

Faculty of Media and Communication

**MA POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Part of the Politics Postgraduate Framework**

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

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## 1. BASIC PROGRAMME DATA

Originating institution(s)	Bournemouth University
Award(s) and title(s)	<b>MA Political Psychology</b> PG Dip Political Psychology PG Cert Political Psychology
UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known)	N/A
HECoS Code(s) per programme/pathway	<p>100493 Applied psychology The application of psychological evidence and theories to real world situations. Psychoanalytical studies The application of psychodynamic approaches within psychology.</p> <p>100491 Politics The study of activities related to the institution of the state and the machinery of government or the method through which social conflict is expressed and attempts to resolve conflict are made. Political theories Collections of ideas that seek to explain the organisation of society and/or resolve conflicts within society.</p> <p>100490 International relations The study of the interaction between members of the international community.</p> <p>100617 War and peace studies The examination of the procedures and processes that contribute to war or peace.</p> <p>100505 Sociology The systematic study of human social institutions and social relationships.</p> <p>100629 Political sociology The study of the sociological dimensions of politics.</p> <p>100075 Marketing The techniques involved in the management of an organisation's relationship with its customers and the world at large.</p> <p>100444 Media studies The study of communication between people through broadcasting, cinema, the press and by electronic means. May involve the study of the media industry, technical innovations and the role of audiences.</p> <p>100962 Research skills The study of investigative method and the collection of information.</p>

External reference points(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK Quality Code for Higher Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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)</li> <li>▪ Chapter A3: Securing academic standards and an outcomes-based approach to academic standards</li> <li>▪ QAA FHEQ Level 7 Descriptor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Academic developments in the fields of psychosocial studies, political communication and culture, sociology of emotions, etc.</li> </ul>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links	None
Place(s) of delivery	Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus
Mode(s) of delivery	Full-time Part-time
Credit structure	180 credits at Level 7/M (= 90 ECTS credits) 60 to PG Cert, 120 to PG Dip, 180 to MA
Duration	Full time: September starts- 12 months January starts- 15 months  Part time: September starts- 24 months January Starts- 27 months
Date of original approval(s)	11 November 2015
Date of first intake	September 2016
Student numbers	8 minimum/12 optimum/18 maximum in first intake; thereafter 15 minimum /18 optimum /20 maximum
Expected start dates	September 2016 (January intakes also possible)
Placements	None
Partner(s) and model(s)	N/A
Date and version number of this Framework/Programme Specification	November 2017: Version 1.1-0918
Student intake(s)/cohort(s)	September 2018 intake

This Programme Specification was approved in November 2015 following validation/revalidation by Academic Standards Committee.

#### **E1516004**

**FMC 1718 05 approved 01/11/2017. Previously version 1.0**

**FMC 1819 02 approved 20/02/2019 - Previously version 1.1**

**FMC 1819 13 approved 20/02/2019- Previously version 1.1**

**BU 1819 01 approved 20/02/2019- Previously version 1.1**

## **2. AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT**

The aims of this document are to define the contexts, structure and aims of the MA Political Psychology programme, and to identify programme learning outcomes and pedagogic strategies. The programme is part of the Politics Postgraduate Framework, and falls under the Bournemouth University regulations governing postgraduate taught awards.

## **3. 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.

## **4. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONTEXTS**

The academic contexts for the development of this programme are the global under-provision of PGT opportunities in the established specialism of political psychology, and the recent vigorous growth of psychosocial studies, led in the UK, which offers a new intellectual environment for the study of areas such as political psychology which are situated at an interdisciplinary interface.

The institutional contexts are the BU strategic priority of recruiting increased numbers of international PGT students, and the substantial body of expertise in this area which has been built up in the Faculty of Media and Communication.

Section 2.1 of the Briefing and Resources document describes these contexts in more detail.

There are no relevant professional and employer communities, or appropriate benchmarks.

## **5. 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.

## **6. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **A. Subject knowledge and understanding**

MA Political Psychology will provide students with the following subject knowledge and understanding:

- A1. 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.
- A2. 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.
- A3. 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.
- A4. In-depth knowledge of approaches based on psychodynamic and cognitive/communication paradigms, and of key issues in the psychology of democracy, fundamentalism and contemporary political culture.

### **B. Intellectual skills**

MA Political Psychology will provide students with the following intellectual skills:

- B1. 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.
- B2. 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.
- B3. 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.

### **C. Practical skills**

MA Political Psychology will enable students to develop the following practical skills:

- C1. The ability to define, plan and execute a small research project in the field of political psychology.
- C2. The ability to find and collate information and ideas from very diverse academic and non-academic sources and to integrate it within an overall conceptual framework.

