Master's Programme

Master Specialisation Legal Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Interrogation & Interviewing

Full course description

Interrogation and interviewing are at the core of many police investigations. In this course, students will learn about the different strategies that can be used when interrogating or interviewing a suspect. The course will deal with the difference between the accusatory interrogation style (i.e., an interrogation aimed at eliciting a confession), and the information gathering approach (i.e., an interview aimed at eliciting relevant information), and their effects on eliciting false confessions. In addition, the course will deal with the best way to detect deception in such interrogation/interviews. Students will discuss the use of non-verbal and verbal cues, but also the use of the polygraph to detect deception. Finally, the course will deal with mediation in criminal and civil law.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

- students are familiar with the best practices in investigative interviewing;
- students are familiar with the aetiology of false confessions, and considerations to prevent them;
- students are familiar with the theories of deception and deception detection;
- students are familiar with the role of mediation in penal and civil law.

PSY4018
Period 1
2 Sep 2024
25 Oct 2024
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- E.H. Meijer
- G. Bogaard

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Written exam
Keywords:

Psychology of Eyewitness Testimony

Full course description

This course provides contemporary insights into the psychology of eyewitness testimony. For example, students will learn about eyewitness memory, if and why eyewitnesses report details of a crime, how well eyewitnesses are able to recall a crime they experienced, and whether they are subsequently able to identify the culprit from a line-up. Students will also learn about human face recognition, the principles underlying composite construction, and the best practices in for constructing and administering line-ups. Other issues that are addressed in this course relate to whether claims of repression and subsequent recovery of traumatic experiences can be valid or whether they (sometimes) reflect false memories, whether the testimonies provided by young children are as reliable as those of adults' , and what all of the studied topics imply for the courtroom. By the end of the course students will: be familiar with current issues and controversies in eyewitness research; be able to give descriptions of typical methods and experimental work in these disciplines; and have insight into the problems that arise from court decisions which hinge upon testimonies from eyewitness.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

- students can apply theories to memory to cases on the reliability of testimonies;
- students can recognize important research methods and paradigms in legal psychology;
- students can recognize important factors related to the reliability of eyewitness memory (e.g., co-witness effects, cognitive interview);
- students can assess the reliability of eyewitnesses’ testimony in a given case;
- students can discuss relevant theories and link them to legal cases;
- students can recognize and discuss controversies revolving around psychology of testimony (e.g., repression);
- students can design research studies by using the studied research paradigms and methodology.

PSY4019
Period 1
2 Sep 2024
25 Oct 2024
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- M. Sauerland

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Written exam, Presentation
Keywords:
Eyewitnesses, interviewing, line-up, face recognition, child memory of trauma
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Thinking like an Expert

Full course description

Some have argued that the story behind miscarriages of justice is, in fact, the story of expert errors and misjudgements. Experts do, indeed, play an important role in judicial decision-making; the law expects them to base their decisions based on scientifically grounded principles. Consider the handwriting expert who has to decide whether a ransom note was written by the defendant. Or the child psychologist who has to decide whether a child should stay with an emotionally labile mother. Should we trust the expertise of these professionals? How can their decisions be improved? Psychometrics, decision-making and other issues typically thought of as province of expert witnesses are discussed in depth in this course. In doing so, the course focuses on biases that plague experts.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students:

- are able to explain and critically evaluate the theoretical background/anchors of the literature on biases, specifically the notion of dual processing;
- are able to explain key concepts in the psychological literature on expertise and feedback;
- are able to articulate biases that have been particularly well-studied in the context of legal decision making. Specifically, they are able to explain what these biases are and how the experimental procedures look like with which these biases can be evoked;
- are able to explain and use key terms from the decision making literature, notably sensitivity, specificity, base rate, positive and negative predicting power, ROC, and AUC;
- are able to perform calculations required to determine Oddsratios, Likelihood ratio’s, and optimal cut offs on tests;
- are able to specify procedures that may reduce the risk of biases, i.e. effective de-biasing techniques.

