

# Exchange Students' Guide to selecting Psychology classes at the University of Strathclyde

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## Visiting Glasgow

- \* The University of Strathclyde is situated in Scotland's largest city: Glasgow.
- \* Glasgow is a fantastic city to visit and is renowned for its friendly and welcoming people as well as its architecture, shopping, museums, restaurants and bars.
- \* To find out more about the city please use the links below

Visit Scotland: Glasgow - <http://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/glasgow-p237531>

Visiting: Glasgow City Council - <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15899>

People Make Glasgow: <https://peoplemakeglasgow.com/>

## What classes are available to me?

- You can select from a wide range of classes that cater to a range of abilities, from beginners to more experienced psychology students. You must take **60 credits** which equates to 3 classes. These classes do not all have to be psychology classes. However, you should ensure that psychology classes comprise >50% of your credits.
- An up-to-date list of available psychology classes can be found here: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/psychologicalscienceshealth/psychology/studywithus/internationalstudents/> Simply click on the links to view the class statements. Most classes run only during semester 1 OR semester 2, but C8203 is a year-long module running in both semesters. **You must take this into account when selecting classes.**
- The university class catalogue contains a list of every available psychology class. Some classes do not run every year and so it is better to use the above link to select classes to ensure you are not disappointed.

## Which classes should I choose?

- \* You should take into account your level of previous experience with psychology. Try to select classes that match your current level of study. If you have not taken any psychology classes before then you should take a level 1 or perhaps level 2 class. Level 3 classes will require background knowledge – you may consider them only if you have studied some psychology modules in your home university).

- \* **IMPORTANT:** You should also consider your experience with statistics/SPSS/research report writing. Many assessments in **Level 2 classes and above** require you to have a good mastery of research and statistical skills. In previous years, many students who had no prior experience conducting statistical analyses (e.g., t-test, ANOVA, correlation) and writing research report have found themselves struggling with the class assessments. Please note that the department **does NOT provide individualised support** with statistics and research skills. You should expect substantial, unguided self-learning above and beyond the class content if you are unfamiliar with research report write-up.
- \* You can figure out the level of any psychology class from the class code: level 1 classes start C81xx; level 2 classes start C82xx, level 3 classes start C83xx, etc. (with very few exceptions).
- \* What about level 4 classes? We do not recommend visiting students to select level 4 classes. First, each level 4 class has different pre-requisites, but most require level 3 psychology classes being taken. Second, the list of level 4 classes available changes every year. For curriculum planning purposes, your choice will not be confirmed until the beginning of the semester. Therefore, you cannot select classes with a class code beginning C84xx
- \* Use the class statements: on the website (<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/psychologicalscienceshealth/psychology/studywithus/internationalstudents/>) you will find links to every class statement in previous years. While the class content may not be 100% identical to that listed in the class statements, these documents provide an outline of teaching and assessment in the class that should give a good indication of whether the class is appropriate for you or not.
- \* Be aware that if you select classes from different levels, e.g. one level 2 class and two level 3 classes, there is a possibility that there will be a timetable clash. If you select classes from the same level, e.g. three level 3 classes, there will be no such timetable clash.
- \* You can also select non-psychology classes. Check the class catalogue (<https://ben.mis.strath.ac.uk/modulecatalogue/#/>) to help you identify suitable classes. Note that you will need to confirm with the host department that this class is open to exchange students before including the class in your curriculum.
- \* If you are still unsure, use the infographics at the end of the document to guide your decision-making. You can also get in touch with the academic advisor for international psychology students, Dr Dwight Tse: [dwight.tse@strath.ac.uk](mailto:dwight.tse@strath.ac.uk)

## Can I change my classes?

- All students are asked to complete a curriculum choice form/learning agreement prior to arrival at Strathclyde. This is a provisional list of your selected classes and can be changed if necessary.
- You can change classes in the first two weeks of the semester through our online portal 'Pegasus'. It is much better, however, to make sensible and informed choices before you arrive because changing classes once term has begun can be very disruptive.
- Occasionally, it is necessary to change classes because you may discover that the class you have chosen is too advanced, replicates a class you have already taken at your home university, or is not available. It is important to make staff aware of this as early as possible so that changes can be made without disrupting your studies too much.

## How will I be assessed?

- Most level 1, 2 and 3 psychology classes use a mixture of continuous assessment (practical report/essay etc.) and final exam.
- A general rule of thumb is that elements of continuous assessment contribute 30-40% towards the final mark and the exam contributes 60-70% towards the final mark.
- On arrival, you will be provided with guides to essay and report writing to help you complete coursework.
- \* There are two exam periods at the University of Strathclyde: December for semester 1 classes, and April and May for semester 2 classes.
- \* You should ensure that you are available to take the end of term exams at Strathclyde. Please do not return home before the exams having not told anyone.
- \* If you cannot be here in December/April–May to sit the end of term exam, please notify Dr Dwight Tse ([dwight.tse@strath.ac.uk](mailto:dwight.tse@strath.ac.uk)).

## Who will be able to help if I need advice?

- Before you arrive at Strathclyde you should have had contact with the academic advisor for visiting students, Dwight Tse.

- On arrival, an induction session will be arranged. Details will be sent to your email address so please check regularly for updates.

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- Dwight will be your academic point of contact throughout your stay and will be happy to provide advice and support.

### Get in touch

- I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions about psychology classes please email [dwight.tse@strath.ac.uk](mailto:dwight.tse@strath.ac.uk)
- If you have any questions about the application process please email the Recruitment and International office: [international@strath.ac.uk](mailto:international@strath.ac.uk)
- For further information on studying at Strathclyde please visit the Recruitment and International office website: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/rio/>
- We look forward to welcoming you to the University of Strathclyde

## Appendix: Infographics for class selection



