



Module code	DS	NQF level	6
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

# Developmental Science

## Module description

This module is the advanced study of human development in the areas of neuroscience, perception, cognition, language, emotion and social interaction.

Students will engage with the technical aspects of developmental research, including the design, measurement and analysis issues in developmental research.

Students will also adopt a cross cultural perspective, examining historical and culture issues through topics such as physical and motor development.

## This module aims to:

- Develop students':
  - understanding of the history of the field of developmental science
  - critical thinking about human development by examining the developmental process from multiple perspectives
  - knowledge of the key research methodologies used in the study of developmental science

## Learning outcomes

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

- evaluate critically human development from multiple perspectives
- critically evaluate advances in human developmental science
- apply this knowledge to the analysis of the etiology and management of developmental disorders
- write a reflective statement

## Syllabus

- The history and foundations of developmental science
- Neuroscience, perceptual, cognitive and language development
- Personality, temperament and the social constructs of development
- Children and the law

## 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.

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
Collaborative learning question: Post a 500-word response to a tutor posed question. Respond to one of your peer's posts (350 words per response). Your answers must be evidence based and supported with psychological literature.	850 words	Continuous	30%
Essay	3,000 words	End of module	70%