



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# First Arts Psychology

## A Guide for Students 2024-2025

**This is an important document. Please save to your laptop/phone and bring it with you to lectures and tutorial sessions throughout the year. This guide includes useful guidelines for your modules, assignments and resources that are available to our students. Essentially, everything you need to know about First Year Psychology at University of Galway.**

*The contribution of all members of staff in the School of Psychology is gratefully acknowledged.*

**Disclaimer:** While every effort is made to ensure that the contents of this *Guide* are accurate, the *Guide* is issued for general guidance only. Students are referred to the *University General Calendar* for information on regulations regarding University courses.

### First year queries

Do you have questions about the First Year Programme? Due to the very large number of students who take psychology, and the number of staff who are involved in delivery of the programme, we would request that you contact us in the first instance at the following e-mail address: [1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie). Your query will then be passed to the relevant staff member who will respond as soon as possible.

## Support Services for Students in University of Galway



There are a wide variety of **free, completely confidential** services available to University of Galway students, including the Student Counselling Service, the Student Health Unit, and the Disability Support Service. There are also excellent courses on study and other key skills that are offered by Student Counselling and the Student's Union.

If you need to, don't hesitate to make contact with these services – many students do so every year. The services are there to help you and make your experience at College a much better one.

You can find contact details for all Student Services here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/student-support/> (copy and paste into a browser)

If you are having a hard time at college, feeling stuck, or low, please know that this is a very common experience – **you are not alone**. We are here to help you in any way that we can, but we can't support you unless we know as soon as possible that you need help. Most students feel very relieved to tell someone if they're struggling, having personal or academic difficulties, and they realize that there's a lot we can do for them.

You can contact the first year team at any time. We often refer students to counselling or the health unit and give advice on supports. Requests for assistance and supports can also be sent in confidence to **1bpsychology@universityofgalway.ie**

## WELCOME, AND A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY...

We would like to offer you a very warm welcome to the School of Psychology at University of Galway. As a student of Psychology, you are following in the footsteps of thousands of others who have studied at University of Galway since the early 1970s. Our founding Head of School, Professor Martin McHugh, was the first person to be awarded a psychology degree on the Island of Ireland, and both Professor McHugh and Mr Séamus McLoone (another important colleague who played a pivotal role in the School's early days) were founders of the Psychological Society of Ireland – Ireland's professional body for psychologists. Professor McHugh was the very first President of the Society.



*The late Prof. Martin McHugh at the Psychological Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, 2010*

The Department of Psychology (as it was previously known) has been located in various spaces on and off campus, including College Road, the building that now hosts the Huston Film School, and St Anthony's on the North Campus. In the past decade, we moved into a permanent purpose-built facility on the South Campus, located right beside the Arts Millennium Building. This Psychology building houses the offices of all of our academic, administrative, research, and technical staff; as well as extensive laboratory and research facilities.

In September 2021, we marked another important milestone, introducing a **new four-year BSc degree in Psychology**, replacing the three-year BA Psychology degree that has been in place since the School was first established.



*School of Psychology building on the main campus*

We're really looking forward to meeting you all and being a part of your important first-year journey at University of Galway. We want to make sure that your experience of studying Psychology is rich and rewarding, and we also realise that your physical and psychological wellbeing is extremely important; please know that we're available to support you throughout the year, so keep in touch with us, whether you have a question about the course or you're feeling overwhelmed (we've met students with so many different challenges and circumstances over the years, so you're not going to shock or bother us in any way).

Here's to a wonderful year of learning and flourishing!

Your First-Year Psychology Team

## THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

**Head of School:** Dr Pádraig MacNeela

**First Year Coordinators:**

Dr Jenny Groarke ([jenny.groarke@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:jenny.groarke@universityofgalway.ie) )

Dr Mike Hogan ([michael.hogan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:michael.hogan@universityofgalway.ie))

Dr Kate Dawson ([kdawson@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:kdawson@universityofgalway.ie) )

**First Year Administrator:** Ms Miriam Lohan ([1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie))

**CÉIM Coordinator:** Dr Kate Dawson ([kdawson@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:kdawson@universityofgalway.ie) )

**School Website:** [www.universityofgalway.ie/psy](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/psy)

**First year dedicated email for all queries:** [1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie)

Members of academic staff are happy to be available to assist and advise students as much as possible. Their availability, however, is limited by their other duties. Apart from lecturing to First, Second and Third Arts students and to students taking taught postgraduate programmes, staff have several other time-consuming commitments. These include carrying out and disseminating research; supervising MA and PhD students; attending regular meetings of the faculties and faculty committees.