PSY4043
Period 2
28 Oct 2024
20 Dec 2024
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

- M.J. Schreuder

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
expert witnesses, diagnostic accuracy, decision making, biases
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Practical Training: Legal Psychology in Action

Full course description

Legal Psychology in Action offers students the opportunity to become familiar with the practical aspects of legal psychology. Students will acquire hands-on experience with the administration of instruments frequently used by legal psychologists, such as tools to measure malingering, suggestibility and compliance. Students will also learn the basics of criminal court proceedings and are informed about the role of an expert witness. Furthermore, professionals in the legal field will provide lectures. Students will spend a substantial amount of time in administrating tests, reading relevant literature and writing case reports. At the end of the practical training, students are expected to act as an expert witness in a mock court case and must submit a written expert witness report.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can administer, interpret, and explain psychodiagnostic assessments applicable to the legal psychology field;
- can generate, interpret and summarize assessment findings in a research/case report;
- can generate, check and criticize expert witness reports; Understand court proceedings;
- have an idea about legal psychology working areas.

PSY4137
Period 1
2 Sep 2024
25 Oct 2024
Print course description
ECTS credits:
6.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- G. Bogaard
- S.T.L. Houben

Teaching methods:

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Skills, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Assignment
Keywords:
legal assessment tools, case reports, court proceedings
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Public Policy in Legal Psychology

Full course description

To adequately prepare students for the job market, it is important that they develop skills related to policy development. In this 4-week course, students will learn the basics of public policy in legal psychology, and learn how to write a policy report on a relevant topic.

Students will work in subgroups and select a topic of their interest at the beginning of the academic year (e.g. “Should the lie detector be used in the assessment of sex offender recidivism?”; “How to adequately assess post-traumatic stress disorder in asylum seekers?”; “Is there a reliable profile of a lone-acting terrorist?”; “Can we increase the successful detection of child abuse in schools?”).

Groups will be coached by an expert staff member who will supervise the writing of the policy report. Students are expected to select relevant research papers and perform desktop research into existing policies and where possible, work with existing databases, such as the one from the Wetenschappelijk Onderzoeks en Documentatie Centrum (WODC). Lectures will be given by policy makers from the field. End product will be a (short) policy report including clear practical guidelines. This report will be presented to a panel of experts.

The final assessment for this course is pass or fail - and not a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

- at the end of this course student will know how to critically evaluate
- legal psychological research and theory;
- they will be able to translate research and theory into practical guidelines;
- they will know how to write a policy report, make new policy based on societal problems, or evaluate existing legal psychological policy.

PSY4135
Period 2
28 Oct 2024
20 Dec 2024
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- K.I.M. van Oorsouw

Teaching methods:

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Lecture(s), PBL, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Presentation, Final paper, Attendance
Keywords:
public policy, legal psychology, science-based policy
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Neuropsychology in the Courtroom

Full course description

Defendants in criminal cases increasingly state that they do not have any memory for the offence. This raises the question whether this is always a valid defence. Moreover, defendants and witnesses with traumatic brain injury, those who have taken recreational drugs such as cannabis, and/or who are intoxicated are becoming more common in legal settings. But how accurate are their statements? And how should they be assessed?

Criminal courts are becoming increasingly aware of the unique and important contribution neuropsychological assessment may have to mental health evaluations in forensic practice. As a result, neuropsychologists are being asked to prepare reports in both civil and criminal cases: physical/psychological injury cases, and competency assessment (competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility). The neuropsychological evaluation is typically based on multiple sources of information (case files, medical files, neuropsychological assessment, etc.). The most difficult part of the assessment is often the interpretation of the neuropsychological evaluation within the legally relevant criteria. Because every expert witness in the courtroom will sometimes be confronted with neuropsychological issues, it is important to have basic knowledge on brain structure and function, brain-behavior relationships, neuropsychological assessment and legal issues related to neuropsychology. Moreover, the use of high-tech brain imaging techniques in defendants, to explain or underscore specific theories on brain-behaviour relationships, is becoming increasingly common nowadays. But what is the value of such brain images in individual defendants? Given the increased demand for experts in the courtroom, it is desirable to have expertise in this particular field.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can understand neuropsychological procedures;
- can specify and explain the role of specific brain structures in, for example, aggression and amnesia;
- can explain and criticize the use of brain scans in the courtroom;
- have an idea how to make appropriate judgments about specific brain-behaviour relationships;
- Understand how cannabis and alcohol can affect memory.

