

School of **Psychology**

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

A photograph of a man sitting in a chair in a laboratory setting. A woman is standing behind him, adjusting equipment on his head. The room is dimly lit with warm, yellowish lights. There are various pieces of equipment and stands visible in the background.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/psychology

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Professional experience as part of your degree

We are one of only a few psychology schools who offer the opportunity to gain professional experience as part of your degree.

Accredited by the BPS

Both our programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) meaning they meet high quality standards in education.

Top 10 for psychology in the UK

Complete University Guide 2023, Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023

95% of our research is world-leading or internationally excellent

Research Excellence Framework 2021

The School of Psychology at Cardiff University is a stimulating and rewarding place to study and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you.

An undergraduate degree is a life-changing and wonderful experience, and it is a major investment in your future. Your choice of subject and university is of major significance to you, and we believe that at Cardiff University you can achieve your full potential.

Should you choose to study with us, we will work with you on a challenging and comprehensive programme to help you understand behaviour and the human mind – the most complex and fascinating of nature’s creations.

At our School, we have a vibrant and international community of students and staff, and you will be supported by our enthusiastic lecturers, caring tutors and a lively group of fellow students. We emphasise the close connection between teachers and researchers so that you can participate in genuine cutting-edge research projects.

We offer two BSc psychology programmes, both recognised by the BPS, that provide an excellent education in psychology. They consistently score highly in student satisfaction, and students go on to careers in a very wide range of professions. The four-year degree offers the additional benefit of placement experience, which contributes even further to job prospects because of the practical skills and social networks gained. Going on placement also helps you decide which career path to take.

Students who are studying at the School of Psychology not only enjoy studying psychology, but also find the years of university life a very rewarding experience. Undergraduate student life is rich in social, cultural and academic opportunities, and Cardiff is deservedly one of Wales’s most popular centres for social life, leisure, and entertainment.



Professor Petroc Sumner
Head of the School of Psychology

Why choose psychology?

What psychology is

“Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour, and it is a very broad discipline. While psychologists aim to explore questions you may associate with biology, such as how the brain works, they also ask questions that extend into society, such as how people behave in groups.”

Common misconceptions

“It is quite common for people to think of Freud or psychoanalysis when they hear of psychology. However, psychoanalysis is only a very small part of one slice of what makes up psychology as a whole. People also sometimes think that psychologists can look into your soul and analyse your deepest secrets. Whilst we try to understand how the

mind works, we aren't mind readers! It's also important to point out that psychology and psychotherapy are not the same thing. While some psychologists go on to become therapists or counsellors, most actually won't.”

Is psychology for you?

“If you are curious about what makes people tick, how our senses work, why criminals commit crimes, whether people are more intelligent than animals, how and what babies learn from their care-givers, the reasoning behind the decisions you make, what we can do to tackle prejudice and stereotypes... in short, if you are curious about how the mind works, then psychology is for you!”



Professor Marc Buehner – Director of Admissions and Recruitment



The course is rich with content and provides a broad range of topics in psychology, including clinical and mental health which interests me the most.

My favourite aspect of the course is its diversity. It has enabled me to find new sparks of interest in aspects of psychology that I hadn't heard of prior to starting on the course. Not only has my understanding of clinical psychology deepened, but I've now developed interests in research

and many other topics across the discipline.

Would I recommend studying at the School of Psychology? Yes and yes! It is deemed one of the leading schools in the country, and it's not surprising with its selection of academic tutors and access to CUBRIC - one of the UK's top neuroimaging and research centres.

Baz Van de Vegte, Psychology with Professional Placement (BSc)

Our driving simulator enables studies into human and machine interaction

About our School

Our teaching and research cover the entire spectrum of psychology.
This means you'll have opportunities to specialise in areas that most interest you.

Our teaching

Our teaching is informed by world-leading research and many of our teaching staff are leading experts in their fields. You will be taught by a group of friendly and experienced academics who will support you throughout your degree.

Lectures will form the backbone of your learning, with small group tutorials and seminars giving you the opportunity to go deeper and elaborate on what you have been taught in lectures. Theoretical knowledge, of course, needs to be supplemented with hands-on experience. Our practical classes and computing workshops will train you in all the skills you need to carry out independent research for your final year research project and beyond.

