Graduate Diploma in Psychology (PY08)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 036434K
Course duration (full-time): 2 semesters
Course duration (part-time): 4 semesters (may not be available by evening study)
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: Full fee tuition $9,250 (indicative) per semester
International Fees (indicative): 2010: $10,750 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February (full-time and part-time) and July (part-time only)
International Entry: February
Total credit points: 96
Course coordinator: Dr Julie Hansen
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Overview
The Graduate Diploma in Psychology provides an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited undergraduate level of training in psychology, which can be added to a previous degree in another discipline. That is, this qualification is graduate level in timing, but undergraduate level in content, and qualifies students to apply for entry into an accredited fourth year, either the Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours Psychology) program or the Post Graduate Diploma in Psychology. Entry into these fourth year programs is competitive and normally requires a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 5 in the Graduate Diploma.

Entry requirements
An undergraduate degree plus successful completion of an introductory psychology unit (QUT equivalent PYB101, PYB102 or PYB100) and an introductory research and statistics unit (for example PYB110) equivalent to those accredited in the first year of QUT’s Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) degree.

International Student Entry
QUT advises that international students may only enrol in February in full-time studies.

Further Information
For more information about this course, please contact the School of Psychology and Counselling on +617 3138 4520 or email psyc.enquiries@qut.edu.au

Full-Time Course Structure

Year 1, Semester 1
PYB202 Social and Organisational Psychology
PYB210 Research Design and Data Analysis
PYB304 Physiological Psychology
PYB309 Individual Differences and Assessment

Year 1, Semester 2
PYB203 Developmental Psychology
PYB204 Perception and Cognition
PYB306 Psychopathology
Level 3 Psychology Elective*

Electives
PYB350 Advanced Statistical Analysis
*** PYB350 is compulsory for entry to 4th year programs in psychology (eg Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours Psychology) and Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology)
PYB302 Industrial and Organisational Psychology
PYB307 Health Psychology
PYB356 Counselling Theory and Practice 2
PYB358 Advanced Developmental Psychology
PYB359 Introduction to Family Therapy
PYB360 Interventions for Addictive Behaviours
PYB372 Traffic Psychology and Behaviour
PYB374 Applying Traffic Psychology
Electives are available in first or second semester but not both

Part-Time Course Structure

Year 1, Semester 1
PYB202 Social and Organisational Psychology
PYB210 Research Design and Data Analysis

Year 1, Semester 2
PYB203 Developmental Psychology
PYB204 Perception and Cognition

Year 2, Semester 1
PYB304 Physiological Psychology
PYB309 Individual Differences and Assessment

Year 2, Semester 2
PYB306 Psychopathology
Level 3 Psychology Elective*
## Level 3 Psychology Electives

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## Part-Time Course Structure - Mid-year intake

### Year 1, Semester 2

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### Year 2, Semester 1

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**** PYB350 is compulsory for entry to 4th year programs in psychology (eg Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours Psychology) and Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology)*

### Health Unit prerequisites/corequisites

For information on prereqs & coreqs visit: [www.hlth.qut.edu.au/study/forcurrentstudents/](http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/study/forcurrentstudents/)

## UNIT SYNOPSISES

### PYB202 Social and Organisational Psychology

*People are social beings. Their thoughts, feelings and actions are influenced by the real, imagined or implied presence of others. To obtain greater insight into people's behaviour, it is essential to investigate scientifically the relationship between the individual and the group. We will study the effects of the individual within the group and the group within the individual and also consider the influence of these processes in the organisational setting.*

**Prerequisites:** PYB100, PYB102 or PYB101  
**Equivalents:** PYB205  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

### PYB203 Developmental Psychology

*This unit provides an introduction to life span developmental psychology. It unit covers the major theories of life span development and includes biological, social and cognitive aspects of development from birth through to old age. It emphasises the interdependency of all aspects of development and the importance of the physical, family, socio-cultural and historical contexts within which development occurs. The unit aims to develop the student's understanding of general patterns of human development and of the ways in which the development of particular individuals and groups may vary from these general patterns.*

**Prerequisites:** PYB012, PYB101, PYB102 or PYB100  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

### PYB204 Perception and Cognition

*Cognitive psychology is a major empirical and theoretical area of psychology which explores the processes and structures involved at each stage of information processing within the brain. The structures and processes involved in perception provide the brain with its basic information about both the external world and many of the current states of the*
individual. Higher level cognitive processes and structures provide the foundation upon which more complex aspects of behaviour are based. The unit is placed in second semester of second year so that students following the normal course structure have an adequate background in research design and data analysis.

**Prerequisites:** (PYB100 or PYB101 or PYB102) and PYB110  
**Equivalents:** PYB303  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PYB210 RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS**

This unit takes an hypothesis testing approach to data analysis. This means that statistical analysis is treated as one step in a larger process which also includes formulating theoretically sound predictions, designing a suitable experiment to test the predictions, selecting the appropriate statistics to test the predictions, calculating and interpreting the required statistics, and reporting the outcomes in the correct way. This unit provides the student with the knowledge and skills required to do these tasks with respect to two types of prediction, differences between means and relationships between sets of scores.

**Prerequisites:** PYB110  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PYB306 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY**

The unit provides an introduction to problems in psychological functioning and reviews research and theory relating to the major classes of mental disorder identified in DSM-IV, the diagnostic and classification manual most frequently employed in Australia and the United States. An integrated approach to the understanding of psychopathology is emphasised, highlighting the reciprocal influence of biological, psychological and social factors on behaviour.

