Research

Sheffield Psychology department is among the largest in the UK, and represents the broad spectrum of the discipline (neuroscience, and developmental, social, and clinical psychology). Psychology at Sheffield has been one of the highest ranked research departments in the UK in all six Research Assessment Exercises to date. The RAE2008 results confirm the high calibre of research in the department since we were ranked 6th in the UK in terms of research power (i.e., quality x quantity of research activity). Research income during the RAE2008 period was c. £11.5M. The department's Research Environment was rated 70% world-leading (4-star) and 30% internationally excellent (3-star) in the last exercise (2008). Our excellence in research spans the discipline and is not just confined to one or two specialities. This means that all of our taught courses are informed by the freshest thinking and that our PhDs are supervised by active researchers at the forefront of their fields. Ours is a vibrant study environment, and one of the largest centres of psychology research postgraduates in the country.

About the department
The department has active researchers across the field of psychology, including neuroscience, social psychology, health psychology, organisational psychology, clinical psychology, developmental psychology and cognitive psychology. We have a strong tradition of interdisciplinary research with computer scientists, control engineers, radiologists and researchers in public health, management and education. We have ongoing collaborative projects with hospitals, mental care units, the police and prison service, and several leading firms in business and industry. Staff publish in the top journals in the field and research postgraduates are encouraged from the outset to conduct research for publication and to attend workshops and conferences relevant to their research both in the UK and abroad.

Research degrees available
MPhil, PhD, ESRC (1+3 yrs) MSc + PhD

www.sheffield.ac.uk/psychology
Fees for 10–11
FT: Home TBC for 10–11 (currently for 2009–10 £3,390)
PT: Home TBC for 10–11 (currently for 2009–10 £1,695)
FT: Overseas: £14,380–£15,380

Entry requirements
Good honours degree (2:1 or above) in psychology or a related discipline.

English language requirements
Our standard English requirements for overseas applicants are: IELTS 6.5 (with no less than 6 in each component), or TOEFL 575 (paper based) or TOEFL 232 (computer based) or TOEFL 90-91 (internet based) or equivalent.

Studentships
The department of Psychology is fully recognised by the ESRC (including CASE studentships), the EPSRC and MRC for research studentships, and has won support from a range of additional sources. The department receives a quota of ESRC 1 + 3 studentships. Two are available for entry 2010-11. We can also put forward applications for the ESRC’s 1 + 3 and +3 open competition studentships.

ESRC 1 + 3 Scheme
The department of Psychology is fully recognised by the ESRC as a research training outlet under its 1+3 scheme. The 1+3 scheme involves funding for four years of study towards a PhD. The first year is spent receiving advanced training in research methods, leading to the award of an MSc in Psychological Research. The following three years are spent working directly on the research for the PhD. Those not receiving ESRC funding will normally work directly on the research for the PhD for three years and receive training via the University’s Research Training Programme.

Facilities
The department houses a Centre for Research in Social Attitudes, an infancy laboratory and rooms for research in developmental and social psychology. We also have a fully equipped neuroscience unit with excellent facilities for brain imaging, neuroanatomy, electrophysiology, behavioural neuroscience and an extensive range of computing facilities supporting a unique blend of computational neuroscience. The department has two small bore MRI devices and access to the University’s fMRI facility for human studies.

The Clinical Psychology Unit
The unit’s 17 academic and clinical staff are employed both by the University and also by various local NHS Trusts. The Unit offers a pre-registration Doctor of Clinical Psychology course which trains clinical psychologists to work in the local NHS services within North Trent. The unit also runs a postgraduate Certificate in Low Intensity Psychological Interventions and a Postgraduate Diploma in High Intensity Psychological Interventions. A postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Supervision is available as a two-year distance-learning course. The unit also organises training and consultancy for local NHS Trusts on topics such as health services research, team working, and supervision. The Unit also houses the Centre for Psychological Services Research (CPSR), which comprises interdisciplinary research collaboration between CPU and the School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR). Staff are involved in wide-ranging clinical psychology research programmes.