PSY4136
Period 2
28 Oct 2024
20 Dec 2024
Print course description

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- L.M.J. Slootmaekers

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Written exam
Keywords:
Neuropsychology, brain structure, aggression, amnesia, intellectual disability, intoxication
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Mentorship LP

Full course description

The Mentor programme is closely connected to PSY4142 (research proposal).

This module aims at making our new Master students feel comfortable at FPN. Our mentors share their experience in academia with the students and by doing so broaden the students' horizon. They guide the students in the transfer from a BA to a MA study level and support the students' adjustments to international, multicultural, interdisciplinary, and PBL based education. Also, the mentors provide preparation, orientation and reflection on study progress, internship choices, and post-Master career options.

Voluntary but highly recommended meetings are scheduled for the students. The main themes of those meetings are 1) starting at UM, 2) the research internship and 3) future career, but the meetings are open for other topics based on student needs.

Upon request, the mentor also engages individually with a student.

There is no assessment for this module. You will only receive feedback on completed assignments.

Course objectives

Intended learning outcomes (ILO's) are tailored to the individual student, but do relate to study and research skills, employability and global citizenship education. Main goals are as described above.

PSY4951
Year
1 Sep 2024
31 Aug 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
0.0
Instruction language:
English

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Coordinator:

- G.A. ten Hoor

Teaching methods:
Work in subgroups
Keywords:
mentor, personal growth
Internships

Research Internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Graded

Full course description

During the second part of the one-year master's program (from period 3 onwards), students conduct a research internship that involves 1) writing of a research proposal, and preparing and planning of the research project, 2) conducting the research project, and 3) analyzing the results of the research project. This work will result in an individually written 4) master's thesis.

The internship can be carried out at Maastricht University, at an external research institute or at other, more practically oriented institutions. In all cases, a student's research proposal and master's thesis will be evaluated by two assessors.

Information about research internships can be found on AskPsy:
https://www.askpsy.nl/internship/home

This module is not applicable for students of the Master Neuropsychology who choose to do an additional clinical internship.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

Students are able to:

Conduct a supervised empirical research project and summarize this research in a master's thesis.

Prerequisites

The Research Internship can only be started when at least 8 credits of the compulsory core courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. The research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and there must be ethical approval for the research project before the start of the data collection. In addition: certain Research Internships may require that practical or skills training(s) have been completed.

PSY4178

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Year
1 Sep 2024
31 Aug 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
6.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- G.C. Kraag

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Paper(s), Research, Skills
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Observation
Keywords:
Academic skills, internship, research, Research proposal, master's thesis
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Ungraded

Full course description

During the second part of the one-year master's program (from period 3 onwards), students conduct a research internship that involves 1) writing of a research proposal, and preparing and planning of the research project, 2) conducting the research project, and 3) analyzing the results of the research project. This work will result in an individually written 4) master's thesis. Step 1 will be done in period 3, steps 2 to 4 from period 4 onwards.

The internship can be carried out at Maastricht University, at an external research institute or at other, more practically oriented institutions. In all cases, a student's research proposal and master's thesis will be evaluated by two assessors. At least one of these assessors is a staff member at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN).

Information about the research internship can be found on AskPsy:
https://www.askpsy.nl/internship/home

This module is not applicable for students of the Master Neuropsychology that attend a clinical internship.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

Students are able to :

conduct a supervised empirical research project and summarize this research in a master's thesis.