Our research

Our successful research environment positively contributes to your experience as an undergraduate student. Throughout your time with us, you'll be taught by researchers whose work delivers positive impact across the world. From award-winning firefighter decision-making research that led to a nationwide policy change, world-leading research informing environmental and climate policy, to producing the most detailed images of the brain, our broad research is supported through research centres, multi-disciplinary partnerships, and strong collaboration with users, industry, the NHS, charities and the public.

Our facilities

Along with our outstanding research facilities, we also have dedicated undergraduate facilities to ensure you have the best experience possible:

- Refurbished lecture theatres
- Undergraduate common room with modern and varied study space
- Computing lab
- Undergraduate research rooms adapted for multi-participant studies
- Interactive seminar rooms complete with smart displays
- Meeting/conference rooms.

Locations

We have three locations all situated in the heart of Cardiff. Each building is equipped with various facilities dedicated to specific areas of psychology – they're also all within walking distance of each other!

As an undergraduate student, the majority of your learning will take place at Tower Building – our main psychology hub – but it is possible that you will have classes or conduct studies at our centre for human developmental science (CUCHDS) or our brain research imaging centre (CUBRIC), which features one of Europe's most powerful MRI scanners.

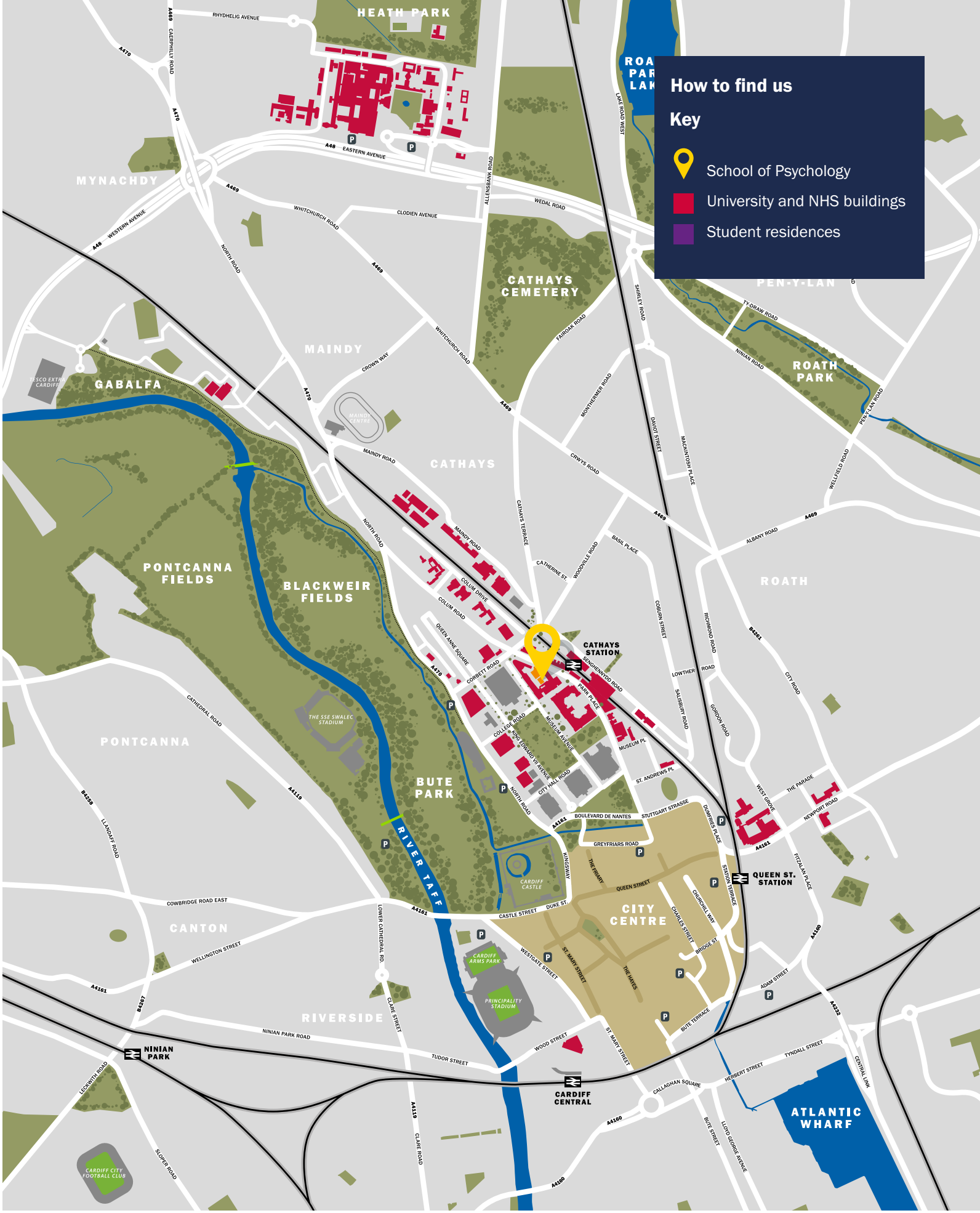


Watch

Experience one of our forensic psychology taster lectures with Professor Robert Snowden.



Undergraduate students using the study space in our foyer



How to find us

Key

- School of Psychology
- University and NHS buildings
- Student residences

Our degree programmes

Both our undergraduate programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and provide you with the opportunity to study in a dynamic, stimulating and research-led environment.

Our programmes:

- **Psychology (BSc)**
Three years
UCAS Code – C800
- **BSc Psychology with Professional Placement (BSc)**
Four years
UCAS code – C810

We offer a three-year degree in Psychology and a four-year degree in Psychology with Professional Placement. Both programmes follow the same academic curriculum, but the four-year programme involves a year between your second and final year where you embark upon your professional placement.

Small tutorial groups, lectures and regular practical sessions, such as interviewing, survey work, psychometric testing and experimental skills form the basis of learning on the programme. We also host frequent visits from leading British and overseas psychologists and all our teaching is informed by world-leading research.

Applied psychology is included as an integral part of our courses and opportunities to undertake research projects are widely available in a variety of settings, including schools, industry and hospitals. You are encouraged to develop your own areas of interest through a supervised project and final year option modules, which will help you to find employment or further professional training.