In these circumstances, students who wish to meet members of staff are invited to arrange appointments through the School office. Appointments should be requested by e-mail ([1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie)) **at least one week in advance**; this arrangement will ensure that staff members can devote full attention to the student's queries or difficulties. The person with whom you have made an appointment must be advised of any cancellation of an appointment the day before, at least. Students should not contact members of staff at home and should not expect staff to engage via email or otherwise, outside of ordinary office hours (9am-5pm, or on weekends or designated holidays).

## **INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?**

Psychology is the **scientific study** of behaviour and mental processes, and includes individual and social, human and animal, normal and abnormal aspects. Most people find psychology intrinsically interesting. Even a little knowledge of psychology is useful in most career paths. Students might consider studying for a psychology degree if they are interested in becoming a professional psychologist in applied areas such as clinical psychology, the health services, education or industry; teaching and carrying out psychological research in a university or other research centre; or improving their general education by studying an interesting and useful discipline with careers of a more general type in mind, for example, the media, information technology, or management.

## **DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN PSYCHOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY**

### **Eligibility for going forward with Psychology to degree level:**

Students already on Denominated programmes (e.g., those on the BA Connect programmes) are **not eligible** for a place on the Denominated BSc psychology programme in second year. If you have any queries about this, contact your programme coordinator.

### **Eligibility for entry into both the denominated BSc psychology programme and psychological studies in second year:**

- (1) Students must achieve 40% or greater in **all subjects** to proceed.
- (2) All subjects must be passed at the first sitting **except** in cases where an **official deferral** has been granted by the College of Arts office.

### ***Progression requirements:***

To progress into the Denominated BSc Psychology programme, or to take Psychological Studies as a second year subject, there are some **specific competitive requirements** and these are detailed in the following sections below.

### ***Denominated BSc in Psychology***

Students admitted to the **BSc (Psychology) - CAO Code GY104** will take the subject *Psychology* in First Arts together with two other subjects. Having passed First Arts successfully (achieved 40% or greater in all subjects), students will study *Psychology* as a stand-alone subject in second, third-, and fourth-year. Therefore, students in this programme study pure

Psychology and acquire a qualification that is accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI).

There are a further **fifteen (15) places** on the Denominated BSc programme available to students of the BA (Omnibus) who complete *Psychology* at First Arts and who wish to transfer to the BSc (Psychology) in second year. Places will be decided on academic merit, based on the results of the **First Sittings (Semester 1 & Semester 2 combined) of the First Arts Examinations in the student's first year of attendance. The student must have passed First Arts by getting at least 40% in all three subjects within the same academic year.** Students repeating a year of study are not eligible to compete for a place in *Denominated Psychology*. The order of results in the subject 'Psychology' attained at the First Arts Examination (Semester 1 & Semester 2 combined) shall determine the offer of transfer places.

**IMPORTANT: Students will not be allowed to repeat Psychology with a view to improving performance.**

***Students wishing to compete for one of these 15 Second Year places must express this wish via a web-based system that will go 'live' in March 2025. The deadline for return of expressions of interest is late April/ early May.***

**Offers\* are made during the summer (after the examinations) and students are given a limited time (usually about 10 working days) within which to respond.** If a student does not respond by the specified date, this is taken by the School to mean that he or she is declining the place offered.

If a student is not offered a place in second year psychology/psychological studies, s/he will **not** receive any notification from the School of Psychology.

