

Psychology and Mental Health Programme Area

Further Information for Psychology Lecturer Posts

For more information about the Psychology and Mental Health Programme Area please also see:

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/faculties/sciences/subject_and_courses/psychology/

For more information about the Human Sciences Laboratory, please also see:

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/faculties/sciences/facilities_and_labs/human_sciences/

Psychology and Mental Health is in the Faculty of Sciences and is located on the College Road site at Stoke-on-Trent. The Programme Area is made up of three units- Psychology and Counselling, Clinical Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies. Currently there are twenty-eight academic staff in psychology, eight academic staff in clinical psychology, numerous research associates and scholars, and a team of technical and clerical staff. Staffing includes a Head of Department, three Professors of Psychology (two in Psychology, one in Clinical Psychology) and a lively group of enthusiastic staff with a wide range of teaching and research interests. There is also a thriving Early Childhood Studies section, which manages a large multi-site foundation degree and associated 'top up' course.

We currently have four dedicated psychology laboratories with networked PC computers and good teaching space; a purpose built video and observation suite; a small cognitive laboratory, equipped with eye-tracking equipment and a range of software for designing and running experiments; and space for research staff and postgraduate students. There is a large holding of psychometric tests and an article bank holding a special collection of health psychology articles for postgraduate students. The Faculty's Learning Resource Centre holds a substantial additional collection of articles and other resources for use by undergraduate students. Staffordshire University has also invested in a Human Sciences Laboratory and details of this facility can be accessed at:

In 2012, the Faculty will be moving to a purpose built £30m Science and Technology centre on the Stoke campus. Psychology will enjoy the continuation and further expansion of facilities in this contemporary state of the art facility. See http://www.staffs.ac.uk/faculties/sciences/about_the_faculty/science_2012.jsp for more details.

Undergraduate & Postgraduate Teaching

Psychology offers teaching both within the University undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. In the undergraduate framework, we offer psychology in a number of single honours degrees:

BSc (Hons) Psychology
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology
BSc(Hons) Forensic Psychology
BSc(Hons) Sport and Exercise Psychology
BSc(Hons) Psychology and Life Challenges
BSc(Hons) Psychology and Counselling
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Child Development

These undergraduate programmes all provide Graduate Basis for Registration with the British Psychological Society. As well as studying a common set of core modules in accordance with BPS accreditation requirements, students are able to choose from a good range of more specialist option modules. At present, Psychology has approximately 450 full time equivalent students in the Undergraduate scheme and approximately 50 full time equivalent students on Postgraduate awards. Satisfaction is high amongst our students and Psychology at Staffordshire received an excellent assessment for its educational provision from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education - scoring maximum grades in five of six categories (23 points from a possible 24). As well as a range of psychology undergraduate programmes, Psychology and Mental Health also offers undergraduate level programmes in Counselling, including a Basic Skills short course and a Certificate in Counselling.

At postgraduate level there is a thriving BPS accredited MSc in Health Psychology. An HPC approved Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology (which was the first to be accredited in the UK) also enables students to obtain Chartered Health Psychologist status (Stage Two). Postgraduate and professional awards in Counselling are also part of the portfolio in the Department, and include a Professional/Postgraduate Diploma and an MSc in Psychotherapeutic Counselling. The Professional Doctorate in Clinical Psychology runs in collaboration with Keele University and is located at Staffordshire University, enjoying the full support of the Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS trusts.

The Department also has a University Certificate in Psychology by distance learning and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology, to provide an alternative route for graduates to Graduate Basis for Registration. We also offer a Masters programme in Teaching Psychology in a distance learning format.

The major teaching areas of the present Psychology staff are:

Carol Austin	Health Psychology; Individual Differences
Dr Claire Barlow	Developmental Psychology; Social Psychology
Dr Emily Buckley	Health Psychology; Research Methods
Prof. David Clark Carter	Psychological Research Methods; Health Psychology
Dr Jenny Cole	Social Psychology
Dr Sarah Dean	Developmental/social psychology, Research Methods
Dr. Mani Das Gupta	Developmental Psychology
Judy David	Criminological and Forensic psychology
Dr. Jade Elliott	Biological and cognitive psychology
Dr Mark Forshaw	Health Psychology; Research Methods
David Galbraith	Cognitive; Psychology of Education
Prof. Sarah Grogan	Health Psychology
Dr Louise Humphries	Cognitive psychology and Research Methods
Julie Faulkner	Counselling, counselling psychology
Doreen Fleet	Counselling
Mel Hall	Criminological Psychology; Research Methods
Dr Helen Lee	Critical Social; Qualitative Research Methods
Dr Erica Lucas	Cognitive Psychology
Dr. Richard Jolley	Developmental Psychology
Dr Sarah Krahenbuhl	Criminological and Forensic Psychology
Beverley Meakin	Counselling
Cressida Minister	Counselling Psychology; Individual Differences
Dr Ceri Parsons	Critical Social Psychology
Belinda Priestley	Counselling
Dr Rachel Povey	Health Psychology