The School of Psychology Research Internship Programme (SPRIInt) provides the opportunity for you to take part in paid research projects over the summer vacation following your second year.

First and second years

Level 4 covers the first semester of the course and is designed to give you a sound foundation in psychology research and psychological thinking.

You will study three modules: Introduction to Psychology, Psychological Research, and Research Methods in Psychology. These will provide you with a well-rounded introduction to psychological research in areas including social, cognitive, biological, and abnormal psychology, as well as research on individual differences.

Psychological Research will introduce the principles of research design. Level 5 covers the next three semesters of the course. It places emphasis on critical thinking, as well as the ability to interpret and integrate research findings and psychological theories. You will study nine modules, each of which focuses on a particular area including developmental, cognitive, biological, abnormal, social, and perceptual psychology. Training in research design, statistics and computing continues during Level 5.

Professional placement

(Four-year degree)

This programme involves a placement year between your second and final year where you can discover how psychology is applied in a professional setting.

There are a wide range of placements in areas including clinical psychology, forensic psychology, occupational psychology and in other psychology informed settings, such as the police force and the probation and prison services. The placement year can provide you with invaluable experience and can make you more competitive when applying for jobs or further courses of study. Placement positions are mainly chosen from opportunities that we provide, but you can also find your own placement with the approval of the School.

Final year

You choose from a range of modules which focus on specific aspects of the subject or current theoretical approaches, and which are likely to change from year to year. A complete list of these final year option modules will be made available to you in your second year. Examples that may be offered are Developmental Psychopathology in Childhood and Adolescents, Animal Learning and Cognition, Decision Making, Attitudes and Attitude Change, Active Vision, Behavioural Genetics, Research Methods in Developmental Psychology, Emotion: Social and Neuroscience Perspectives, Neuroscience of Learning and Memory, Human Factors Psychology, Evidence based Health Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Forensic Psychology: Violence and Crime, Memory Processes and Memory Disorders. You will also work throughout your final year on a research project, where you design and undertake an empirical investigation. Your research project is supervised by a member of staff who has expertise in the area that your project covers.

