

**KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

<b>Originating institution(s)</b> Bournemouth University	<b>Faculty responsible for the programme</b> Faculty of Media and Communication
<b>Final award(s), title(s) and credits</b> MA Political Psychology – 180 credits (180 ECTS)	
<b>Intermediate award(s), title(s) and credits</b> PG Dip MA Political Psychology – 120 credits (120 ECTS) PG Cert MA Political Psychology – 60 credits (60 ECTS)	
<b>UCAS Programme Code(s)</b> (where applicable and if known) N/A	<b>HECoS (Higher Education Classification of Subjects) Code and balanced or major/minor load.</b> 100491 Politics 100629 Political Psychology
<b>External reference points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2018). Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards. Chapter A1: UK and European reference points for academic standards (October 2013) - incorporates Framework for Higher Education Qualifications; Chapter A2: Degree-awarding bodies reference points for academic standards (October 2013); Chapter A3: Securing academic standards and an outcomesbased approach to academic standards.</li> <li>• The revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2018)</li> <li>• QAA FHEQ Level 7 Descriptor</li> <li>• Academic developments in the fields of psychosocial studies, political psychology, political communication and culture, sociology of emotions, etc.</li> <li>• The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. The M level guidance has informed the development of our programme learning outcomes and unit learning outcomes.</li> <li>• CIHE, AGR and CFE's Global Graduates into Global Leaders, 2008. Which emphasises the importance of global employability skills which take into account an international dimension and include attributes of global mindset, cultural agility and relationship management.</li> <li>• The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links</b> N/A	
<b>Places of delivery</b> Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus	
<b>Mode(s) of delivery</b> Full-time Part-time	<b>Language of delivery</b> English

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<b>Typical duration</b> <u>Full time:</u> September start - 12 months January start - 16 months  <u>Part time:</u> September start - 24 months January Start - 27 months	
<b>Date of first intake</b> September 2022	<b>Expected start dates</b> January and September
<b>Maximum student numbers</b> N/A	<b>Placements</b> N/A
<b>Partner(s)</b> N/A	<b>Partnership model</b> N/A
<b>Date of this Programme Specification</b> June 2022	
<b>Version number</b> V2.0-0925	
<b>Approval, review or modification reference numbers</b> E212211 EC 2122 50 – approved 07/06/22	
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### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme Award and Title: MA Political Psychology								
Stage 1/Level 7 Students study six core units and choose one option unit.								
Unit Name	Core/ Option	No. of Credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected Contact hours per unit	Unit Version No.	HECoS Code (plus balanced or major/minor load)
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	Cwk 2			
Social Theory and Political Communication	Core	20	-	100%		36	1.0	100491 (Major) 100628 (Minor)
The Psychodynamics of Emotion and Political Culture	Core	20	-	100%		36	1.0	100493 (Major) 100491 (Minor) 100233 (Minor)
Methods of Inquiry in the Social Sciences and Humanities	Core	20	-	100%		36	1.0	100962
Psychosocial Perspectives on Contemporary Politics	Core	20	-	100%		36	1.0	100493 (Major) 100491 (Minor) 100628 (Minor)
The Psychology of Democracy	Core	20	-	30%	70%	36	2.0	100493 (Major) 100491 (Minor) 100993 (Minor)
Political Communication and Campaigning	Option	20	-	30%	70%	36	1.0	100444/ 100491 (Balanced)
Public Diplomacy and International Relations	Option	20	-	100%		36	1.0	100490
Discourse, Rhetoric and Power	Option	20	-	100%		36	1.0	100491/ 100314 (Balanced)
Final Project	Core	60	-	100%		12	2.0	100962
<b>Progression requirements:</b> N/A								
<b>Exit qualification:</b> MA Political Psychology - requires 180 credits at Level 7								

## **AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT**

The aims of this document are to:

- define the contexts, structure and aims of the programme
- specify the programme award titles
- identify programme learning outcomes and pedagogic strategies
- articulate the regulations governing the awards defined within the document.

The programme is part of the Politics Postgraduate Framework, and falls under the Bournemouth University regulations governing postgraduate taught awards.

## **AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME**

This programme aims to enable students:

1. To take a psychological perspective on politics, within an interdisciplinary framework.
2. To gain knowledge of psychodynamic and cognitive/communication paradigms in psychology.
3. To deploy that knowledge in the analysis of politics past and present.
4. To gain in-depth psychological understandings of key areas of contemporary politics: democratic processes and institutions, fundamentalist threats to democracy, and changes in political culture.

Drawing on the knowledge and expertise of the Centre of Conflict, Emotion, and Social Justice, as well as the Centre for Comparative Politics and Media Research (a group of researchers with national and international research profiles), the programme encourages an advanced understanding of the issues and debates around the theory and practice of politics in the 21st century.

Postgraduate study will develop students' critical thinking skills and subject understanding to a higher level. These skills will equip graduates for a professional career in the context of politics broadly construed, or for further study at doctoral level.