## **D. Transferable skills**

MA Political Psychology will enable students to develop the following transferable skills:

- D1. Critical reflection, originality and creativity in defining and addressing issues in the broader fields of political and community action, and citizenly engagement.
- D2. The ability effectively to communicate evidence and concepts from the field of political psychology to a diverse range of audiences.
- D3. The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.
- D4. The ability to consider and apply global and international perspectives to their work.
- D5. The ability to work effectively, productively and accountably as members of a team.

## **7. LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES AND METHODS**

In line with both the Faculty education strategy and the ethos of the CMC Department, we seek to offer our prospective students a learning experience which provides them with new and relevant knowledge, enhances their confidence and career opportunities, and is stimulating, inspiring and enjoyable. We expect that students will join a dynamic, supportive, accessible and friendly community of fellow students and academics. Furthermore, we want our students to feel part of a postgraduate community which stretches across the Faculty and beyond to the University. It is critical that the University provides appropriate support by way of academic skills and library support, accommodation, students' advice services through SUBU, counselling and faith-mediated support.

### **Supporting student engagement**

Students will commence their BU experience with an induction period which will focus upon:

- Establishing initial familiarity with the BU campus, the Faculty and its Head of Student Experience, and the services on offer to students including academic skills, SUBU and technical support;
- Building awareness of the University's support systems;
- Meeting the core programme team including administrative support;
- Providing initial study support as an underpinning for on-going semester one study support;
- Creating links with the library so that students are able to engage with the resources available for their study;
- Providing an opportunity for international students in particular to think about cross-cultural issues and cultural issues associated with living and studying in the UK;
- Attending taster lecture(s) offered by the Faculty.



Students are likely to experience a mix of lectures and seminars in all units, but it is intended that each unit also offers tutorial support as part of the pedagogic mix to ensure that students are progressing effectively.

### **Pedagogic strategy**

This is an academically-oriented programme and so traditional class-based learning experiences based on teacherly input, discussion and the close study of texts will be at the heart of the education on offer.

However, despite the emphases the programme will place on conceptual clarity and scholarly depth, its teaching methods will avoid exploring theory for theory's sake and will be driven by the aim of enhancing students' understandings of actual political phenomena present and past. Case studies will therefore be a major vehicle around which lecture content and class discussions will often be organised. These will include case studies of individual political actors, organisations, movements, ideologies, events, conflicts, strategies and campaigns. Moreover the practical implications of psychological insights will be examined, whether these concern strategies to enhance political engagement or reduce political violence, efforts to contain the influence of certain ideologies, evaluations of individual leaders, or any other matter of historical or contemporary political importance.

Classroom techniques will include structured debates, rough and ready desk research projects, small group tasks, and seminar presentations. Two principles will underly the education offered on MAPP:

1. We will seek to establish a fully inclusive learning environment that makes the greatest possible use of the range of societal backgrounds from which students come. Key to this will be enabling accounts of different national polities and personal experiences to be given in the course of discussing research findings and theoretical analyses.
2. We will seek to support the students' personal as well as academic development. The focus here will be on encouraging constant reflection on how their own development as citizens (and where appropriate as partisan activists, campaigners, supporters, members, etc.) has been shaped by their interpersonal and social environments, their personalities, relationships, etc. Developing this kind of self-awareness will also feed productively into participation in the course, into understanding course content, and often into assignments.

In support of this approach to learning and teaching a personal tutoring system will ensure that student progress is closely monitored and that specific forms of support or guidance are mobilised where necessary.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

All students on the MA Political Psychology will be encouraged to join the Bournemouth University Politics Society, interacting with undergraduates. They will also be encouraged to participate at other events hosted by the Politics & Media Research Group.

## **8. ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES AND METHODS**

The intake for this programme is likely to be of very varied geographical origins. Previous experience of PGT and PGR recruitment in CMC suggests that we could expect potential applicants for it from countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, West Africa, the Gulf and South-East Asia. Students will therefore bring a rich diversity in their experiences of political systems and cultures. In some cases the politics of their countries of origin may have been a source of adverse or even traumatic experience. A cardinal principle underlying the delivery of the programme and its assessment strategy will be to acknowledge and to use this diversity in ways that generate strong inclusivity across the cohort group, and that also enliven and deepen their learning experiences. Students will be encouraged to bring their home country experiences into class discussions, and the use of home country examples (of events, conflicts, institutions, ideologies, parties, leaders, etc.) in assignments will sometimes be specified in the assignment brief. It is hoped that this approach will not only enable students to identify more readily with the course and its aims, because it can offer new ways of understanding phenomena familiar to them, but also enable them to put their local experiences into a global context through opportunities to compare them with other, different examples. We will therefore ensure that class time and assignment tasks pay the maximum possible attention to the diversity of student experiences of politics.

