# Undergraduate Courses 2025 Psychology



# School of Psychology Te Kura Mātai Hinengaro

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Updated in August 2024



#### **BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY**

#### **BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (BPsyc) Degree requirements**

360 points including:

- 210 points above 100-level
- 240 points from the BPsyc Schedule
- 75 points at 300-level
- Complete the requirements of the compulsory Psychological Science major and (optionally) a second, complementary major. (see page 2)

# **MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY (BSC OR BA)**

- a. PSYC 121, 122; STAT 193
- b. PSYC 232, 242; one of (PSYC 221, 248), one of (PSYC 231, 233)
- c. 60 points PSYC 300-399.

No longer accepting new students into this major in 2024. See details of the new Psychological Sciences major below.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

#### **Cancellation of courses**

The courses offered by the University and listed in this prospectus may be cancelled by the University as a result of insufficient resources or student demand or if other unforeseen circumstances arise.

#### Timetable changes

Check the timetable online for confirmation of course times.

#### YOUR PROGRAMME

Use this template to plan your programme. Start by adding in the core papers for your degree.						
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# **PSYCHOLOGY**

How can we explain how different people react in different situations?

Students of Psychology ask questions about how we think, feel and act and how these processes can go wrong. They try to provide answers that incorporate an understanding of the way we think, the way we interact with others, our cultural identity, our biological make-up, our environment, and our experiences. You'll study under staff with international reputations, and explore topics like clinical applications of psychology, how the brain and behaviour are linked, how memory works and how humans develop across the lifespan.

The core of the Bachelor of Psychology is the Psychological Science major. Because psychology is both a science and a social science, we also offer this major under a BSc or a BA. Graduates with degrees in Psychology are sought after by employers for their insight and scientific understanding of complex human behaviours.

# MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE (PSCI)

- PSYC 121, 122, MAOR 126\*, STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- PSYC 201, 202, 221, 232, 242
- PSYC 301, 302, 321

(\*or MAOR123 if taking Māori Psychology or Māori Studies as a second major)

#### **OTHER COMPLEMENTARY MAJORS**

In addition to the required major in Psychology Science, a candidate for the Bachelor of Psychology may optionally satisfy the requirements for one of the majors as listed below:

## **Brain Sciences and Mental Health (BSMH)**

- HLWB 103 (or BIOL 114); HLWB 105 or HLWB 102; SCIE 107 (or CHEM 121 or SCIE 105); PSYC 122; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- PSYC 201, 212, 242; one of (HLWB 202, 213)
- PSYC 327, 332; BIOL 333

# **Cognitive Science (COGS)**

- AIML 131; COGS 101; COMP 102(or 112) or 132; PSYC 122; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- COGS 201; PHIL 265; PSYC 242; one of (PSYC 201; AIML 231; LING 229)
- LING 323; PSYC 310; one course from (PSYC 332, 327; LING 324, 327, 328, 330; AIML 300-399, SWEN 303, PHIL 331, 373)

#### Criminal Justice and Psychology (CJUP)

- CRIM 111; LAWS 121; PSYC 121,122; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- PSYC 213 ,214, 242; one course from CRIM 200-299; one further course from (CRIM 200-299, EDUC 244)
- PSYC 335; one course from CRIM 300-399; one further course from (CRIM 300-399, EDUC 343, PSYC 332)

# **Educational Psychology (EDPS)**

- EDUC 141; PSYC 121 or 122; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- Two courses from (EDUC 211, 243, 244); PSYC 242
- Two courses from (EDUC 311, 341, 342, 343); one course from PSYC 300-399

#### **Health Psychology (HPSY)**

- HLWB 105, PSYC 121, 122
- HLWB 205, PSYC 232, 201, 242
- HLWB 305, two courses from (PSYC 321, 327, 332); one further course from PSYC 300-399

#### Māori Psychology (MPSY)

- EDUC 102 or (HLWB 102, 105) or MAOR 123; PSYC 121; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- PSYC 213, PSYC 202, 232; one of (EDUC 223, HLWB 202) or two of (MAOR 202, 216, 222)
- PSYC 313; one of (EDUC 323, HLWB 310, MAOR 301, 302); one further course from (PSYC, EDUC, HLWB, MAOR 300-399)

Note: Students in the MPSY major who take MAOR 123 do not need to take MAOR 126 to meet the requirements of the PSCI major

# Mental Health Principles and Applications (MHPA)

- HLWB 102; FHSS 107; PSYC 121,122; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- EDUC 244; PSYC 213, 201, 202, 232, 242
- PSYC 321, 327, 332, 335

#### Work and Organisational Psychology (WPSY)

- MGMT 101; PSYC 121, 122; STAT 193 (or QUAN 102)
- HRER 201, 207; MGMT 202; PSYC 221, 232, 242
- HRER 301, 305; two courses from (PSYC 313, 332, 333)

#### MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND COMPLEMENTARY MINORS

A minor is an optional additional area of focus in a degree, made up of a collection of courses in a subject. The workload for a minor is lighter than for a major—fewer courses to do, fewer points required.