Prerequisites

The Research Internship can only be started when at least 8 credits of the compulsory courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. Furthermore, the research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start of the data collection. In addition: Certain Research Internships may require that practical or skills training(s) have been completed.

PSY4179
Year
1 Sep 2024
31 Aug 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
9.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- G.C. Kraag

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Paper(s), Research, Skills
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Observation
Keywords:
Academic skills, internship, research, Research proposal, master's thesis
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Proposal

Full course description

In this course, the research proposal is drafted in preparation for the research internship. The course serves to provide students with general skills and a source of information about academic research. The course thereby supports the development of the research proposal and subsequent execution of the internship via assignments, workshops, and lectures that allow students to practice and develop their academic skills.

The research proposal describes what you will investigate, why it is important, and how you will do the research. The format of a research proposal varies between (sub)fields, but most proposals should contain at least these elements: Cover page, Introduction, Literature Review (incl background, relevance, and research question), Research design and methods, Reference list, and a Timeline/planning. Students discuss the content of the proposal with their internship supervisors (preferably 2-3 months prior to the official start of the internship).

This module is not applicable for (the subsample of) students of the Master Neuropsychology that complete a clinical internship.

The final assessment for this course is pass or fail - and not a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

- to produce a scientifically sound research proposal;
- to adequately prepare for a research internship.

Mandatory ILO's are:

- students know what the criteria/guidelines are for writing a research proposal;
- students know what transparency in science is (including data management and research ethics);
- students recognize ethical aspects of conducting research and are able to complete an ethics application.
- students are familiar with the key concepts of open science including preregistration.

Additional ILO's (if skills are not yet mastered) are:

- students are able to execute a literature review;
- students are able to use a reference manager;
- students are able to select a research design and corresponding methods for a research project;
- students understand basic statistical techniques;
- students can explain characteristics of academic writing and are able to implement and apply that knowledge to the writing of a research proposal.

(this list is just an example, and will be updated each year, based on student and supervisor needs)

PSY4142
Year
6 Jan 2025
4 Apr 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.5
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- G.A. ten Hoor

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper
Keywords:
Academic skills, Research skills, methods, statistics, writing, Internship
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Academic Skills

Full course description

In this course, the research proposal is drafted in preparation for the research internship. The

course serves to provide students with general skills and a source of information about academic research. The course thereby supports the development of the research proposal and subsequent execution of the internship via assignments, workshops, and lectures that allow students to practice and develop their academic skills.

The research proposal describes what you will investigate, why it is important, and how you will do the research. The format of a research proposal varies between (sub)fields, but most proposals should contain at least these elements: Cover page, Introduction, Literature Review (incl background, relevance, and research question), Research design and methods, Reference list, and a Timeline/planning. Students discuss the content of the proposal with their internship supervisors (preferably 2-3 months prior to the official start of the internship).

This module is not applicable for (the subsample of) students of the Master Neuropsychology that complete a clinical internship.

The final assessment for this course is pass or fail - and not a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

- to produce a scientifically sound research proposal;
- to adequately prepare for a research internship.

Mandatory ILO’s are:

- students know what the criteria/guidelines are for writing a research proposal;
- students know what transparency in science is (including data management and research ethics);
- students recognize ethical aspects of conducting research and are able to complete an ethics application.
- students are familiar with the key concepts of open science including preregistration.

Additional ILO’s (if skills are not yet mastered) are:

- students are able to execute a literature review;
- students are able to use a reference manager;
- students are able to select a research design and corresponding methods for a research project;
- students understand basic statistical techniques;
- students can explain characteristics of academic writing and are able to implement and apply that knowledge to the writing of a research proposal.