The Institute of Work Psychology (School of Management)
The IWP is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in work psychology and runs the BPS approved MSc in Occupational Psychology, which leads on to the vocational qualification of ‘Occupational Psychologist’ after a further period of supervised practice. The positioning of IWP within the Management School allows a student to undertake the flexible training now encouraged by the ESRC ‘Doctoral Training Framework’, with a flexible PhD programme lasting for anything from 3 to 5 years, and potentially including a taught Masters course. General areas of specialisation include: job design and well-being at work; emotions and emotion regulation; individual and team learning and the learning organisation; creativity and innovation; virtual work; the future of work; human resource management; and organisational development. Staff potentially involved include: Carolyn Axtell, Kamal Birdi, David Holman, Malcolm Patterson, Rod Nicolson, Christine Sprigg and Stephen Wood, together with Peter Totterdell (Psychology). Further information is on the IWP website from where applicants may download a brochure.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/clinicalpsychology
www.sheffield.ac.uk/iwp
Research areas

Developmental Psychology
Dr Mark Blades
Dr Jane Herbert
Professor Michael Siegal
Dr Dan Carroll
Dr Danielle Matthews
Dr Richard Rowe

Social and Health Psychology
Professor Richard Eiser
Professor Christine Eiser
Dr Karen Niven
Dr Richard Rowe
Professor Peter Totterdell
Dr Chris Armitage
Dr Peter Harris
Dr Paul Norman
Professor Paschal Sheeran
Dr Tom Webb

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience
Professor Rod Nicolson
Dr Jane Herbert
Dr Danielle Matthews
Professor Lawrence Parsons
Professor Richard Eiser
Dr Nikki Hunkin
Dr Elizabeth Milne
Dr Tom Stafford

Computational Neuroscience
Professor Tony Prescott
Professor Paul Dean
Dr Jim Stone
Professor Kevin Gurney
Dr John Porrill

Neuroscience and Psychobiology
Professor Peter Redgrave
Dr Myles Jones
Dr Ying Zheng
Dr Paul Overton
Professor Tony Prescott

Clinical Psychology
Professor Graham Turpin
Professor Nigel Beail
Dr Claire Isaac
Dr Georgina Rowse
Professor Michael Barkham
Professor Gillian Hardy
Dr Rebecca Knowles
Professor Pauline Slade