Psychological Science (PSCI) – PSYC 201 or 221, 232, 242, 15 points of PSYC 300-399

The following minors must include the specific courses listed:

Brain Sciences and Mental Health (BSMH) - PSYC 201, 242; PSYC 327; BIOL 333

Cognitive Science (COGS) – COGS 201; PHIL 265, PSYC 310; 15 further points from (LING 323, 324, 327, 330 or AIML, COMP, PHIL, PSYC, SWEN 300-399)

**Criminal Justice and Psychology (CJUP)** – PSYC 242, 335; 15 points from (PSYC 213, 214); 20 points from CRIM 200-299

Health Psychology (HPSY) - HLWB 205, 305 and two courses from (PSYC 232, 233, and 242)

**Māori Psychology (MPSY)** – PSYC 202, 213, 232, 313

Mental Health Principles and Applications (MHPA) – PSYC 201, 242, 321, 332

Work and Organisational Psychology (WIPSY) - PSYC 232, HRER 201, MGMT 202, HRER 305

### 100 LEVEL COURSES FOR THE BPSYC

PSYC 101 CRN 32261 Popular Psychology 15 PTS 2/3

Restrictions: PSYC 232 or 242

In this course students will be introduced to a broad range of topics in psychology such as the way people cope with crises, how we regulate our emotions; and the basic understanding of how the brain works. This course is taught entirely online.

# PSYC 121 CRN 1421/4692 Foundations in Psychology 1 15 PTS 1/3

This course will introduce core concepts in psychology with a focus on research methods, social psychology, social development and mental health. Students will consider how psychology can be used in applied contexts and the importance of bicultural and cross-cultural perspectives in our understanding of human behaviour.

# PSYC 122 CRN 4056/28006 Foundations in Psychology 2 15 PTS 2/3

This course will introduce students to theory and research in the biological basis of behaviour, learning and memory, cognition and perception, and applied psychology.

#### COGS 101 CRN 36037 Kinds of Minds 15 PTS 1/3

In this course, students will learn about the concept of a "mind" using a multidisciplinary approach. Drawing from psychology, biology, linguistics, artificial intelligence and computer science, students will explore the various forms of human, animal, and artificial minds. They will investigate these different minds in both the natural and virtual worlds and seek to understand what minds actually are.

# MAOR 126 He Herenga Tāngata / Engaging with Māori in Professional Practice 20 PTS 1/3 2/3/ 2/3

This course prepares students to deal with the opportunities and nuances of engaging with the Māori world and Māori communities in professional practice. It provides a broad introduction to te reo Māori, tikanga Māori and te Tiriti o Waitangi, with a focus on decolonisation, partnership between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti, and implications for professional practice in Aotearoa.

STAT 193 Statistics in Practice 15 PTS 1/3 2/3 3/3

Restrictions: MATH 277, QUAN 102

An applied statistics course for students who will be advancing in other disciplines as well as those majoring in Statistics. It is particularly suitable if you are majoring in Biological Science, Geography, Health, Linguistics, Psychology, and Education, and if you are a BCom student. This course assumes no previous knowledge of statistics, but mathematics to Year 12 is preferred. Topics we will cover include data display and inference, estimation, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing, comparison of means, linear regression and correlation, and analysis of variance.

#### **200 LEVEL COURSES**

PSYC 201 CRN 37013 Brain, Behaviour and Cognition 15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 122; STAT 193 (or MATH 177 or QUAN 102)

Restrictions: PSYC 231, 233

This course explores the relationships between human thought, behaviour and the brain. Students will learn about the different methods that can be used to study brain-behaviour relationships, and how brain measures can be used to gain insights into human mental processes. Topics covered include perception, motivation, emotion, attention, learning and memory, language, abstract thinking, decision-making and consciousness.

COGS 201 CRN 37012 Foundations of Cognitive Science 15 PTS 2/3
Prerequisites: AIML 131, COGS 101; one of (COMP 102, 112, 132), PSYC 122; one of (STAT 193, QUAN 102)

Cognitive Science is the interdisciplinary study of mind. In this course we cover foundational topics in cognitive science from the perspectives of cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, philosophy and computation. Topics may include how minds are defined, how they represent the world, how they communicate and how they behave adaptively.