Political Psychology is a recently formed landscape located at the intersection of political studies and psychology, and it is a result of the recognition of the significance of psychological factors in politics. The curriculum invites students to analyse current issues within aims to ask difficult questions about the fields of social science, focusing on areas such as political leadership and participation, political polarization and antagonism, communication and media, social issues such as race and gender, recent phenomena such as the online culture wars, new populisms, etc. These subjects are contextualised within the 21st Century global political environment.

The programme offers academic rigour and the opportunity for students to specialise in a variety of areas relevant to the scholarship of political psychology and relevant practice. Course content addresses aspects of: contemporary politics, emotion in politics, political culture, democracy, social theory, political discourse and rhetoric, political communication, applied research methodology, political campaigning, international relations, and others. The units will all be conceptually led, combining discussions of theory with an exploration of recent and current political phenomena.

The programme aims to produce flexible graduates who can think critically and analytically and to apply knowledge to real-world situations. The programme also aims to equip graduates with the necessary analytical skills, knowledge and understanding to carry on to further academic research at doctoral level.

By the end of the course, students will have developed strong communication skills and learned to present themselves and their ideas in a professional manner using a variety of communication techniques.

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Employers of MA Political Psychology graduates are looking for students with the necessary in-depth knowledge of various political contexts, a strong understanding of the ways in which psychological factors shape these contexts, as well as the psychological implications of political structures and events. Of utmost importance is the development of critical thinking skills, the strategic planning and practical tools relevant to the communication of politics, linking theoretical insight with concrete developments, as well as the comprehensive understanding of a range of research methodologies and techniques for generating insights relevant to politics (policy, campaigning, advocacy, journalism, etc.). This is reflected in the aims and intended learning outcomes of the programme. It is expected that MA Political Psychology will support entry into a range of positions within the broad field of politics. Examples of potential roles include: political consultancy, think tanks, NGOs, advocacy groups, international development, mediation and reconciliation work, campaigning, speech-writing, media relations and other forms of political and public communication.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### BU2025

The new vision of the university is to be “recognised worldwide as a leading university for inspiring learning, advancing knowledge and enriching society through the fusion of education, research and practice”. The university’s values have also been updated to reflect feedback from staff and students and are now: excellence, inclusivity, creativity and responsibility. The proposed programme is aligned with the core principles of BU2025 so that the MA Political Psychology students will:

- get a learning experience is personalised, inter-disciplinary and consistently excellent;
- learn in a diverse and inclusive environment that enables achievement for all;
- participate in vibrant Fusion communities which are collaborative, inclusive, resilient and connected worldwide.

In line with the updated strategic direction of the university, we shall also aim at producing graduates who will, not only be more responsible and sustainable professionals, but will also enrich society as active citizens in their communities. Each of the programme specifications identify specific activities and aspects of the curriculum that align with BU2025. Additionally, the programme embeds elements of the UN Sustainable Development goals implicitly and explicitly to develop reflective, critical citizens who are globally aware and understand how political, societal, cultural, and economic systems are interconnected.

### **LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT**

Bournemouth University taught programmes are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, above which credit values normally increase at 20-point intervals. 20 credits is the equivalent of 200 study hours required of the student, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

The assessment workload for a unit should consider the total time devoted to study, including the assessment workload (i.e. formative and summative assessment) and the taught elements and independent study workload (i.e. lectures, seminars, preparatory work, practical activities, reading, critical reflection).

Assessment per 20 credit unit should normally consist of 3,000 words or equivalent. Dissertations and Level 6 and 7 Final Projects are distinct from other assessment types. The word count for these assignments is 5,000 words per 20 credits, recognising that undertaking an in-depth piece of original research as the capstone to a degree is pedagogically sound.

## STAFF DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

Students will usually be taught by a combination of senior academic staff with others who have relevant expertise including – where appropriate according to the content of the unit – academic staff, qualified professional practitioners, demonstrators/technicians and research students.

## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES – AND HOW THE PROGRAMME ENABLES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

