



Module code	ACP	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

# Advanced Cognitive Psychology

## Module description

This module builds on previous study in cognitive psychology, developing students understanding of the theories, models and research of both cognitive psychology and the study of the biological processes which underlie mental processes.

This field is known as cognitive neuropsychology and research and developments in this area are driven by techniques such as brain imaging, pharmacological studies, patient-based lesion studies and computational modelling approaches. Students will study these theories and techniques which are instrumental to our understanding of the mechanisms which determine human behaviour and brain dysfunction.

Students will also obtain an appreciation for the historical aspects of neuropsychology so that they might better understand the development of how psychology and other professions have hypothesised about the brain's structure and function over time.

## This module aims to:

- Develop students':
  - knowledge of the models, theories and research of cognitive psychology and neuropsychology
  - critical analysis of recent developments in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuropsychology
  - knowledge of advanced research methods in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuropsychology
  - experience of writing a research proposal before data collection and analysis

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of cognitive psychology
- make links between the history of cognitive psychology and contemporary developments in cognitive psychology and neuropsychology
- critically evaluate the contribution that cognitive psychology and cognitive neuropsychology have made to our understanding of the mechanisms which determine human behavior and brain dysfunction
- create a research proposal which addresses an application of cognitive neuropsychology to a chosen research problem

## Syllabus

- Foundations of cognitive neuropsychology
- Neuropsychology techniques
- Specific brain functions - e.g. object and spatial processing, attention, executive processes, memory, consciousness, language and communication, motor control
- Brain injury and neurorehabilitation
- Contemporary breakthroughs in neuropsychology

## Learning and teaching methods

The pedagogical approach for this module is informed through the principles of collaborative enquiry, constructionism and scientific apprenticeship.

Collaborative enquiry is supported through our internet-mediated learning platform that aims to develop a learning community and support dialogue and collaboration between students. This is encouraged through online peer discussion and debate to construct a unique learning experience that enhances students' subject understanding through social interactions and empowers them to explain their understandings, and receive feedback from tutors and peers.

Learning through scientific apprenticeship will take place through the integration of scientific knowledge, principles and experience into the practical application of the scientific research proposal.

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Essay	1,200 words	Mid module	30%
Research proposal	2,000 words	End of module	70%