

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

Psychological Development through the Lifespan

Module description

This module explores the major developmental milestones from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Students will examine the principles of cognitive, social, biological, and emotional psychology with the aim of understanding the impact of developmental stages on human behaviour. Students will examine the critical milestones in human development from birth to adulthood, through the lens of cultural diversity.

This module aims to:

- Develop students':
 - critical understanding of the major theories that offer interpretation and evaluation of the milestones in human development
 - cross-cultural appreciation of the developmental milestones from birth to end of life and their biological, social, and psychological implications
 - knowledge of the key research methodologies used in the study of lifespan development

Learning outcomes

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

- evaluate critically the major principles and methods of lifespan development
- apply knowledge and thinking to cultural questions in the psychology of lifespan development
- apply this knowledge to a problem in contemporary society
- critically evaluate adulthood

Syllabus

- Genetics and development
- Ethics in developmental psychology
- Physical development
- Emotional and social development
- Cognitive development

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 to a contemporary societal issue.

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 (250 words per response). Your answers must be evidence based and supported with psychological literature.	1,000 words	Continuous	30%
Essay	2,200 words	End of module	70%