*\*Note that offers of places are sent by email to your University of Galway e-mail address. It is therefore important you regularly check this email address, and the junk mail folder (on rare occasions, emails sometimes go into this folder instead of the inbox). It's also critically important that you provide a **correct/valid** University of Galway email address for us to contact – this is the personal responsibility of individual students. Not providing correct contact information may result in you not receiving an offer, even if you meet the necessary criteria.*

### **BA in Psychological Studies**

Students of the **BA (Omnibus) - CAO Code GY101** who successfully complete *Psychology* at First Arts AND attain a psychology mark placing them in the top 100 in their class may proceed to Second Arts with the subject *Psychological Studies* and **one other of the subjects** that have been passed in First Arts. In the case of **the BA CONNECT programmes (CAO Code GY110, GY115)** students may proceed in second arts with the subject *Psychological Studies*, and **two other subjects** which have been passed at first arts, **including their specialism**.

The number of students admitted to Second Arts in *Psychological Studies* is limited (approximately 100). Places will be decided on academic merit, **based on the results of the First Sitting (Semester 1 & Semester 2 combined) of the First Arts Examinations in the student's first year of attendance**. The student must have **passed First Arts by getting at least 40% in all subjects within the same academic year**. Students repeating a year of study are not eligible to compete for a place in *Psychological Studies*. The order of results in the subject Psychology attained at the First Arts Examination (Semester 1 & Semester 2 combined) shall determine the offer of places in Second Year Psychological Studies.

**IMPORTANT: Students will not be allowed to repeat Psychology with a view to improving performance**

### **Higher Diploma in Psychology (Conversion)**

The Higher Diploma in Psychology (Conversion) is an option for students who have completed the joint BA with Psychological Studies. By combining this one-year diploma with a joint BA in Psychological Studies, students cover course content equivalent to that offered in the Denominated BSc programme – this is recognized by our accrediting body, the Psychological Society of Ireland. See programme details at link below:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/psychology-conversion.html>

**Places on the Higher Diploma are limited and entry is based on academic merit.**



## OVERVIEW OF YEAR 2024-25

Academic Year 2024 -2025	
Orientation 1st years	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Start of teaching - 1st years*	Monday 16th September*
End of teaching - 1st years*	Friday 29th November * (11 weeks of teaching)
Start of teaching all years	Monday 9th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 29th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 2nd December to Friday 6th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 9th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 20th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 21st December
<b>2025</b>	
Start of Teaching	<i>Monday 13th January 2025</i>
End of Teaching	<i>Friday 4th April (12 weeks of teaching)</i>
Field Trips	<i>Monday 7th April to Thursday 10th April (4 working days as in 2020/21, 2022/23, 2023/24)</i>
Study Week	<i>Friday 11th April to Thursday, 17th April</i>
Semester 2 Exams Start	<i>Tuesday, 22nd April</i>
<b>Easter</b>	<b><i>Good Friday 18th April to Easter Monday 21st April 2025</i></b>
Semester 2 Exams End	<i>Friday, 9th May (13 days of exams)</i>
Autumn Repeat Exams	<i>Tuesday 5th to Friday 15th August (9 days of exams)</i>
<b>Holidays</b>	<b><i>Easter: Good Friday 18th April to Easter Monday 21st April 2025</i></b>
	<b><i>Bank Holidays: Monday 28th October 2024 / Monday, 3rd February, 2025 / Monday, 17th March 2025</i></b>
	<b><i>Monday 5th May 2025/ Monday 2nd June 2025 / Monday 4th August 2025</i></b>

## Overview of Modules for First Year

### **PS122 Introduction to Psychology I (Semester 1, 5 ECTs).**

This module covers Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Psychology of Learning and is assessed by end-of-semester MCQ exam (100%).

### **PS124 Introduction to Psychology 2 (Semester 2, 5 ECTs).**

This module covers Personality Psychology, Social Psychology, and Biological Psychology, and is assessed by end-of-semester MCQ exam (100%).

### **PS1103 Introduction to Research Methods and Practical Skills in Psychology\* (Semester 1 and 2, 10 ECTs)**

Delivered by one-hour weekly lecture for twelve weeks in both Semesters 1 and 2.