Assessment

There is a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Prizes are awarded to the best performing students.



The British
Psychological Society
Accredited



I have loved studying Psychology at Cardiff University. I have found the course to be well structured, packed with loads of interesting content, and delivered by enthusiastic lecturers. There is a great mix of modules covering all areas required for BPS accreditation, with final year being a great chance to focus on other content more in depth.

The lecturers are truly interested

in their work, and love engaging with students either in lectures or interacting through the online discussion board. I would definitely recommend studying Psychology at Cardiff University because the supportive and enriching environment provided by the school has enabled me to not only achieve, but to thrive.

Seren Norman, Psychology with Professional Placement (BSc)

A decision making tutorial in the mock incident command room

Placement experiences

Hear from some of our students on the BSc Psychology with Professional Placement programme about their experiences on placement.



Name: Gwen Ong

Where was your placement?

Rhodes Wood Hospital

What was your role there – what were some typical activities you engaged in?

My work was closely similar and mirrored those of an Assistant Psychologist. I was responsible for administering questionnaires, scoring, formulating and writing report summaries for all outcome

measures in the hospital. In addition, I was involved in group therapy sessions and activities, such as emotional skills training and creative groups.

This placement was able to provide a balanced experience for both clinical and research work for me. I was engaged in group therapy sessions where I supported young people to engage in therapeutic activities such as emotional skills training, arts and crafts, and more recently, cognitive remediation therapy. Throughout my time at placement, I was also invited to attend research forums and meetings both internally and externally. Where it was internal, I was involved in the psychology department's research meetings where everyone would come together to discuss further what we could research in relation to the specific disorder.

What did you enjoy most about your placement?

The opportunities were boundless, and my organisation always invited me to get involved in more as long as I was not feeling excessively overwhelmed.

What aspect of your placement do you think was useful for your future career development?

Being able to be given an opportunity like that is hard to come by, I worked hard for this placement and I think it would be absolutely helpful in any way you can think of! It is that precious. But realistically, if you are looking to work in a clinical setting/ furthering your studies even more in the future, or even if you are unsure, this would be an amazing taster for you. I think this placement has made me more curious, I have more questions which I think would aid me in studying better and it has also given me work experience, even before graduating! It has prepared me for work in the future as I am now able to understand the clinical environment better which definitely cannot be learnt theoretically. I learned something new every day, not just about disorders and its comorbidities but even about myself. The challenges I faced throughout my placement have also helped me learn how to manage and regulate my own emotions in a professional setting.



Name: Petrina Ding

Where was your placement?

Merton Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) under the NHS

What was your role there – what were some typical activities you engaged in?

My role at the organisation was as a Placement Psychology Student and my main

duties included information gathering for case reviews, case report and referral letter writing, minute taking in multi-disciplinary team meetings, scoring neurodevelopmental screening forms, observing assessments, observing medical reviews and observing therapeutic sessions. In most of my roles in observing sessions, I was also involved in writing up the clinical notes for each of the sessions. The clinicians in charge of the individual cases always reviewed my work and this provided me with valuable feedback on how to improve on my skills and gave me a clinician's insight into the inner-workings of various cases.

What did you enjoy most about your placement?

My placement gave me a great insight into the working lives of practicing clinicians and taught me a lot about how mental health services are run in the UK. I worked in a close-knit team and was allowed plenty of opportunities to discuss cases with a

wide-range of professionals (ie: family therapist, school nurses, clinical psychologists, CBT specialist, psychiatrists). Also, being able to meet with all the different young people who came in contact with the service was a really wonderful experience and I've learned a lot from them as well.

What aspect of your placement do you think was useful for your future career development?

The insight gained into the working lives of clinical psychologists and the skills used on a daily basis to engage with clients. Being able to observe the way the clinicians managed the risks involved with cases and how they carried themselves in assessments taught me a lot about professionalism and human sensitivity. The members of the team were also really forthcoming in sharing their experiences of how they have made it to where they are today (career wise) and gave me more knowledge about the different ways I can pursue my desired career.

Name: Gabriela Caganda

Where was your placement?

Meath School, Surrey

What was your role there – what were some typical activities you engaged in?

