ESRC Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership – Psychology Pathway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway Title</th>
<th>Psychology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Host institution</td>
<td>Oxford/OU</td>
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<td>Host faculty</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key words</td>
<td>Applied and critical social psychology, social injustices in areas such as gender, race, immigration, poverty, sexual preference</td>
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<td>Supervisory team</td>
<td>To be determined on individual basis</td>
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Pathway highlights

The Psychology pathway at the Open University is hosted by the School of Psychology in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science. Focusing particularly on applied and critical social psychology, the pathway seeks to draw attention to, and challenge, social injustices in areas such as gender, race, immigration, poverty and sexuality. Connecting theoretical movements include feminism, subjectivities, sociocultural theory, psychosocial studies, phenomenology, critical discourse analysis, narrative analysis, Q methodology and dialogical approaches.

Psychology at the Open University has an internationally recognised reputation for developing theory and methodology, and applying psychology in a variety of settings with wider societal impact. The pathway will equip students to examine complex psychological phenomenon using both established and innovative social research methodologies to address these wider challenges.

Overview

The School of Psychology is noted as being an international leader for its contributions to the development of psychology: in critical social and developmental psychology, especially the theoretical and methodological development of studies of identity, subjectivity and experience. Applicants are invited to link to our thematic areas focusing on occasions of social transition, personal transformation and emergent and contested cultural and political issues. Open University psychology research provides new empirical insight into real-world issues relating to questions of movement across boundaries and changing gendered, religious, sexual and political subjectivities in concrete contexts.

Please see [http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/research-areas/psychology](http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/research-areas/psychology) for a more detailed list of topics within and across each theme.

Training and skills

The training provided for the psychology pathway will provide access to a range of advanced and specialist training delivered with through the Research Hub within OU Psychology or by the OU Graduate School Network. The pathway consists of core skills as well as advanced and subject specific training tailored to the student’s specific area of study. Students will be expected to attend both general research training and subject specific training. Core content covers philosophical and paradigm approaches, the principles of research design, the practice of research (e.g. ethics, being a PhD student), evaluating evidence and research
analysis and dissemination. In addition students will be encouraged to be actively involved in student-led activities and seminars across the Open University and the University of Oxford.

**Structure**

The psychology pathway is provided through two routes:

- +3 in which students will have already completed a Masters in a relevant area of psychology or a related social science
- +4 in which students undertake additional research training

Please indicate which of these two routes you are applying for. If you are unsure which is the best option for you please contact us and we can discuss this with you.

Students are able to study this pathway on either a full-time or part-time basis.

**Knowledge exchange, internships and careers**

Open University students are encouraged to engage in knowledge exchange with a range of non-academic partners. There are also opportunities for other knowledge exchange activities (such as research visits, seminars etc) with organisations such as public sector and third sector organisations. The Open University has links with a wide range of local and national organisations such as the British Psychological Society, British Association of Counselling Psychology, Refugee Council, Barnardo’s, Refugee Youth and Pink Therapy. Students with existing professional experience and/or networks relevant to their research will be encouraged to sustain and develop these during their studies.

**Further details:**

Prospective students should have a strong background in an area of applied and social psychology relevant to their area of study. We would also consider candidates with relevant degrees in the social sciences and experience through practice.

We strongly advise you to approach potential supervisors with a project proposal as early as possible so that they can support you with your submission. To find out more about supervisors’ specialisms in psychology, you can follow this link [http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/postgraduate](http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/postgraduate)

If you have any questions about the relevance of your previous academic or work experience, or the suitability of your proposed project, please contact Sarah Crafter (sarah.crafter@open.ac.uk).

**Applying for a studentship:**

- Applications should include a cover letter outlining why the project is an important area of study, how your background relates to the proposed research topic and why you wish to study at the Open University;
- An outline research proposal of no more than 2,000 words, covering research topic and methodology. General advice on the proposal can be found here:
http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process;

• an academic CV that includes contact details of three referees (of which, at least two should be academic);

• an Open University application form, downloadable from http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process

• a Grand Union DTP application form, downloadable from http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/prospectus/research/how-to-apply/doctoral-training-partnership-studentships/social-science

Applications should be sent to FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk by 17:00 on 8th January 2020.