Assessment includes a Q&A assignment (30%) and an exam in Semester 1 (35%), and one exam in Semester 2 (35%).

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MODULE IS TAKEN BY GY101, GY104, GY105, GY118, GY129 AND GY130 STUDENTS**

### **PS137 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology\* (Semester 1 and 2, 5 ECTs).**

Delivered by one-hour weekly lecture for nine weeks in both Semesters 1 and 2.

Assessment includes one exam in Semester 1 (50%), and one exam in Semester 2 (50%).

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MODULE IS TAKEN BY BA CONNECT STUDENTS ONLY**

## **ASSESSMENT DEADLINES FOR SEMESTERS 1 & 2**

See lecture and tutorial timetable (posted on Canvas) each semester.

## **TIMETABLES, SEMESTER 1 & 2 (2024-25)**

In Semester 1, you will have three lectures per week for PS122 Introduction to Psychology 1, and 1 hour per week in PS137 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology **or** PS1103 Introduction to Research Methods and Practical Skills in Psychology.

In Semester 2, you will have three lectures per week for PS124 Introduction to Psychology 2, and 1 hour per week in PS137 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology **or** PS1103 Introduction to Research Methods and Practical Skills in Psychology.

All lectures will be delivered in person on campus.

You will also be required to sign up to a one-hour tutorial timeslot (fortnightly) and a slot for a weekly CÉIM peer mentoring session. This means that you will have **three psychology components to engage with in Semester 1 and 2.**

**Details of tutorials, how to sign up for tutorials, and CÉIM sessions, will be provided to you via Canvas and your University of Galway email address – please check both regularly for updates.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT YOUR TIMETABLE**

The timetable is available on the Psychology website, and PS122/PS124 module on Canvas

**Lectures are taught twice because of the large first-year group.**

You are split by ID number into ODD and EVEN groups

**ODD group** – if the second last digit of your ID number is an odd number (e.g., 1, 3, 5) then you are in the ODD group

**EVEN group** – if the second last digit of your ID number is an even number (e.g., 2, 4, 6) then you are in the EVEN group

**0 = EVEN group**

There are **separate timetables** for the ODD and the EVEN group.

### **PSYCHOLOGY MODULE OUTLINES**

#### **ECTS (EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM)**

ECTS is based on the fundamental idea that a student enrolled on a full-time programme should commit a commensurate amount of time and effort to each of their programmes of study. ECTS are expressed in terms of the total number of hours of learning, teaching and assessment. This therefore includes other learning activities such as self-study, reading, revision, project work, etc., in addition to formal teaching (e.g. lectures, seminars, field trips, placements) and assessment (including continuous assessment and traditional examinations).

Standard minimum number of ECTS per module: 5 ECTS (Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2008:6)

**1 ECTS** = typically, 20 hours

**5 ECTS** = 100 hours of teaching and learning activity, based on 1 academic year (full-time =

**60 ECTS** [1200 hours approx.] per year)

## MODULE INFORMATION

**PS122 Introduction to Psychology 1 (Semester 1 only)**

**5 ECTS**

**Semester 1:** 3 hours a week over 9 weeks.

### **Module Coordinator:**

1<sup>st</sup> Year Team

### **Lecturers:**

Dr Caroline Heary, Dr Ciara Egan, Dr Ian Stewart

### **Description:**

This module provides students with an introduction to three key areas of psychology, Developmental Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and Learning Psychology. The areas covered in PS122 can change from year-to-year, so students are advised to check the School of Psychology website in early September of the year of study to ascertain the exact content for that year. Developmental Psychology is concerned with the development of the individual across the lifespan. Cognitive Psychology is the study of human cognition – the way we perceive, process and respond to the world around us. The Psychology of Learning deals with the processes leading to behavioural change, or the impact that learning has on our perceptions of the world and thus the way we behave. Together these three areas of psychology have made major contributions to our understanding of human behaviour.