I was an intern at Meath School in Surrey and worked in 3 different departments: the assessment centre, school, and residential. At the assessment centre, I worked alongside a specialist speech and language therapist, educational psychologist, and specialist teacher in assessing children whose needs must be addressed in order to place them in the most suitable school possible.

As an intern at the school, I worked as a learning support assistant by supporting the students' needs and giving them guidance in the classroom, whilst the teacher is teaching. At the care department, I helped look after the children who board in the school by joining them at after-school clubs, serving them dinner, bathing them and putting them to bed.

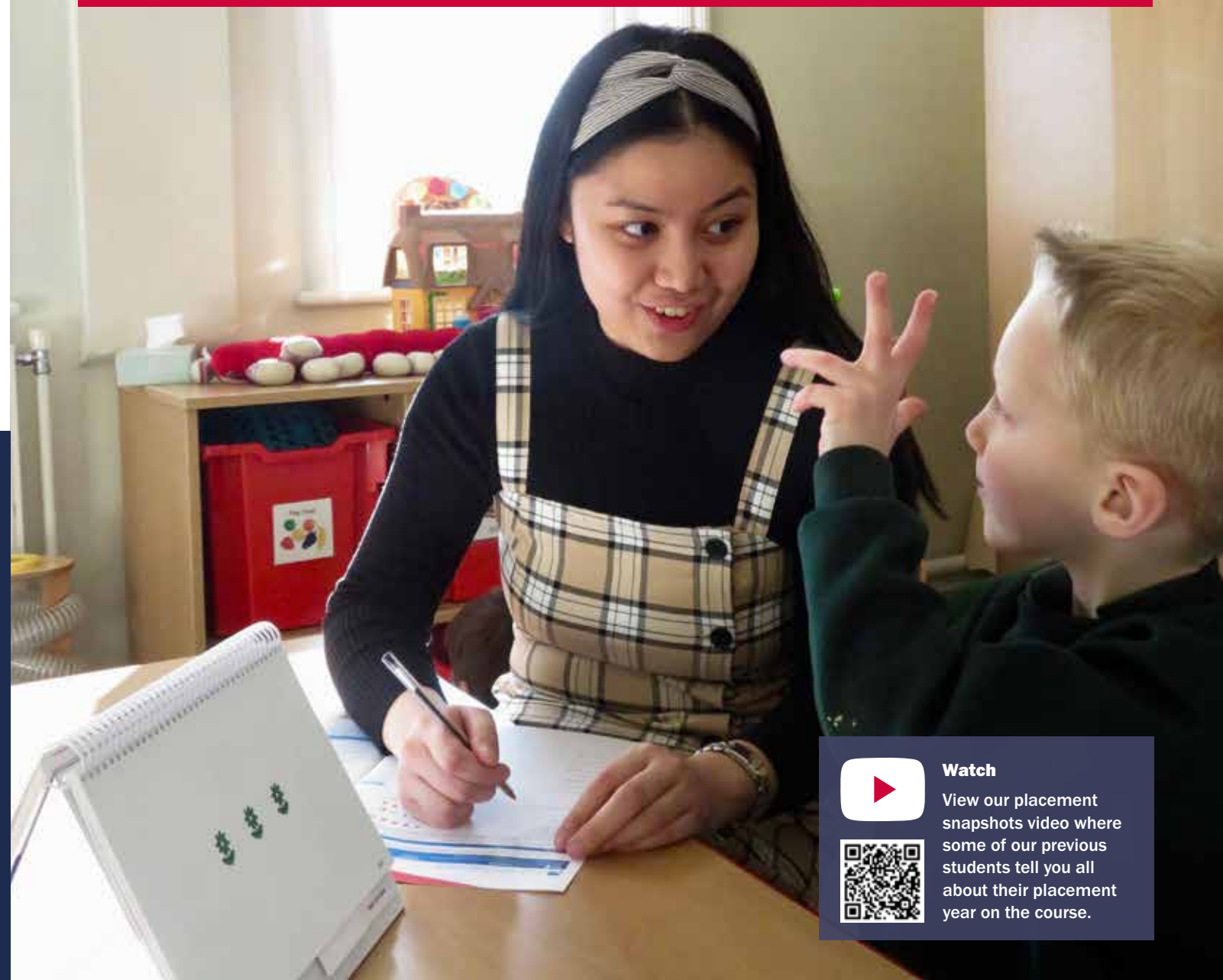
What did you enjoy most about your placement?

