

Behavioural Science

About This Course

Behavioural scientists are interested in all aspects of our lives and behaviour. They ask questions about how people behave and about the society they live in. They want to understand the nature of the interaction between individuals and the culture and society that they live in. They try to find answers and solutions to the social, political and ethical problems faced by human beings in a rapidly changing world.

In the first two years of the Behavioural Science Degree Programme you will study the foundations of psychology and sociology including the theoretical frameworks and practical research methods that both disciplines use to investigate, analyse and interpret human behaviour. You will also learn relevant IT skills and develop an ability to present and communicate sociological and psychological research data. In the third year, you will be given a choice of topics across disciplines of sociology and psychology, and in the fourth year will formulate and complete a research project on a topic of your own choice which will culminate in the completion of an Honours Dissertation.

In the fourth year, the Community Links module will offer some students an opportunity to gain valuable employability skills and work experience through locally based part-time work placements in voluntary organisations, public sector institutions and social enterprises. On completion of the Behavioural Science degree, you will possess a strong understanding of social research methods, and will be able to draw upon a wide range of social and psychological knowledge to apply to practical everyday problems and use as a basis for employment or further study.

The structure of this degree offers a high degree of flexibility. At the end of year two, if you decide that you would like to specialise in sociology or in psychology you may do so and can go on to graduate with BSc (Hons) Sociology or BSc (Hons) Psychology (see the Sociology and Psychology course entries for details).

What You Study

Stage 1

Introductory Psychology; Individual in Society; Research Methods in Psychology; Globalisation and Society; History and Social Change; Reading Sociology.

Stage 2

Research Methods (Psychology and Sociology); Biological Psychology; Classical Social Theory; Self and Society; Cognitive Psychology; Work, Welfare & Consumption.

Stage 3

Development and Intelligence; Research Methods; Contemporary Sociological Theories; Understanding Collective Behaviour; Personality and Social Psychology; plus Options from Sociology of Gender; Cultural Theory and Popular Culture; Sociology of Health; Scottish Culture and Society; Sociology of Leisure and Tourism; Propaganda, PR and Misinformation; Controlling Crime; Applied Psychology; Abnormal Behaviour; Psychology and the Law; Social Influence; Behaviour and Health; Biological & Cognitive Psychology; Growth and Development; Sport and Exercise Psychology.

Course

BSc (Hons) Behavioural Science

BSc (Hons) Sociology

BSc (Hons) Psychology

UCAS Code

C890 BSc/BS

L301 BSc/Soc

C800 BSc/Psy

Duration

Four years FT

Four years FT

Four years FT



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Behavioural Science

Stage 4

Psychology or Sociology Project (on a topic of your choice); plus Options from the following subject areas: Science and Society; Penal Institutions; Media, Self and Society; Contemporary Cultural Analysis; Images of the City; Social Organisation of Sexuality; Conversation and Discourse Analysis; Political Sociology; Visualising the Environment; Advanced Social Psychology; Psychobiology; Advanced Biological Psychology; Psychology in Education and Health; Advanced Cognitive Psychology; Clinical Psychology, Advanced Forensic Psychology. There will be an opportunity for students to apply for a place on the Community Links module which provides experience of working with organisations operating within the voluntary, public and social enterprise sectors.

How You Learn

You will learn in a variety of different ways that reflect the diverse knowledge and wide skills which are essential to making a successful Behavioural Science graduate. Class contact time will be on average 8 hours per week made up of lectures, seminars, tutorials and laboratories. You will be expected to attend lectures that will offer an overview of the key aspects of each module topic and provide directions for further independent study. You will also participate in laboratory classes that encourage the development of practical research and experimental skills; and you will take part in seminars and tutorials that give the opportunity to engage in discussions groups and develop communication and presentation skills.

How You Are Assessed

A variety of assessment methods are used throughout the course including formal examinations using seen and unseen papers; class tests; essays; laboratory reports; poster presentations and formal oral presentations. All Behavioural Science degree students are required to undertake either a psychology or sociology research project in their fourth year culminating in a 10,000 word dissertation on a topic chosen by the student.

There are a wide variety of career opportunities for Behavioural Science graduates who are especially well suited to 'people-oriented' occupations. These include personnel management; public relations; marketing; community education; youth work; social research; policing; criminal justice services; drug rehabilitation and social enterprise. Many of our Behavioural Science graduates go on to complete professional qualifications in social work, counselling, human resource management and teaching, or go on to take further academic qualifications at postgraduate level.

Career Opportunities

A degree in Behavioural Science provides you with the necessary practical skills and knowledge which many employers' demand. Our graduates are well suited to jobs which require a good understanding of people and society, for example, Researcher, Teacher, Social and Community Worker, Manager, Public Relations and Probation Officers.

Course Accessibility

Students participating in this course may be involved in the following activities: field trips, team working, attending lectures and tutorials, and undertaking practical work in IT and network laboratories. For advice on course accessibility, please contact John Petrie (Student Advisor) at j.petrie@abertay.ac.uk or telephone (01382) 308051.

Further Information

Details of the entrance requirements can be found on our website. If you would like more information on this course, please contact the Student Recruitment Office (details at the bottom of the page).

The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to print. As the University has a policy of regularly reviewing its courses, the course or content may be subject to change without prior notice.
10/07

Contact

For further information contact:
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Dundee DD1 1HG

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w: www.abertay.ac.uk/questions

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