### PROGRAMME AND LEVEL 7 INTENDED PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

<p><b>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</b></p> <p>This MA Political Psychology/ Level 7 will provide students with the following subject knowledge and understanding:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the MA Political Psychology / Level 7 learning outcomes:</p>
<p><b>A1</b> The ability to review and assess the evidence, debates and intellectual paradigms related to key topics in the field of political psychology, and appreciate both the value and the limitations of current knowledge.</p> <p><b>A2</b> An understanding of the disciplinary contexts within which political psychology lies, and the ability to make interdisciplinary connections with ideas and evidence from other fields.</p> <p><b>A3</b> In-depth knowledge of approaches based on psychodynamic and cognitive/communication paradigms, and of key issues in political psychology.</p> <p><b>A4</b> An understanding of the range of methodologies and techniques used in research in political psychology, and the ability to apply one or more of those methods in the production and analysis of new data.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (A1 – A4);</li> <li>• seminar discussions (A1 – A4);</li> <li>• directed reading (A1 – A4);</li> <li>• independent research (for dissertation) (A4).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in-class oral presentations (A1-A3);</li> <li>• coursework essays, reflective essays, reading diaries (A1 – A4);</li> <li>• Coursework for research unit and dissertation (A4).</li> </ul>
<p><b>B: Intellectual skills</b></p> <p>This MA Political Psychology/ Level 7 provides students with the following intellectual skills:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the MAPP/level 7 outcomes:</p>
<p><b>B1</b> The ability to evaluate reports of research and theory development in political psychology, using appropriate conceptual tools, and to assess the significance of such work for the conduct of politics, in the democratic process, enhancing citizenship, policy development, political communication, and other aspects of political behaviour.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (B1 - B4);</li> <li>• seminars and workshops (B1 - B4);</li> <li>• directed reading (B1 – B4);</li> </ul>

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<p><b>B2</b> The ability to draw upon and bring together ideas from different sources of knowledge and from different disciplines relevant to the study and practice of political psychology.</p> <p><b>B3</b> To possess the skills required to conduct research and contribute to knowledge in the field of political psychology.</p> <p><b>B4</b> The ability to reflect on their own personal life experiences as citizens (whether partisan or unengaged) in ways informed by their intellectual understanding of political socialisation and engagement, and to use those reflections to deepen that understanding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independent research (for dissertation) (B1 – B3).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in-class presentations and other in class exercises (B1, B2, B4);</li> <li>• coursework essays (B1-B3);</li> <li>• dissertation (B1-B3).</li> </ul>
<p><b>C: Practical skills</b></p> <p>This MA Political Psychology/ Level 7 provides opportunities for students to develop the following practical skills:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the MA Political Psychology/ Level 7 learning outcomes:</p>
<p><b>C1.</b> The ability to define, plan and execute a small independent research project in the field of political psychology.</p> <p><b>C2.</b> The ability to find and collate information and ideas from very diverse academic and non-academic sources and to critically integrate it within an overall conceptual framework.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (C1 – C2);</li> <li>• seminars and workshops (C1 – C2);</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual and group exercises and presentations (C1- C2);</li> <li>• coursework essays (C1-C2)</li> <li>• practice- based sessions (C1-C2)</li> <li>• dissertation (C1- C2).</li> </ul>
<p><b>D: Transferable skills</b></p> <p>This MA Political Psychology/ Level 7 provides opportunities for students to develop the following transferable skills:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the MA Political Psychology/ Level 7 learning outcomes:</p>
<p><b>D1</b> The ability to work effectively, productively and accountably as a member of a team;</p> <p><b>D2</b> Critical reflection, originality and creativity in defining and addressing issues and solving problems in the broader fields of political and community action, and citizenly engagement.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (D1 - D5);</li> <li>• seminars (D1- D5);</li> </ul>

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<b>D3</b> The ability effectively to communicate evidence and concepts from the field of political psychology to a diverse range of audiences; professionally present and rigorously defend ideas and produce accurately referenced work to a given format, brief and deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• use of the VLE (D1, D3, D4);</li><li>• directed reading (D1- D5).</li></ul>
<b>D4</b> The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
<b>D5</b> The ability to consider and apply global and international perspectives to their work.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• oral presentations, reports (D1 - D5);</li><li>• group work (D1, D2, D3, D5);</li><li>• dissertation (D2- D5).</li></ul>

### ADMISSION REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Postgraduate Admission Regulations, which can be found at: <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/students/help-advice/important-information>

### PROGRESSION ROUTES

There are no formally identified progression routes. It is anticipated that the MA Political Psychology would serve as a unique and highly stimulating platform for doctoral research for those wishing to undertake further study.

Recognition arrangements provide formally approved entry or progression routes through which students are eligible to apply for a place on a programme leading to a BU award. Recognition does not guarantee entry onto the BU receiving programme, only eligibility to apply. In some cases, additional entry criteria such as a Merit classification from the feeder programme may also apply. Please see the [Recognition Register](#) for a full list of approved Recognition arrangements and agreed entry criteria.

### ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The regulations for this framework are the [University's Standard Postgraduate Assessment Regulations](#).

### WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) AND PLACEMENT ELEMENTS

N/A



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### Programme Skills Matrix

	Units	A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	C 1	C 2	D 1	D 2	D 3	D 4	D 5
L7	Social Theory and Political Communication (20)	X					X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	The Psychodynamics of Emotion and Political Culture (20)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Psychosocial perspectives on Contemporary Politics (20)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Psychology of Democracy (20)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Methods of Inquiry in the Social Sciences and Humanities (20)				X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Political Communication and Campaigning (20)	X			X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Public Diplomacy and International Relations (20)	X			X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Discourse, Rhetoric and Power (20)	X			X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
L7	Final Project (60)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X