I enjoyed my placement for various reasons, but the reason I most enjoyed it was because I worked in a multidisciplinary environment. I was exposed to different fields of expertise, all relevant to my undergraduate degree, which gave me a clearer picture of what

my potential career path may veer towards. I also love working with children, which made my job very enjoyable.

What aspect of your placement do you think was useful for your future career development?

At the assessment centre, I was able to assess the children myself by giving them some subtests of the assessment booklet with the supervision of the official assessor, either the speech and language therapist or educational psychologist. My job at the assessment centre was very hands-on which enabled me to gain an invaluable insight into the roles of a speech and language therapist and an educational psychologist - which are my two potential career paths at the moment.



Watch

View our placement snapshots video where some of our previous students tell you all about their placement year on the course.



Careers

Psychologists apply the science of mind and behaviour to solve real-world problems.

A career in psychology is not only exciting, challenging and rewarding, but it also allows you to choose to specialise in a wide range of fascinating areas that fall under the discipline.

Psychologists are employed in a variety of sectors including education, health, and social services. Depending on your interests you may want to go on to become a clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist, health psychologist, occupational psychologist,

sports, neuro or educational psychologist, counsellor, researcher or academic.

For many of these pathways, appropriate postgraduate training is essential. This is why many of our graduates go on to continue their studies and also why it is important that both of our School's programmes are recognised by the British Psychological Society.

A psychology degree is favoured by many potential employers because it reflects a

university education which not only develops analytical skills, critical thinking and literacy but also numeracy and quantitative skills.



Explore the different career options available to you as a psychology graduate in our Psychology Careers playlist on YouTube.



Students conducting clinical psychology role play with children



The course has covered such a broad range of content I've been able to easily identify my interests and it has been satisfying to build increasingly well-rounded knowledge on concepts in second year that were briefly touched upon in first year. The lecturers are engaging and passionate about what they teach and are always willing to help.

The university's emphasis on supporting students' careers and employability is particularly important to me as I wanted to do a placement year. The course modules also looked really appealing, and Cardiff to me had the best city feeling- lots of things going on, but it wasn't too big or small.

Emmanuelle Camus, Psychology with Professional Placement (BSc)



Entry requirements

To be considered for entry onto any of our undergraduate courses, please apply through UCAS.

Typical entry requirements

These typical requirements are for guidance.

- **Psychology (BSc)**
- **Psychology with Professional Placement (BSc)**

A-levels

A*AA – AAB (Applicants with grade A in the EPQ/IPQ will typically receive an offer one grade lower than the standard A level offer.)

WBA

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Challenge Certificate) will be accepted in lieu of one A-Level (at the grades listed above).

IB

37-34 overall including 6 in one HL subject or 766-666 in 3 HL subjects.

BTEC

D*DD-DDD in a BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied or Forensic Science. We will consider BTECs in alternative subjects alongside other academic qualifications and any relevant work or

volunteer experience.

GCSE Maths

GCSE Maths grade B/6 or equivalent qualifications.

GCSE English Language

English language or Welsh language at GCSE grade B/6.

International Students

We welcome applications from international students and accept a wide range of qualifications. Please check our course pages for information about your country.



A student taking part in an experiment in our Igloo immersive dome that enables video and programmed simulation scenarios

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2023 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in January 2023. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.



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on to a friend or leaving it in your careers library for others to use.

Thank you.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

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To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:

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To find out more about
the School of Psychology
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Student life

Got questions about student life?
Get them answered at:

**[www.cardiff.ac.uk/
studentbloggers](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/studentbloggers)**

Want to know more about life at
Cardiff University? Our student
bloggers are recording their
experiences and are happy to
answer your questions.

Our student bloggers are real
students studying on a range of
courses. They are here to answer
any questions you have about life at
Cardiff University. What's a typical
day like? What clubs and societies
are there? Is Cardiff's music scene
any good? It can be almost anything.