### **Module Objectives:**

- To provide a coherent overview of three key areas of psychological inquiry.
- To contribute to our understanding of human behaviour, cognition, language and development.
- To provide foundation knowledge that can facilitate more in-depth understanding later.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Students will understand what Developmental Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and the Psychology of Learning have to say about human behaviour, cognition, language and development.
- Students will have the ability to apply this understanding to an aspect of human behaviour they find particularly interesting.
- Students will be able to apply acquired knowledge to the kinds of actions they witness each day.
- Students will be able to review the literature in these areas.

**Assessment:**

One written MCQ examination (100%)

**Workload for PS122:****Bologna ECTS Calculation:**

Direct Tuition (lectures and tutorials)	26 hours
Independent Reading	40 hours
Study for exams	32 hours
Completion of exam	2 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>100 hours</u></b>

**PS124 Introduction to Psychology 2 (Semester 2 only)      5 ECTS**

**Semester 2:** 3 hours a week over 9 weeks.

**Module Coordinator:**

1<sup>st</sup> Year Team

**Lecturers:**

Dr Mike Hogan, Dr Ian Stewart, TBC (Biological Psychology)

**Description:**

This module provides students with an introduction to three key areas of psychology, Social Psychology, Biological Psychology, and Personality Psychology. The areas covered in PS124 can change from year to year, so students are advised to check the School of Psychology website in early September of the year of study to ascertain the exact content for that year. Social Psychology is the study of the individual and the way that the situation (the environment) and disposition (the person) interact to determine behaviour. Biological Psychology is concerned with the biological influences on human emotion and behaviour and the way that biology, psychology and the environment interact to shape human action. Personality Psychology attempts to build up a picture of the individual, based on his/her traits and characteristics, and how these characteristics shape cognition, behaviour and motivation. Together these three areas of psychology, and those covered in PS122, have made significant contributions to our understanding of human behaviour.

**Module Objectives:**

- To provide a coherent overview of three key areas of psychological inquiry.
- To contribute to our understanding of human behaviour, cognition, motivation and emotion.
- To provide foundation knowledge that can facilitate more in-depth understanding later.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Students will understand what Social, Biological Psychology, and Personality Psychology have to say about human behaviour, cognition, emotion, and motivation.
- Students will have the ability to apply this understanding to an aspect of human behaviour they find particularly interesting.
- Students will be able to apply acquired knowledge to the kinds of actions they witness each day.
- Students will be able to review the literature in these areas.

**Assessment:**

One written MCQ examination (100%)

**Workload for PS124:**

**Bologna ECTs Calculation:**

Direct Tuition (lectures and tutorials)	26 hours
Independent Reading	40 hours
Study for exams	32 hours

Completion of exam

2 hours

**Total**

100 hours

**PS1103 Introduction to Research Methods and Practical Skills in Psychology\*  
(Semesters 1 & 2) 10 ECTS**

**Semesters 1 & 2:** 1 hour a week for 12 weeks in both Semesters 1 and 2

**Module Coordinator:** Dr Kate Dawson

**Lecturer:** Dr Kate Dawson other contributors

**Description:**

This module provides students with an introduction to research methods and important related practical skills - such as critical thinking - in psychology. The goal of psychological research is to discover, describe and explain human behaviour. To do this, suitable methods need to be employed so that the results of research can be both understood by others and generalised to other situations. This module will provide an elementary introduction to research methods in the field of psychology, and cognate skills, with the emphasis very much on introducing students to the different types of methods used to conduct research and highlighting the importance of the scientific method within psychological science. Within the context of learning about psychological research, students will also be introduced to critical assessment and interpretation of research and claims made about research. Communication of research is also an important element here, and the module will seek to enhance students' written and oral presentation skills.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Name and define key concepts used in research methods
- Discuss the varying experimental methods used in psychological research
- Apply knowledge of the basic tools of statistics used in psychology to calculate such statistics as standard deviation and correlation coefficients

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the importance of reliability, validity, and sampling to research
- Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical principles used by psychologists
- Students will understand the principles of critical thinking and major sources of critical thinking failures
- Students will develop skill in analysis and evaluation of claims and scientific evidence
- Students will develop skill in argument mapping and drawing inferences in light of analysis and evaluation of evidence
- Students will have the ability to communicate their reasoning to others and collaborate with peers in assessing evidence and presenting same in both written and oral form
- Students will acquire literature review and scientific literature assessment/ evaluation skills

**Assessment:**

Q&A assignment (30%) and an exam in Semester 1 (35%), and one exam in Semester 2 (35%).