In some cases an assignment may be seen by a staff member as a potentially useful analysis of or commentary upon a topic in current affairs; staff and student might then collaborate on preparing it for some form of online posting. Final project supervisors will also be screening all submissions for the suitability of their content for journal articles, whether as authored by the student or as the product of a collaboration.

The insights of political-psychological analysis into political cultures, processes and institutions will be stressed throughout, and the potential practical implications of these insights for political professionals and for citizens will be explored in class discussions and assignments. Many assignments will provide opportunities for students to choose case studies from contemporary (or historical) contexts; where possible these will have implications for policy, political strategy or political intervention.

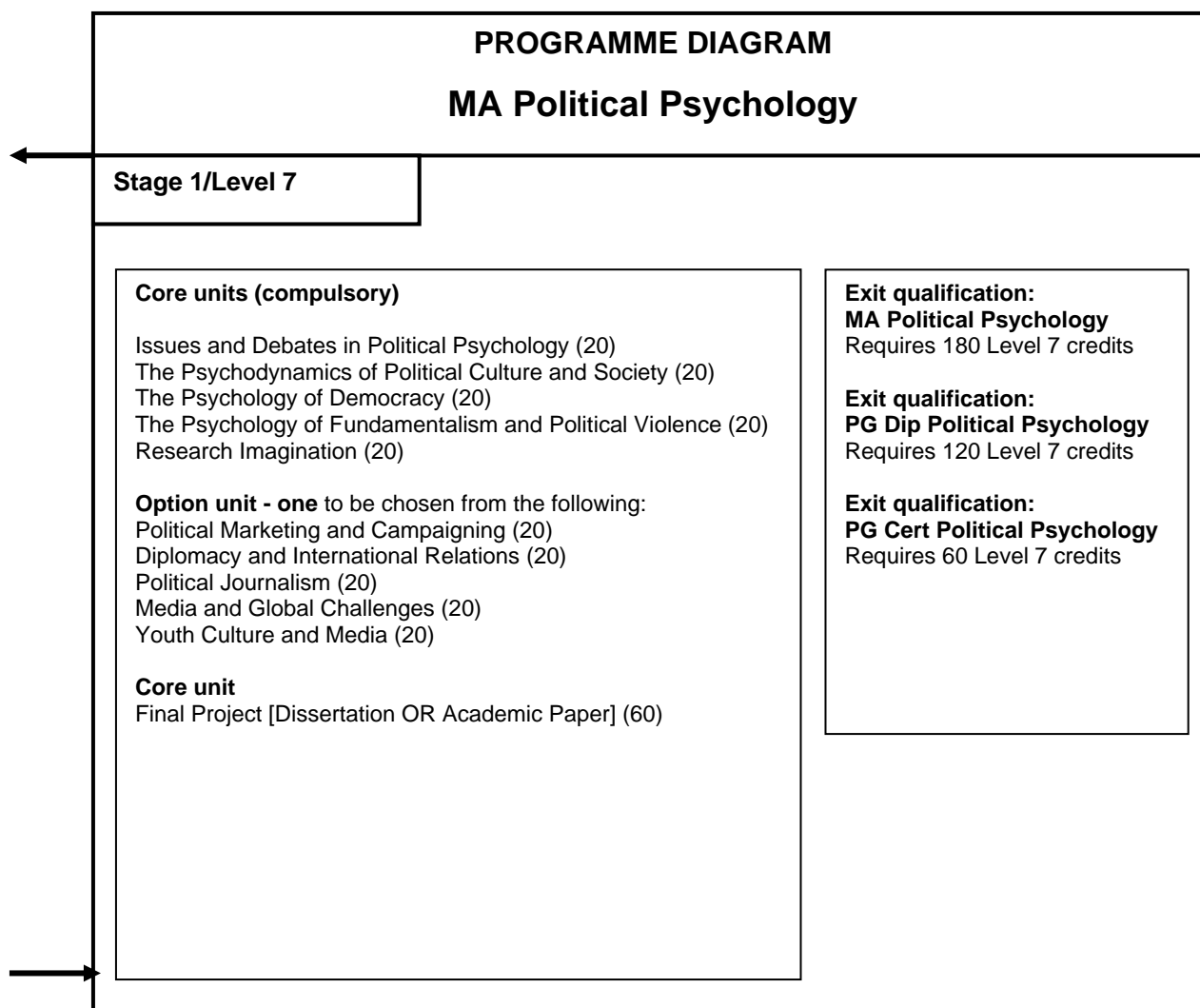
## 9. PROGRAMME SKILLS MATRIX

Units		Programme Intended Learning Outcomes																										
		A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4			B 1	B 2	B 3							C 1	C 2					D 1	D 2	D 3	D 4	D 5	
L E V E L  7	Issues and Debates in Political Psychology	x	x	x				x									x						x	x	x	x		
	The Psychology of Democracy	x	x	x	x			x	x	x								x							x	x		
	The Psychology of Fundamentalism and Political Violence	x	x	x	x			x	x	x								x								x	x	
	The Psychodynamics of Political Culture and Society	x	x	x	x			x	x	x								x								x	x	
	Research Imagination																	x								x		x
	Option unit									x	x								x							x	x	
	Final Project	x	x	x	x			x	x									x	x							x	x	x
<p><b>A - Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <p>A1. 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>A2. 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>A3. 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>A4. In-depth knowledge of approaches based on psychodynamic and cognitive/communication paradigms, and of key issues in the psychology of democracy, fundamentalism and contemporary political culture.</p>										<p><b>C – Subject-specific/Practical Skills</b></p> <p>C1. The ability to define, plan and execute a small research project in the field of political psychology.</p> <p>C2. The ability to find and collate information and ideas from very diverse academic and non-academic sources and to integrate it within an overall conceptual framework.</p>																		

<p><b>B - Intellectual Skills</b></p> <p>B1. 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>B2. 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>B3. 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>	<p><b>D - Transferable Skills</b></p> <p>D1. Critical reflection, originality and creativity in defining and addressing issues in the broader fields of political and community action, and citizenly engagement.</p> <p>D2. The ability effectively to communicate evidence and concepts from the field of political psychology to a diverse range of audiences.</p> <p>D3. The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.</p> <p>D4. The ability to consider and apply global and international perspectives to their work.</p> <p>D5. The ability to work effectively, productively and accountably as members of a team.</p>
