a two year full-time course, the equivalent of an undergraduate bachelors programme in psychology. There are up to 16 hours of contact time weekly, i.e., lectures, seminars, labs or tutorials that students must attend each week. These hours are scheduled anytime between 9am – 6pm, Monday – Fridays. While the number of contact hours may seem small, each 5 credit module requires approximately 100 hours of student input time to include class time and assessments.

Can I stay in employment whilst registered on the course?

This is a very demanding course. While someone with very flexible working hours may find it possible to work while attending this course, due to the intense level of academic commitment involved it is not advisable as it will likely impact on your performance as you will have less time to dedicate to your studies.

Can I see a copy of the timetable for the upcoming academic year?

Timetables are produced by central administration for the whole college and are not finalized until shortly before the start of term. It will be sent to all incoming students at that stage.

My primary degree is completely unrelated to psychology; am I eligible to apply?

The Psychology Conversion Course is geared towards graduates who hold degrees in an entirely unrelated area. Applications are welcome from those who hold an honours degree in any discipline.

Can I get credit or exemptions for any psychology modules completed as part of my primary degree?

There is no mechanism for taking account of any psychology modules you may have taken before entry.

Is there a mature student entry route to the course?

No, all applicants apply directly to the course and are assessed equally.

I hold a level 7 ordinary bachelor degree; am I eligible to apply?

Unfortunately not, the minimum entry level requirement is a level 8 honours bachelor degree. For more information with regard to degree levels please visit the National Framework of Qualifications website at www.nfq.ie

I am an international, non-EU student; am I eligible to apply?

Yes, the Graduate Admissions Section of College will view your application and assess whether your degree matches the minimum entry requirement of the course.

Please contact our Global Officer, Erin Paullin, Erin.Paullin@tcd.ie for information.

You will also need to provide proof of English language competency. Please visit the International Office website for more details at <https://www.tcd.ie/study/international/>

I am currently in the final year of my undergraduate degree; am I eligible to apply?

Yes, however if you are offered a place it will be conditional on provision of final year degree results showing achievement of a second class honors.

Can I apply to Trinity for course funding?

There is no funding for postgraduate students on **taught** courses within Trinity College Dublin, but information with regard to external funding sources can be researched at www.studentfinance.ie

Are there any reading lists I could see to get an idea of what is involved?

Each lecturer will provide a full reading list at the outset of their module, but we would encourage you to have a look at a general academic psychology textbook before you start. It is very helpful if you have an initial understanding of what is involved in the academic study of psychology. A text we would recommend to you is Passer, M.W., et al. (2009) Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behaviour. McGraw Hill.

How many students will attend my lectures?

Classes for the Higher Diploma students range from 3 to as many as 180. As the course is the functional equivalent of the BA you will be covering the same material as the undergraduate students and will attend some lectures with the undergraduate class. Foundation modules can have up to 180 attendees, including students from other disciplines, whereas module options specific to psychology students are attended by far fewer, on average 35. The Higher Diploma class takes seminars and labs for the Research Skills & Methodology and Statistics & Methodology modules on their own, as a class of approximately 15. Your academic tutorial with a staff member will contain no more than 3/4 per group.

How long is the academic year?

Generally teaching term starts early in September and finishes mid-April. Exams taking place mid-December and the end of April and throughout May. Supplemental exams take place at the end of August.

When will I have to register?

Registration generally takes place in mid-September; you will be required to register online. The Academic Registry issues an **'Invite to Register'** intray message to all new entrants and continuing students eligible to register for the forthcoming academic year through their my.tcd.ie portal.

What is the FYP and when will I need to start working on it?

Each student must undertake an independent research project in their second year under the direct supervision of an academic member of staff. By the end of April of your first year you must have secured agreement from a member of academic staff to supervise your project.

By the very start of your 2nd year, you must submit your research proposal and start to prepare an application for ethical approval to the School's Ethics Committee. The project itself is due in early March.

Where can I view module descriptions?

You can access current module descriptions on the course webpage. The handbook for the current year is also available on the course webpage. The handbook for the upcoming year will not be made available until term starts. Please be aware that modules change from year to year and that the module descriptions available are an example of those offered in previous years and are not guaranteed to be available to you. The only modules that will stay the same over the following 2 academic years are the foundation modules; Introduction to Psychology, Cognition, Fundamentals of Neuroscience and Behaviour, Developmental Psychology, Perception, Social Psychology and Psychological Disorder. Also, in each year you must take Research Skills & Methodology and Statistics & Methodology. Academic Tutorial Skills is taken in Year 1.

What have successful graduates of the course progressed onto?

With your now multidisciplinary training and background there is a multitude of options and career paths open to you. Some people choose to use their psychology training to inform and enhance their work as a teacher, member of the Garda Síochána, health care professional, artist, in the business world, and so on. Many people who take this course do so as a first step *en route* to a career in the profession of psychology. Psychology encompasses many different subdisciplines and our conversion course graduates are well placed to progress to further training in any of these: Clinical or Counselling psychology, Educational psychology, Occupational psychology, Forensic psychology, Applied Behaviour Analysis training, Child and Adolescent psychology, Neuroscience, a Masters or PhD by research in the topic of your choice, and so on.

We are delighted each year to welcome many of our graduates back to the School to proceed with their training but with their fully recognised qualification students also go to other universities in Ireland and to the UK, America and Australia to complete their training.