(this list is just an example, and will be updated each year, based on student and supervisor needs)

PSY4775
Year
6 Jan 2025
4 Apr 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
0.5
Instruction language:
English

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Coordinator:

- G.A. ten Hoor

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper
Keywords:
Academic skills, research skills, methods, statistics, writing, internship
Thesis

Master's Thesis

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Master's Thesis

Full course description

During the second part of the one-year master's program (from period 3 onwards), students conduct a research internship that involves 1) writing of a research proposal, and preparing and planning of the research project, 2) conducting the research project, and 3) analyzing the results of the research project. This work will result in an individually written 4) master's thesis.

The internship can be carried out at Maastricht University, at an external research institute or at other, more practically oriented institutions. In all cases, a student's research proposal and master's thesis will be evaluated by two assessors.

Information about research internships can be found on AskPsy:
https://www.askpsy.nl/internship/home

This module is not applicable for students of the Master Neuropsychology who choose to do an additional clinical internship.

The final assessment for this course is a numerical grade between 0,0 and 10,0.

Course objectives

Students are able to :

- conduct a supervised empirical research project and summarize this research in a master's thesis.

Prerequisites

The Research Internship can only be started when at least 8 credits of the compulsory core courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. The research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and there must be ethical approval for the research project before the start of the data collection. In addition: certain Research Internships may require that

practical or skills training(s) have been completed.

PSY4091
Year
3 Feb 2025
31 Aug 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
10.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- G.C. Kraag

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Paper(s), Research, Skills
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation
Keywords:
Academic skills, internship, research, research proposal, master's thesis
Elective courses

Electives

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Selection and training

Full course description

In this elective, students will practice with designing an assessment center, with structured interviews and with training design and evaluation. This elective will start with an opening lecture, in which the structure of the elective will be explained and in which they will learn the relevant theoretical background on assessment centers, structured interviews, and trainings. After that, they will read relevant literature on these topics and start to work in small groups on designing an assessment center. In the first group meeting, they will present their assessment centers to each other and receive feedback on it. In the next group meeting, they will practice a structured interview, in which they will do roleplays in which half of them plays the role of the interviewer and the other half the role of the candidates. Halfway through the meeting, they will switch roles. Finally, they will design a training in small groups and conduct this training during the final group meeting. Again, half of them will start as the trainers, and the other half of the group will be the trainees. During this meeting they will also switch roles.

Course objectives

- Students will get acquainted with assessment centers: they will learn about the procedures and validity of this selection tool;
- Students will practice and improve their interview skills by conducting a structured interview;
- Students will learn theories about training design and practice their skills by designing and

evaluating a training;
- Students will improve their employability by learning more about and practicing with selection and training methods.

PSY9103
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
9 Feb 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- A.L.T. Walkowiak
- F.E.R.M. Nievelstein

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL, Assignment(s), Skills, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Observation, Presentation
Keywords:
Selection, training, Assessment Center, Role play
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Systemic Coaching for Psychologists

Full course description

Coaching can be defined as a developmental, tailor-made intervention in which a professional coach utilizes collaborative, reflective, and goal-oriented strategies to facilitate the development and performance of individuals or groups. Coaching puts coachees as learners at the center of the coaching experience, thereby aiming to promote their self-awareness and personal responsibility and unlock their full potential.

In this elective students will learn about the basic principles of systemic coaching (a form of coaching in which the larger system in which we all operate is considered) and will get to know a variety of cognitive, motivational, and behavioral techniques to help coachees achieve a mutually identified goal. In this elective students will form groups of three: Every student will act as a coach, but will also be coached by a peer, and additionally act as an observer who provides meaningful feedback on the coaching process.

Course objectives

After this course students are able to:

- explain the basic principles of systemic coaching;
- differentiate psychological theories on the topic of personal development;
- understand the effects of different coaching techniques;
- independently design a coaching session for a client;

- flexibly and spontaneously apply different coaching tools based on the (changing) needs of a client;
- reflect on their own strengths and weaknesses in their role as a coach;
- reflect on their progress regarding a goal in their role as a coachee;
- provide meaningful feedback to coaches in their role as an observer;

PSY9101
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
9 Feb 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- A. Nübold

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Work in subgroups, Skills
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Participation, Observation, Oral exam
Keywords:
systemic coaching; psychological theories; cognitive, motivational, behavioral techniques; self-help; flexibility; self-reflection; personal development
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Introduction to Programming in Python

Full course description

The work of many high-skilled jobs now requires more advanced computer skills than ever before. Skilled professionals ought to be able to use programming to efficiently process and visualize data, without being limited by the tools conventional programs offer. This elective focuses on understanding and solving problems using programming.