Occupational and Organisational Psychology in the Institute of Work Psychology
For further details of staff research areas visit at IWP:
http://iwp.dept.shef.ac.uk/site/staff/
Dr Chris Armitage
Social psychology and health; predicting and changing health behaviour; attitudes and attitude change.
Professor Michael Barkham
Outcome of psychological therapies, in particular on practice based research as a complement to trials methodology.
Professor Nigel Beall
Psychoanalytic theory & practice; intellectual disability.
Dr Mark Blades
Children’s understanding of advertising and marketing, and the effects of advertising on children. Children’s memory and eyewitness testimony, and analysis of police interviews with abused children. Children’s waysfinding abilities - e.g. how they learn new routes.
Dr Dan Carroll
The development of executive functions, inhibitory control and task switching; the relationship between action and cognition in young children; the “Mere Exposure” effect in children and adults.
Professor Paul Dean
 Computational models of the cerebellum and its role in oculomotor function and classical conditioning.
Professor Christine Eiser
Psychological effects of chronic and life-threatening illness on children and their families; interventions to improve compliance and quality of life in diabetes; children’s understanding of health and illness; men’s attitudes towards health/health care; quality of life/response shift.
Professor Richard Eiser
Professor Kevin Gourney
Computational and robotic models of action selection and active vision working at multiple levels of description including: conductance-based neuronal models, large scale spiking neural models and systems-wide network models.
Professor Gillian Hardy
Psychological treatments for depression: psychodynamic processes and outcomes; attachment theory; interpersonal processes. Psychological health in employment.
Dr Chris Armitage
Social psychology and health; predicting and changing health behaviour; attitudes and attitude change.
Dr Claire Isaac
Dr Myles Jones
The coupling between neural activity and the changes in blood flow, volume and oxygenation.
Dr Rebecca Knowles
Severe and enduring mental illness: bipolar disorder and psychosis; trauma.
Dr Danielle Matthews
Development of language and communication in infancy and early childhood, particularly pragmatic development. Also: statistical learning of grammar.
Dr Elizabeth Milne
Developmental cognitive neuroscience. Visual perception in individuals with autistic spectrum disorders (using techniques such as psychophysical threshold measurement & EEG). The relationship between perceptual abnormalities in autism and atypical cognitive profiles.
Professor Rod Nicolson
Dr Karen Niven
Emotion regulation of others and self; relationships; social network analyses; factors that influence well-being (especially at work); violence and bullying.
Dr Paul Norman
Social psychology and health; attitude-behaviour models; health behaviour; illness representations and coping with chronic illness; theory of cognitive adaptation; cognitive processing and PTSD.
Dr Paul Overton
Neuroadaptations underlying drug addiction; basal ganglia function and dysfunction; neurobiology of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.
Professor Lawrence Parsons
Functional brain organisation for music, dance, emotion, action, conversational turn-taking, duetting, as well as spatial, linguistic, mathematical and deductive inference. The function of the cerebellum (beyond a traditional role in motor coordination). Biases in the estimation of frequency and quantity.
Dr John Porrill
Computational models of the cerebellum and its role in oculomotor function and classical conditioning.
Professor Tony Prescott
Computational and robotic models of the vertebrate brain emphasising layered control architectures and sensorimotor co-ordination in active touch. Behavioural, neural, and computational analyses of whisking behaviour in freely moving rats.
Professor Peter Redgrave
Basal ganglia; Dopamine; Reinforcement; Sensorimotor control; Visual systems.
Dr Richard Rowe
Dr Georgina Rowse
Psychotherapy: early intervention in psychosis, sleep, cultural/religious and spiritual explanations of experiences, role of early experience and the continuum model of experiences. Substance use: relationship with mental health difficulties and psychosis, psychological autopsy methodology.
Professor Paschal Sheeran
Social psychology; motivation and self-regulation, behaviour change interventions, implementation intentions, emotion regulation.
Professor Michael Siegal
Language and conceptual development; Memory and eyewitness testimony of children in legal and health settings; Development of language and communication; Autism; Depression; Representation and theory of mind; Children’s understanding of biology and cosmology; Spatial and mathematical ability in adults with aphasias.
Professor Pauline Slade
Pregnancy and postnatal mental health; including stress in pregnancy, fear of labour, post traumatic stress following childbirth, postnatal depression. Psychological issues related to the reproductive system including fertility, menstruation, menopause and pelvic pain.
Dr Tom Stafford
Experimental and computational studies of attention, learning and response selection.
Dr Jim Stone
Dr Andrew Thompson
Clinical Health Psychology particularly in relation to adaptation to conditions that affect appearance; Adaptation to chronic illness; Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.
Professor Peter Totterdell
Emotion regulation; mood and well-being in work settings; affective disorders; social networks and work relationships; temporal factors, sleep and shift work; experience-sampling and diary methods.
Professor Graham Turpin
PTSD and responses to trauma, self-help interventions, imagery and psychotherapy, PTSD and responses to trauma, self-help interventions, imagery and psychotherapy.
Dr Tom Webb
Goal striving (particularly the role of intentions and planning); emotion regulation (including social anxiety); attitudes, stereotypes, and prejudice.
Dr Ying Zheng
Identification and analysis of spatial temporal systems; biophysical modelling in brain imaging.

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