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## 10. PROGRAMME DIAGRAM

**MA Political Psychology** (full-time; no progression requirements)



## **11. ADMISSION REGULATIONS**

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Postgraduate Admission Regulations, which can be found at:

<https://staffintranet.bournemouth.ac.uk/aboutbu/policiesprocedures/academicregulation/policiesprocedures/>

## **12. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS**

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Postgraduate Assessment Regulations, which can be found at:

<https://staffintranet.bournemouth.ac.uk/aboutbu/policiesprocedures/academicregulation/policiesprocedures/>

### 13. PROGRAMME PROFILE

Originating Institution(s): Bournemouth University  School/Faculty: Faculty of Media and Communication  Partner: N/A	Place(s) of Delivery: Bournemouth University  Language of delivery (if not English): N/A  Programme HECOS code:	Framework Title (in full): Politics Postgraduate Framework  Programme Award and Title: MA Political Psychology  Interim Award and Titles & required credits: PG Certificate Political Psychology (60 credits) PG Diploma Political Psychology (120 credits)	Mode(s) of study <sup>1</sup> : Full time  Expected Length of study <sup>2</sup> : 12 months  BU Credit Structure & ECTS <sup>3</sup> : Level 7 180 (90 ECTS)
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Unit identification		Cost Centre(s) <sup>4</sup>						Unit Details					Assessment Regs <sup>7</sup> :		
Unit version no.	Unit name	HECOS Subject Code	CC 1	%	HESA JACS Subject Code	CC2	%	Prog year <sup>5</sup> FT	Prog year <sup>5</sup> PT	Core / option	No of credits <sup>6</sup>	Level (C/4,I/5, H/6 etc)	Assessment <sup>8</sup> Element Weightings <sup>9</sup>		
													Exam 1	C/Work 1	C/Work 2
1	Issues and Debates in Political Psychology	100347 100491 100505	145	50	L380	133	50	1		Core	20	7		100	
1	The Psychology of Democracy	100493 100505 100444	145	70	L201	133	30	1		Core	20	7		30	70
1	The Psychology of Fundamentalism and Political Violence	100493 100493 100505 100444	145	100				1		Core	20	7		100	
1	The Psychodynamics of Political Culture and Society	100493 100505 100444	145	100				1		Core	20	7		100	
1	Research Imagination	100962	133	100				1		Core	20	7		100	
1	Political Marketing and Campaigning	100075	133	100				1		Option	20	7		100	
1	Diplomacy and International Relations	100490	145	100				1		Option	20	7		100	
1	Political Journalism	100442	133	100				1		Option	20	7		100	

1	Media and Global Challenges	100444	145	100				1		Option	20	7		70	30	
1	Youth Culture and Media	100444	145	100				1		Option	20	7		100		
1	Final Project	100461	133	100				1		Core	60	7		100		
Effective from <sup>10</sup> Prog Year / Month / Year			Contact in School/Faculty: Steve Jones, Programme Administrator Tel: +44 (0)1202 961689 Email: srjones@bournemouth.ac.uk				Date approved <sup>11</sup> : November 2015		Programme Specification version no. <sup>12</sup> : Version: 1				Placement <sup>13</sup> : None			
Yr. 1	Sept.	2016														
Yr. 2																
Yr. 3			Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (if appropriate) <sup>14</sup> : N/A													