You will learn how to think in terms of algorithms, moving from identifying a problem to creating a step-by-step solution (in the form of code). You will learn how to program in Python, a free, open-source, platform-independent, and continuously maintained programming language. Python is a powerful dynamic programming language that is used in a variety of applications and domains.

Once you know how to program in Python, it will be much easier for you to learn other – more specialised or more general-purpose – languages (such as Matlab, R, or C).

Course objectives

During the elective, students will develop a basic understanding of programming in general and the Python programming language specially.

After this course, students:

- Have a basic understanding of how to program and be able to think in terms of algorithms.
- Have a working knowledge of the Python programming language specifically (data types, variables, operators, control-flow, and loops).
- Are able to write well-commented Python scripts.
- Are able to write functions to automate particular tasks.
- Are able to debug (fix) Python code.
- Are able to understand basics of scientific computing (numpy & matplotlib).

PSY9102
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
9 Feb 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- M. Enan
- J.J.G. van Haren

Teaching methods:
Skills, Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Participation
Keywords:
Programming skills, Python, Algorithms
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

The global SDGs: From problem to solution

Full course description

Psychologists are invaluable sources of knowledge and allies for global governments in helping them to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), https://sdgs.un.org/goals. After all, many of the current global challenges require a deep knowledge of human cognition, motivation, emotion, and behaviour – as well as how to change these. Indeed, humans, and human behaviour, are central to achieving many of the (sub-)SDGs, whether it is a reduction of reliance on fossil energy sources, achieving gender equality, or creating optimal health and wellbeing. In this course, you will be introduced to and practice with the PATH model (Problem – Analysis – Test- Help). Using this protocol, you will (a) describe and analyse the psychology behind one of the SDGs, and (b) come up with 'solutions' – interventions – that enable this SDG to be attained. Your final (group) report will take the form of a policy brief.

Course objectives

Students are able:

- to apply psychological principles to global/societal problems (SDGs);
- to acquire basic knowledge of the cognitive, motivational, emotional, social, and behavioural

factors are at the core of many societal and global challenges;
- to engage in creative problem solving while designing an intervention;
- to reflect on ethical and moral dimensions of an applied psychological problem;
- to take perspectives of other (sub)disciplines and stakeholders outside academia;
- to present research and recommendations to a non-specialized audience
- to work in teams

PSY9104
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
9 Feb 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- J.G. Zimmerman
- A. Pawlowska

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Work in subgroups, Paper(s), Presentations
Assessment methods:
Final paper, Attendance
Keywords:
applied psychology, global citizenship, psychological literacy, creative problem solving, social responsibility, change agency
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Clinical Assessment

Full course description

To be able to treat a client effectively, mental health professionals first need to perform a clinical assessment of the client. This assessment refers to the collection of information and consequently drawing conclusions about the client's symptoms and disorder(s). For this purpose, the health professional does observations, administers (neuro)psychological tests, and interviews the client. In this course, we will introduce you to such clinical assessment. During the first sessions, we acquaint you with screening tools that are used in the earliest stages. Next, we go more in-depth and you will learn to administer tests that are commonly done as follow-up for a number of disorders. For example, you acquire skills to administer Anxiety and Depression scales, to run neuropsychological tests for the measurement of attention and memory, and you will be acquainted with tools to examine potential problems with sensory integration. In all cases, we discuss which types of tests are used across the life span. At the end of the course, for the materials studied, you are able to develop a basic screening protocol with follow-up testing.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students are able to:

- Develop an assessment plan for a client based on the initial referral by a general practitioner
- Complete an initial mental screening of a client
- Use and analyse follow-up assessment tools in the field of Anxiety, Depression, Attention, Memory, or Sensory Integration
- Evaluate the outcome of a clinical assessment

PSY9105
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
31 Jan 2025
Period 4
10 Feb 2025
23 Mar 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- A. Sambeth
- A.L. Smitten

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Presentations, Skills, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Presentation
Keywords:
Clinical reasoning, Screening (protocol), (neuro)psychological assessment, observation, interviewing
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Negotiation and Mediation

Full course description

In this elective, students will focus on negotiations and mediation skills. The elective will start with a lecture to explain the structure of the course and to introduce the topic of negotiation to them. In this lecture, they will already learn about the most important theories and strategies that can be used for negotiation and mediation in different contexts. After the lecture, they will read literature to prepare them to practice their negotiation skills. TrainTool will be used to practice these skills. We will use the Harvard principles of negotiation in this elective. In TrainTool, they will first practice the first two principles, after which they will have a group meeting in which we will do a role play focusing on these two principles. Then, they will again practice with Traintool, now focusing on the last two principles, and we will end the course with another role play in the group meeting.

Course objectives

- Students will learn about different theories and strategies for negotiation;
- Students will practice their negotiations skills based on the Harvard principles of negotiation.

PSY9106

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Period 3
6 Jan 2025
31 Jan 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- A.L.T. Walkowiak
- C.J. Zelihsen

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Assignment(s), PBL, Skills, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Observation, Presentation
Keywords:
negotiation, mediation, roleplay
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Introduction to Programming in Matlab

Full course description

The aim of this elective is twofold:

1. Develop basic and generalizable programming skills in MATLAB;
2. Utilize programming to handle and visualize big data, such as those encountered in Neuroscientific research.

MATLAB is a widely used programming and numeric computing platform. Through this elective, you will familiarize with basic MATLAB programming and will learn how to use it to handle, analyze and visualize multidimensional datasets like those encountered in neuroscience and neuroimaging research, business, marketing, social and natural sciences.

Through the course we will explore examples of how to use programming to speed up computations, construct, analyze and visualize time-series (e.g., EEG data, market and financial trends).

At the end of the course, you will write a report in subgroups about the data analysis approach you adopted to analyze time-series data and on how you interpreted results.

Course objectives

With this course, students will:

1. develop fundamental and generalizable programming skills in MATLAB;
2. learn how to use programming to handle and visualize multidimensional datasets;
3. learn how to summarize, visualize and interpret the results of their analyses.

PSY9107

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Period 4
10 Feb 2025
23 Mar 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- G. Valente
- A. Criscuolo

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Skills, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Final paper
Keywords:
Programming; MATLAB; data analysis.
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Science Communication

Full course description

In this 5-week course students will practice presenting science to a broad audience in written format and (online) presentations. They will write a blog post (assignment 1) about a scientific topic of choice, to practice how to summarize complex information in a reader-friendly manner. Furthermore, students will make a video about a scientific topic (assignment 2). In the course, the students will learn how to target their presentation to the audience, how to organize their presentation, and how to use visual aids.

This course will provide students the opportunity to hone their written, visual, and verbal presentation skills. The ability to present complex information in written or visual form can help to become and effective communicator in the workplace or to engage more with larger audiences.

The students will have 9 meetings within the course (lectures, workshops and PBL meetings).

