

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

Individual Differences, Emotions and Behaviour

Module description

This module expands student's knowledge of individual differences; a branch of psychology that seeks to explain why people differ from one another and how it is possible to measure those differences. The study of personality and intelligence explores the topics of mood, motivation and how those constructs influence behaviour.

Students will critically analyse the methods of individual differences as well as build on their understanding of the principles of psychometrics which is the measurement of mental capacities and processes and fundamental to this field of psychology.

This module aims to:

- Develop students':
 - critical thinking in the field of individual differences
 - practical skills in the techniques that are fundamental to the study of individual differences
 - research skills by administering and analyzing data from the International Personality Item Pool

Learning outcomes

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

- critically evaluate approaches to the theory and measurement of individual differences
- appraise the link between measurement in individual differences and the prediction of behaviour
- demonstrate application of this knowledge through the analysis and interpretation of data from the International Personality Item Pool
- demonstrate understanding of the basic principles of experimental design

Syllabus

- Individual differences in the 21st century
- Reliability and validity
- Item and factor analysis
- Personality and intelligence
- Mood and motivation
- Predicting behaviour over lifespan
- The genetic determinants of personality

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 scientific communication.

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 two of your peer's posts (300 words per response). Your answers must be evidence based and supported with psychological literature.	1,100 words	Continuous	30%
Scientific report	2,000 words	End of module	70%