PSYC 202 CRN 37014 Culture in Psychology 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 121, 232; MAOR 123 or 126

Restrictions: PSYC 338

The course broadly examines human behaviour and experience and its interdependence with cultural factors. Both comparative and indigenous approaches are applied to a range of psychological topics. The application of cultural theory and research, particularly in relation to topics important to Aotearoa, is highlighted.

PSYC 212 CRN 37015 Body, Mind and Well-being 15 PTS 2/3
Prerequisites: PSYC 122: STAT 193 (or MATH 177 or QUAN 102)

This course explores research into the concept of well-being, its neural, cognitive and personality correlates, and how it is influenced by social relationships. Rather than taking a disease-oriented approach, the course focuses on adopting positive lifestyle choices that can enhance brain health and well-being, including exercise, diet, sleep and contemplative practices mindfulness and meditation. The course will consider a range of perspectives and approaches to promoting psychological well-being, including mātauranga Māori perspectives.

PSYC 213 CRN 37016 Te Kura Mātai Hinengaro and Western Psychology
15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: MAOR 123 or 126

This course introduces students to concepts of Mātauranga Māori by examining ancestral epistemological understandings of Ngāti Porou and contemporary instances of Māori innovation in Psychology. Māori psychological frameworks are then introduced which allow students to redefine and re-describe Western theories of understandings within indigenous methodologies such as the relevance oof the Treaty of Waitangi and potential frameworks of Mātauranga Māori as the origins and framework of futures of thinking within a psychological context. This course will introduce students to Te Kura Matai Hinengaro – an indigenous psychological design process as an example of applying Mātauranga Māori to contemporary applications.

PSYC 214 CRN 37017 Psychology and Law 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 122; STAT 193 (or MATH 177 or QUAN 102)

This course provides a grounding in the application of psychology to the area of criminal justice. The course will cover topics such as exploring psychological theories about the development of and desistance from criminal behaviour, principles of risk assessment. It will cover approaches to assessment and intervention with those who engage in antisocial behaviour, and place these in the context of Aotearoa.

PSYC 221 CRN 1427 Social and Personality Psychology 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisite: PSYC 121

This course examines how people's thoughts, feelings, and actions depend on their social contexts and personalities. The course provides students a broad overview of contemporary and historic topics and establishes the background for various theoretical, conceptual, practical and empirical issues in social and personality psychology.

PSYC 232 CRN 7543 Survey and Naturalistic Research Methods 15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 121 or 122; STAT 193 (or MATH 177 or QUAN 102)

Restrictions: 325

In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of research methods and data analysis as they apply to collecting data from the world, including large-scale sampling, survey design, observational methods, and qualitative methods. Students will learn how to develop research questions, design a questionnaire, conduct appropriate statistical analyses, and communicate findings in a scientific research report.

PSYC 242 CRN 33248 Experimental Research Methods 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 121 or 122; STAT 193 (or MATH 177 or QUAN 102)

Experiments in psychology allow researchers to discover the causes of behaviour. In this course, students will learn how to design and conduct psychology experiments, to analyse data collected using common experimental designs, and to report the results using the conventions of scientific writing.

#### 300 LEVEL COURSES FOR 2025

# PSYC 340 CRN 28348 Advanced Cognition

15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 122, 242 (PSYC 201 or COGS 201)

This course covers intermediate to advanced topics from areas such as sensation, perception, attention, consciousness, memory, language, decision making and human factors. The topics focus on behavioural or neuroscience methods and results and critical thought is given to theories that explain important empirical results.

# PSYC 321 CRN 34072 Clinical Applications of Psychology 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 232 or 242; 15 points from (PSYC 201, 202, 221, 231, 233, 248)

Restriction: PSYC 235

This course provides an overview of the scientific study of commonly experienced clinical psychological issues. The course considers current theoretical explanations of these issues and reviews the evidence concerning their characteristics and potential treatments. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the theoretical explanations that have been offered for different issues and to evaluate these in the light of empirical evidence and from different developmental and cultural perspectives.

# PSYC 327 CRN 6733 Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 242 (or 325); PSYC 233

The first part of this advanced course explores topics in general and behavioural neuroscience, including neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, methods and disorders involving specific neurotransmitter systems. The second part of the course examines the neural basis of higher-level cognitive functions, drawing on evidence from brain-damaged individuals and neuro-imaging studies.

# PSYC 332 CRN 8032 Behaviour Analysis 15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 242 (or 325); PSYC 231 or 233 (or EDUC 243)

Based on human and animal research this course examines the acquisition and maintenance of behaviour. Topics covered include advanced theory and application of operant and Pavlovian conditioning.