Anja Rutten	Counselling psychology, autistic spectrum conditions
Dr Clio Spanou	Health Psychology
Dr Doreen Thompson	Developmental Psychology, infancy, childhood development
Jim Zacune	Social; Counselling; Personality

Clinical Psychology team: Dr Helen Combes, Prof. Helen Dent, Helen Jones, Jackie Lees, Dr Ken McFadyen, Dr Helena Priest, Dr Helen Scott, Dr Alison Tweed
Early Childhood Studies team: Ruth Gill, Dr Carol Hayes, Sarah Sharpe, Ann Whitehouse

Research

Psychology sees research as an essential part of its activities and careful consideration is given to creating the conditions under which research can flourish. There is a supportive culture within the Faculty that encourages collaborations both within the institution and with other universities. The Department operates a research mentoring scheme for new researchers and a Faculty wide sabbatical system is established.

Among the most active areas of research are health psychology, cognitive and educational research, social and developmental psychology and critical psychology. Much of this research operates within the framework of two established research centres: the Centre for Health Psychology and the Centre for Educational Psychology Research. Staff have been successful in attracting external funding for their research from, for example, the Department of Health, Regional and District Health Authorities, Wellcome Foundation, British Academy, European Science Foundation, Economic and Social Research Council, the Department of Transport, the Leverhulme Trust, Stoke-on-Trent Local Education Authority, Stoke on Trent PCT, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, and Diabetes UK. There are good links with local institutions such as the North Staffordshire Combined Health Care Trust and Staffordshire Council.

The Centre for Health Psychology research covers a number of areas including diabetes, young people and substance use, exercise motivations, smoking cessation, healthy eating, motivation to self-care, and body image. The Centre for Educational Psychology Research has covered both theoretical and applied areas, including: the cognitive and social processes involved in writing; the effect of dyslexia on writing; the teaching of writing; the effects of different procedures for teaching phonics on children's reading; the development of mathematical understanding; maths anxiety; the development of children's art; logical reasoning; the effect of self-efficacy and self-esteem on academic performance; evaluation of effectiveness of motivational interventions in primary and secondary schools;. Social projects include the study of gossip and the role of priming in stereotype activation. Critical psychology research includes the understanding of identity, gender and ethnicity in young people; feminism and psychology; discourse analysis; historical psychology and the construction of relationships; the social construction of spirituality.

Third Stream Activity

The generation of external income is seen as a priority for the Department, and in recent years we have been particularly keen to develop a number of successful strands of third stream activity including short courses and continuing professional development courses, consultancy work, and work based learning. Illustrations of this include the provision of autism awareness training, CBT training for health professionals

and mentoring training for solicitors, training for examination authority staff in research methods and statistics, and the development of various strands of consultancy-based external activity. Recent projects have included evaluations of nurse training for the NHS, smoking cessation work for both NHS and City/County Councils, care worker recruitment tool development for the NHS, counselling workshops for Alton Towers, and a large portfolio of clients and collaborators has been established. Identifiable third-stream strengths lie around evaluation in health and other contexts (one current project with an NHS Trust is looking to evaluate an obesity-prevention initiative), in the sphere of counselling and in training in a wide range of fields around human behaviour and research methods and statistics. The department takes pride in its outward and forward-looking approach to engagement with the wider community and the added value achieved through external contacts, which informs and enriches our other activities such as teaching and research.

Recent External Grants

Young adults' motivations for smoking in relation to gender identity, body image and health. Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) - £45000

Evaluation of Pacific Institute projects to bolster self-esteem and educational aspirations and achievement among Stoke-on-Trent school children. Stoke-on-Trent Education Authority - £52,600

What develops and why in British children's expressive drawing. Leverhulme Trust - £31,723

Living with Type 2 Diabetes: The Burden of Dietary Self-Care. . European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) - £30,000

Review of the use of outside visitors in the delivery of drug, alcohol and tobacco education in schools. Department for Education and Skills - £27,556

Motivation and dietary self-care in adults with type 2 diabetes: a longitudinal study of predictors. Diabetes UK - £91,566

Evaluation of interventions promoting the sexual health of men attending saunas. Walsall Primary Care Trust - £10,000

Maximising the effectiveness of feedback for undergraduate Psychology students. HEA Psychology Network - £5956. .

An examination of 'ground rules' implementation and associated effects on children's responses to questions in forensic eyewitness interviews, British Academy - £7415,

The role of visual and spatial components of working memory in writing. British Academy - £7460