

BSc with Honours in Psychology and Forensic Biology – 2016 entry

Duration of programme: 4 years (where students join the programme in year 1)

Award on successful completion: Bachelor of Science with Honours

Accreditation: British Psychological Society

Location of delivery: Abertay University, Bell Street, Dundee

Composition of the programme: 120 SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) credits in each academic year, delivered in modules of 20 credits each, with 3 modules taken in term 1, and 3 in term 2 each year. In years 1 and 2, students have the opportunity to take modules outside their main subjects. Students complete a 40 credit independent project in the final year.

Contact hours and workload: Each academic year typically requires 1200 hours of student effort; on average across the 4 years of this programme, 25% of that time is in lectures, seminars, practicals and similar activities; the remainder is independent study.

Assessment methods: Assessment is through a range of methods including exams, tests, practical laboratory reports and student presentations.

Additional costs: Students must purchase a laboratory coat (cost around £15) and a laboratory notebook.

Academic staff: This programme is delivered by staff in the Division of Psychology in the School of Social and Health Sciences, and the Division of Science in the School of Science, Engineering and Technology. Staff profiles can be viewed at

<http://www.abertay.ac.uk/studentlife/schools/shs/staff/>

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Core modules in the programme:
Biology Principles & Practice
Human Physiology
Molecular Biology & Genetics
Introduction to Forensic Science, Practice and Techniques
Special Topics in Forensic Biology
Forensic Applications of DNA
Introductory Psychology 1
Introductory Psychology 2
Biological Psychology and Personality and Individual Differences
Cognitive Psychology
Social Psychology
Developmental Psychology
Research Methods
Honours Project (students seeking BPS accreditation must complete a psychology-based project)
Other modules that may be offered, but are subject to change over time:
Language and Education

Evolutionary Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Forensic Psychology
Brain and Behaviour
Advanced Forensic Examination and Analysis Techniques
Applications/Mini Project
Visits/The Bio Industry
Cell Biology and Immunology

Developments in the discipline: The curriculum within all forensic biology modules, including core modules, is expected to evolve over time, to maintain a real world connection as new scientific, medicolegal and diagnostic paradigms and tools come to the fore. The discipline of psychology is continually evolving, with most new developments coming in experimental and statistical methods. However, the core subject disciplines are unlikely to change. New developments are readily incorporated into the core curriculum without having to fundamentally change the module structure.