#### PSYC 333 CRN 8033 Applied Social Psychology 15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 232 or 242; 15 further 200-level PSYC points

The course examines how social psychology applies to several domains, including clinical psychology, health, wellbeing and happiness, inter-cultural and inter-group issues, work and sport. We also cover the psychology of risk and hazards and links to environmental psychology, regarding protecting our quality of life and the living environment.

# PSYC 335 CRN 8606 Psychology, Crime and Law 15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 232; 15 points from (PSYC 221, 231, 233, 242)

This course covers theoretical and research approaches to crime, criminal behaviour and the legal and criminal justice system. Topics may include: psychological theories of crime; violent, sexual and property offending; juvenile delinquency; psychopathy; mentally disordered offenders; the insanity defence and competency to stand trial; alcohol, drugs and crime; eyewitness identification; detection of deception in suspects; criminal investigative analysis; and offender rehabilitation.

# PSYC 338 CRN 10009 Cultural in Psychology 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 232 or 242; PSYC 221 or 248

The course broadly examines human behaviour and experience and its interdependence with cultural factors. Both comparative and indigenous approaches are applied to a range of psychological topics. The application of cultural theory and research, particularly in relation to topics important in Aotearoa, is highlighted.

# SCIE 306 Directed Individual Study 15 PTS 1/3 2/3 3/3

Additional Information: This directed individual study is a set course of study completed under the supervision of an academic staff member. The student and supervisor will make an agreement which clearly identifies overall aims, assessment dates and deadlines, and should include any other relevant information.

In exceptional circumstances, students wishing to use SCIE 306 to meet the PSYC requirements of their BSc degree will need permission from the Head of School.

#### **ADDITIONAL 300 LEVEL COURSES AVAILABLE FROM 2026**

PSYC 301 Development across the Lifespan 15 PTS 1/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 121, 232, 242 Restrictions: PSYC 248, 324

This course provides an in-depth investigation of theoretical questions and experimental research in developmental psychology, from infancy to adulthood. The course will cover critical issues in the domains of perceptual, cognitive, linguistic, emotional and social development. Bicultural and cross-cultural perspectives on development will be considered.

PSYC 302 Individual Differences and Assessment 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 232 or 242; 15 points from 221, 231, 233, 248

Restrictions: PSYC 235

This course provides an introduction to the assessment of individual differences in emotion, cognition, behaviour and personality. Topics covered include theories of individual psychometric assessment and new directions in the assessment of individual differences using neuroscience and big data. Students will be encouraged to think critically about advantages and disadvantages of the different theories and approaches to assessment and to evaluate available test procedures in the light of empirical evidence and cultural perspectives and to reflect upon the use of psychometric tests in the workplace.

PSYC 313 Māori Advancements in Industrial Psychology 15 PTS 2/3

Prerequisites: PSYC 202, 213, 232

This course seeks to understand the relationship between organisational cultural group values, organisational commitment and citizen behaviours. That is, scientists such as New Zealand Māori Psychologists' workplace-driven cultural values, obligations on their work roles and outcomes. The goal of this course is to gain an understanding of various challenges and strengths that Māori experience in the workplace. Most notably this course will draw attention to industrial and organisational psychology theories around role conflict between the work and non-work pressures, cultural taxation, creative cultural solutions and the Crown's principles for action on whai wahi (actions) of the Treaty of Waitangi.

#### WHO TO CONTACT

# STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES—FACULTY OF SCIENCE

# Te Wāhanga Pūtaiao

Address: Level 1, Cotton Building

Phone: 04-472 1000 Email: info@vuw.ac.nz

Website: <a href="https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/science">https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/science</a>

Hours: 8.30am-3.00pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.30am-3.00pm Tuesday

The Tītoko—Centre for Student Success team offers a range of services that cover all student-related matters from applications and enrolment to graduation.

Our team provides administration support to our undergraduate and postgraduate students. Our aim is to create a client-focused, friendly environment where all who visit our area not only feel welcome, but also receive support and advice of high quality.

