

Psychology at Leeds Metropolitan University

Thank you for your interest in joining our Psychology group, which is based within the School of Social, Psychological and Communication Sciences here at Leeds Metropolitan University. The School, one of the largest within the University with circa 2000 student registrations and 80 academic staff, is structured around four main subject groups: Social Sciences; Politics and International Relations; Psychology; Speech and Language Therapy. Our current Psychology teaching portfolio includes BSc (Hons) Psychology, MSc Psychology (conversion award) and MSc Psychology with Business.

Our student numbers have grown significantly over recent years, reflecting University investment in Psychology. We are very proud of our commitment to providing an excellent student learning experience. We are also proud of our strong research culture, supported by the creation of a new social science research centre. Our group will be entered into the 2014 REF, unit 4a. Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience.

The University, Faculty and School continue to invest in new accommodation and facilities to support the Psychology Group's rapidly developing teaching and research excellence. We have made a number of staff appointments to further support our development, including Professor Brendan Gough as our Psychology Group research lead.

We have outlined the specific areas of expertise we are looking for within the advertisements and job descriptions, but if you would like to discuss these posts further, please feel free to contact Dr B Rickett or Dr Jim Morgan for the SL posts and Professor Brendan Gough for the Readers post.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Malcolm Todd

Head of School of Social, Psychological and Communications Sciences
Leeds Metropolitan University

Teaching in the Psychology Group

<http://courses.leedsmet.ac.uk/main/course.htm?ban=MSPWB>

http://courses.leedsmet.ac.uk/psychologyconversion_msc

<http://courses.leedsmet.ac.uk/psychology>

Research Profile

Research is central to Psychology activity and is co-ordinated by Professor Brendan Gough, who joined Leeds Met in 2012. Staff publish in high quality academic journals, attract income for research projects, and disseminate their work at national and international conferences: Staff research informs teaching at all levels, with specialist expertise used to supervise MSc and PhD students. In addition, staff contribute to the discipline of Psychology in many ways, including journal editing, public engagement, and collaborations with colleagues in many countries, and with external stakeholders (e.g. health professionals). Our research strategy echoes wider university policy, in particular: *“Being a catalyst for social and economic progress in and for our region, nationally and internationally, through research and enterprise”* – we prioritise high quality research with impact. Some of our staff also work with colleagues in other university departments and research centres, notably the Institute for Health & Wellbeing, and the newly established Centre for Applied Social Research. Recent funded projects led by Leeds Met psychologists include ‘Addressing Sexual Bullying across Europe’ (EU-funded, 5-country project, c £300,000), and ‘Patient Experiences of Penile Cancer’ (National Institute of Health Research, c£200,000). Research excellence within Psychology at Leeds Met falls into two broad categories: Social and health psychology; Cognition and action.

Social and health psychology

Research within this cluster centres around health, lifestyle and wellbeing, ranging from qualitative, critical work on social class, gender and sexuality (e.g. Gough) to quantitative work on health and safety interventions and measurement techniques (e.g. Fylan, Morgan). There is significant activity in the field of men’s health (Branney/Gough) and gender is a dimension which is examined across many projects, including body image (Fawkner), eating and drinking (Day), motherhood (Milnes), egg donation (Martin), and sexual harassment (Rickett). There is also expertise in the area of driver behaviour (Fylan), including consultancy work and research-based reports to the Department for Transport, while Morgan researches decision making processes in safety-critical industries. Health promotion research also incorporates sexual health (Windisch), while other research has made significant contributions to the way in which chronic illnesses can be self-managed (e.g. Wang), supported by GPs (Fylan), and quality of life improved (Ashley). Another strand of work concerns offending behaviours (Turner-Moore/Garwood), and our work on sex offending has pioneered new ways of collecting data in this sensitive topic.

Cognition and action

Research under this theme explores biological, cognitive, emotional and environmental influences on our behaviour. Our research includes the neurobiological mechanisms that influence self-control (Kolokotroni), our memories of real and dream events (Horton), self-perceptions and sporting performance (Sagar), our concepts of pride and national identity (Sullivan), the role the body and environment in language and cognition (Golonka), and how

cognition influences movement (Wilson). Our developmental psychologists look at the impact of cognition on achievement, including the role of memory (Atkinson/Zammit), and children's collaborative learning (Hardman), including the learning experiences of ethnic minority children (Khan); research also covers the impact of neurodevelopmental disorders on memory (Pauly-Takacs).

Research facilities available to Psychology researchers include a series of laboratories suitable for a variety of uses, for example computer-based experiments, interviews and focus groups. EEG and eye-tracking equipment is situated in its own dedicated laboratory. <http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/research/psychology-.htm>