**Prerequisites:** PYB012, PYB101, PYB102 or PYB100  
**Assumed knowledge:** Successful completion of all first and second year units is assumed knowledge.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PYB307 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY**

This unit examines the psychological dimension of physical illness, health, and health care. There is a strong focus on health psychology in an Australian context with particular emphasis on cross-cultural and indigenous health-related issues. The unit examines definitions of health and health psychology; the role of health psychology; the determinants of health behaviours (e.g., cognitive, attitudinal, motivational, personality, social, developmental); medical settings and patient behaviour; patient and practitioner communication; stress, illness, and coping; pain and pain management; chronic and terminal illness in childhood and adulthood.

**Prerequisites:** PYB100, PYB101 or PYB102  
**Assumed knowledge:** Successful completion of all first and second year units is assumed knowledge.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PYB309 INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AND ASSESSMENT**

Individuals differ on a broad range of characteristics that are influenced by many factors including culture, sex, intelligence, personality, life experiences and values. There are a number of ways, within the discipline of psychology, to conceptualise and explain these differences. In this unit we introduce the major theories that underpin explanations of individual differences and the ways in which those who hold to different perspectives seek to measure the various constructs. Important properties of measurement tools such as reliability and validity will also be covered as well as the utility and applicability of various measures.

**Prerequisites:** PYB100, PYB101 or PYB102  
**Assumed knowledge:** Successful completion of all first and second year units is assumed knowledge.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1
PYB350 ADVANCED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
The unit provides students considering further study in psychology with a thorough grounding in analysis of variance techniques, an introduction to multiple regression, and the data analysis tools used in a broad range of research designs in the social sciences. The unit extends the introduction to analysis of variance and regression provided in PYB210, considering more complex designs involving two or more independent variables. The unit is both theoretical (including the use of conceptual formulae to analyse simple data sets by hand) and practical (analysing data sets using the SPSS statistical package), giving students a firm understanding of the principles underlying each analysis.
Prerequisites: PYB210 Credit points: 12 Contact hours: 3 per week Campus: Kelvin Grove Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PYB356 COUNSELLING THEORY AND PRACTICE 2
This unit focuses on the common facilitative factors within a counselling process paying attention to the person of the therapist and the counselling relationship. In order to respond appropriately and therapeutically to the needs of their clients, counsellors must have a clear understanding of the social and interactive processes which occur. Consideration of verbal, non-verbal, social, emotional, gender, psychological and social dimensions enables counsellors to develop effective, functional and client-focused relationships and to control biases, needs and possible exploitive practices.
Prerequisites: PYB208 Credit points: 12 Contact hours: 3 per week Campus: Kelvin Grove Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

PYB358 ADVANCED DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
In this unit, the focus is on child development, with an emphasis on the infant and the child up to adolescence. Students review images of children and the unfolding of their cognitive abilities within the cadre of theories of cognitive development. Among the areas studied are the nature and development of memory, the development of numerical thinking, and children's ability to understand another's view of the world. In addition to these topics a substantial part of the unit is concerned with the acquisition (both normal and atypical) of language, including the acquisition of language in the bilingual child.
Prerequisites: PYB203 Credit points: 12 Contact hours: 3 per week Campus: Kelvin Grove

PYB359 INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY THERAPY
Family therapy, based on a systemic or relationship understanding of human problems, has been one of the most significant influences in the fields of counselling and psychology in recent times. With the increasing emphasis on the family as a focus for social policy, support services, research, and intervention, it is important for counsellors and psychologists to have some familiarity with the basic concepts and skills of this broad approach. This unit focuses on providing basic skills and concepts from one particular approach which will be called 'Constructive Therapy', combining aspects of solution-focused therapy, possibility therapy, narrative therapy and reflecting team practice.
Prerequisites: PYB208 Credit points: 12 Contact hours: 3 per week Campus: Kelvin Grove Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PYB360 INTERVENTIONS FOR ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS
Addictive behaviours, in the form of alcohol-dependence, substance abuse and gambling, are recognised as major problems nationally and internationally. This unit focuses predominantly on psychological aspects of addictive behaviours. To establish a framework for learning, classes initially review issues relating to psychological models of addiction and methods of studying addictive behaviours. Issues pertaining to the symptomatology, etiology and assessment of addictive behaviours, as well as the theoretical underpinnings of a range of therapeutic interventions are also discussed. This unit encourages critical thinking and analysis with the aim of enhancing students' understanding of the complex issues relating to management of addictive behaviours.
Prerequisites: PYB159 or PYB158 or PYB260 or NSB223 Credit points: 12 Contact hours: 1 week intensive between semesters 1 & 2 Campus: Kelvin Grove Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PYB372 TRAFFIC PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR
This unit reviews the wide range of factors that influence the behaviour of road users, particularly those that contribute to the incidence of road crashes or exacerbate their severity. It considers all types of road users, including motor vehicle drivers and passengers, motorcycle riders, cyclists and pedestrians. The student examines a range of theoretical models which have been used to explain the behaviour of road users.
Assumed knowledge: Successful completion of all first and second year units is assumed knowledge. Credit points: 12 Contact hours: 3 per week Campus: Kelvin Grove Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

PYB374 APPLYING TRAFFIC PSYCHOLOGY
This unit reviews the various strategies and programs designed to modify road user behaviour. Effective and ineffective approaches are compared, in order to identify the key characteristics of successful programs. While this is a stand-alone unit, it extends many of the theoretical and practical issues covered in PYB372 -Understanding Road User Behaviour.
Assumed knowledge: Successful completion of all first and second year units is assumed knowledge. Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2