Greg AmbroseManager, Student Successgreg.ambrose@vuw.ac.nzPolly StupplesAssociate Dean (Students)polly.stupples@vuw.ac.nz

## **STAFF CONTACTS**

STAFF		ROOM	CONTACT
Professor Juan Canales	Head of School	626	886 5713
Administrative Staff Annaliese Ellis Lynley Kadesi Des James Michaela Tempany Nelie Napadao	School Manager Operations, Masters by Thesis & PhD Undergraduate programmes & Operations Honours programmes Clinical & Graduate Forensic programmes	627 630 630 630 630	463 5280 463 5783 887 4091 463 5373 463 6400
School of Psychology:	Email: psychology-department@vuw.ac.nz	030	403 0400
Programme contacts 100-level courses 200-level courses 300-level courses GDipSc	Tash Buist Rana Asgarova Carolyn Wilshire Maree Hunt	408 409 621 619	463 6754 463 5562 463 6036 463 5880
Kaiāwhina Tauira	Albert Tibble	310	463 9964
International Student Liaison	Rita McNamara	502	463 5571

Academic Staff Member	Research area	Room	Contact
Dr Rana Asgarova	Behavioural Psychology; Methods and Statistics	EA409	886 5662
Dr Tash Buist	Experimental behaviour analysis	EA408	463 6754
Prof Joe Bulbulia	Longitudinal and evolutionary study of religion	EA324	886 5494
Prof Juan Canales	Addiction neuroscience; adult neurogenesis; neurobiology of learning and memory; psychopathology	EA626	886 5713
Dr David Carmel	Cognitive Neuroscience; consciousness, perceptual awareness, mind perception	EA618	463 5768
Dr Matt Crawford	Social cognition/perception/memory; impression formation, stereotypes, social identity	EA610	463 6702
Dr Simon Davies	Forensic Psychology, correctional risk assessment, rehabilitation and community supervision.	EA507	887 4330
A/Prof Hedwig Eisenbarth	Cognitive and affective forensic neuroscience, personality, psychopathy		887 4023
Prof Bart Ellenbroek	Cognitive and affective forensic neuroscience, personality, psychopathy	EA628	463 6159
Dr Josh Faulkner	Clinical Neuropsychology, Cognitive Neuropsychology, Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychological Rehabilitation	EA524	886 4568
Dr Frankie Fong	Developmental Psychology	EA327	-
Dr Clare- Ann Fortune	Youth forensic clinical psychology, offender rehabilitation, and children and youth clinical psychology	EA506	463 5788
Dr Rebecca Grattan	Early intervention for mental health, psychosis, stress, suicide risk and mental health services	EA525	886 4565
A/Prof Gina Grimshaw	The effects of emotional context on cognitive processes; the neuropsychological bases of cognition-emotion interactions; hemispheric specialization for the processing of emotional information	EA608	463 6420

Dr Matt Hammond	How social and individual difference factors influence relationship functioning, including the causes and consequences of aggression, effective and ineffective social support, and biases in social perception	EA308	463 5649
Dr Maree Hunt	Behaviour analysis including reinforcement processes and impact of context	EA619	463 5880
Dr Todd Jones	Cognitive psychology, human memory, memory functioning in normal ageing	EA611	463 5764
Prof Paul Jose	Personality bases for motivations to experience positive and negative affect; cross-cultural comparisons of positive affectivity, youth development, statistical moderation and mediation	EA513	463 6035
Dr Rachel Low	Emotion regulation, interpersonal goals, processes within intimate relationships and parent-child relationships, family dynamics, physical and psychological wellbeing	EA321	886 3613
Dr Anne Macaskill	Experimental analysis of behaviour, gambling, impulsivity and attention.	EA617	886 4523
Dr Rita McNamara	Aspects of culture that shape the decisions we make about how to treat each other	EA313	887 4563
Dr Tia Neha	Māori and Indigenous Developmental	EA309	463 5111
Dr Ellie Rukuwai	Māori psychology, perfectionism, non- suicidal self-injury, te reo Māori acquisition, and the cultural relevance of current clinical measures and interventions for Māori. Mixed-methods research with a particular love for qualitative research.	EA322	
Prof Karen Salmon	Memory development in children, autobiographical memory and psychopathology/wellbeing, interviewing children in clinical context, clinical child psychology	EA512	463 9528
Dr Tirta Susilo	Cognitive neuroscience, experimental psychology, visual perception, face recognition, individual differences	EA616	463 6290
A/Prof Mele Taumoepeau	Theory of mind and culture. Parent-child interactions and social understanding. Pacific health and wellbeing	EA317	887 4031
Prof Tony Ward	Correctional rehabilitation, practice models, theoretical psychopathology, explanation of crime	EA523	463 4724

Dr Carolyn Wilshire	Neuropsychology, cognitive neuropsychology, language and cognition	EA620	463 6036
Prof Marc Wilson	Why people hurt themselves, social and political psychology, and weird stuff	EA331	463 5225
Dr Julia Yesberg	Relationships between criminal justice institutions (including police and corrections) and their clients, focusing on concepts such as procedural justice, social identity, trust and legitimacy.	EA511	887 4305
Dr Jiun Youn	Behavioural neuroscience and animal modelling	EA629	463 5511