Course objectives

After this course, students are able to:

- write about scientific topics for a broad audience
- summarize complex information
- present scientific information in the format of a video
- organize the content of a (digital) presentation
- use visual aids in (digital) presentations

PSY9108
Period 4
10 Feb 2025

23 Mar 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- A.E.M. Hendriks

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL, Skills, Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper, Presentation, Attendance
Keywords:
Writing skills, (digital) presentation skills
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Individual Elective

Full course description

Students work on an assignment (structured literature review, research project) under the supervision of a member of the scientific staff of Maastricht University, resulting in a written product (e.g. literature review, research report). Students take the initiative to locate and arrange a FPN supervisor for the elective. The elective topic, content and format will be determined by mutual agreement between student and supervisor. The assignment should be different/clearly separate from the actions that will be taken in the research internship and the written final product should be a separate product from the master thesis. Students are expected to devote 168 hours to the Individual elective. Students aiming to follow an individual elective should hand in an individual elective proposal, signed by the supervisor, to the coordinator of the individual elective for approval.

Course objectives

Students are able to:

Students are able to:

- identify gaps in their own knowledge and abilities and develop an individual learning plan accordingly.
- communicate scientific literature and/or report on a research project.

PSY9109
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
31 Jan 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:
6.0
Instruction language:
English

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Coordinators:

- G.J.A.M.L. Uitdewilligen
- G.A. ten Hoor

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Research
Assessment methods:
Final paper
Keywords:
Elective, paper assignment
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Internship Elective

Full course description

During the elective internship, psychology master students (can) practice applying theoretical knowledge to practice and gain relevant practical experience, while working in an institution or company. Students are expected to devote 168 hours to the elective internship.

Students can only be enrolled in this elective, if they have found an internship on their own before December 1st. Students can work in a variety of 'settings': e.g., a (mental) health care facility, rehabilitation centers, schools, but also companies, such as HR consultancies. Suitable institutions or companies provide students the opportunity to gain practical experience, relevant for becoming a psychologist. If the student wants to obtain ECTS for this practical work, the internship (the institution or company and the content of the internship) has to be approved by the elective internship coordinator before the student starts working there. Students can only obtain ECTS for work conducted at one (and not multiple) institute(s). During this practical, students need to work under the supervision of a supervisor with an academic degree in psychology or a related field. At the start of the practical, the student drafts a personal development plan (PDP), defining the learning objectives for the internship. In addition to the work experience, the student must write a report about this experience. As such, the student will get more insight into the work setting(s) of a psychologist and they will gain experience with applying knowledge and skills essential for being a psychologist. Note: this practical experience cannot be used to fulfil the prerequisites regarding the theoretical background and working experience set for the psychodiagnostics registration (i.e., the BAPD) and/or vLOGO. This module is only relevant for FPN students and not available for Exchange students.

Course objectives

The student:

- obtains insight into the work setting(s) of a psychologist;
- gains experience with applying knowledge and skills essential for being a psychologist
- develops the ability to apply scientific insights to reflect upon practices in the field.

PSY9110
Period 3
6 Jan 2025
31 Jan 2025

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Print course description
ECTS credits:
6.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- M.D. Schilbach

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper
Keywords:
internship, Practical, Organisation
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Introduction to Statistics in R

Full course description

R is a programming language frequently used in data science and related fields for data processing, data visualization, and statistical analysis. Working with data in R requires writing code, which makes the data processing steps and analysis procedure transparent and reproducible. The core functions of R are being continually expanded by a community of users who write and maintain packages containing more specialist functions, meaning that R is a flexible tool that is adaptable to a very wide range of data types (e.g., questionnaire responses, neurophysiological data), while a broad spectrum of data analysis approaches are catered for.

Designed for users with little or no experience with R, this course will make use of RStudio, an open-source program that facilitates the writing and storage of R code. Students will be introduced to the basic steps of data processing, visualization, and analysis. These procedures will taught and practiced in the context of experimental data. Critically, students will be empowered to troubleshoot their own code, by identifying problems in their code and seeking potential solutions in the documentation or online. Students will thereby be able to begin writing their own code independently.

Course objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Import and handle data in R
2. Create graphs and run basic statistical analyses in R
3. Document data analysis output from R

PSY9114
Period 3
10 Feb 2025
23 Mar 2025
Print course description
ECTS credits:

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- M.D. Hilton

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Skills, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Assignment
Keywords:
Programming; R; data analysis; statistics