**Core text:** Readings will be provided on Canvas.

**Workload for PS1103:**

**Bologna ECTS Calculation:**

Direct Tuition (lectures, tutorials)	24 hours
Independent Reading	121 hours
Completion of Assignment	15 hours
Study for Exams	36 hours
Completion of Exams	<u>4 hours</u>
<b>Total</b>	200 hours

**PS137 Introduction to Research Methods\* (Semesters 1 & 2) 5 ECTS**

**Semesters 1 & 2:** 1 hour a week for 9 weeks in both Semesters 1 and 2

**Module Coordinator:** Dr Kate Dawson

**Lecturer:** Dr Kate Dawson



**Description:**

This module provides students with an introduction to research methods in psychology. The goal of psychological research is to discover, describe and explain behaviour. To do this, methods need to be employed so that the results of any research can be both understood by others, and generalised to other situations. This is a gentle introduction to research methods, with the emphasis very much on introducing students to the different types of methods used to conduct research, and highlighting the importance of the scientific method to psychology. The module is delivered across two semesters.

**Module Objectives:**

- Present a stimulating introduction to research methods in psychology
- Provide students with basic knowledge of the methods used in psychological research to ensure a strong foundation for future learning

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Name and define key concepts used in research methods
- Discuss the varying experimental methods used in psychological research
- Apply knowledge of the basic tools of statistics used in psychology to calculate such statistics as standard deviation and correlation coefficients
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the importance of reliability, validity, and sampling to research
- Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical principles used by psychologists.

**Assessment:**

One exam in Semester 1 (50%), and one exam in Semester 2 (50%).

**Workload for PS137:****Bologna ECTs Calculation:**

Direct Tuition (lectures and tutorials)	20 hours
Independent Reading	40 hours

Study for Exams	36 hours
Completion of Exams	<u>4 hours</u>
<b>Total</b>	100 hours

### **Assignment Submission**

Any continuous assessments are submitted once in soft (electronic) copy to designated Turnitin links on Canvas.

**Unless there are acceptable mitigating circumstances, the late submission of assignments will incur the following penalties:**

<b>1-3 days</b>	15% of your mark will be deducted
<b>4-6 days</b>	30% of your mark will be deducted
<b>7-10 days</b>	50% of your mark will be deducted

If you are having difficulty with any assignment, consult your tutor or the Academic Coordinator.

### **Assignment extensions: Important information**

The First Year Team can grant short extensions on continuous assessment, that is up to 7 days. If you require more time, you will need to request an extension through the College Office in line with their extenuating circumstances policy:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/student-information/studentformsandlinks/>

To request a short extension, students need to complete the 'extension request form', available under 'essential course information' on all psychology Canvas modules, and send this form to [1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie) Extensions will normally be granted on medical grounds on submission of a medical or counselling certificate to the School of Psychology. This must be done **immediately** on your return to college – remember

**retrospective** medical certificates or explanations will not be taken into account. Decisions regarding extensions will be made at the **discretion of** the module coordinator and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Coordinator.

**Computer, printer, USB and/or any hardware/software malfunction will not be accepted as a reason for obtaining an extension on any deadline.** It is your responsibility to ensure your work is backed up at all times, should your own computer or laptop malfunction.

Submission dates are available well in advance of the deadline, so requests for extensions etc. cannot be considered 'Urgent'. If you encounter difficulties, **let the First Year Team at [1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie) know**, so that we can accommodate you. The earlier that we become aware of your difficulties, the more we can do to facilitate you.

**Assignment extensions cannot be granted by your tutor – they are assessed and granted on a case-by case basis by the First Year team Email: [1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:1bapsychology@universityofgalway.ie)**

### **MARKING OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Your psychology tutor will mark your assignments and provide feedback on each of these via Canvas.

Assignments will be marked using the following grading system, which is used throughout the University:

<b>A</b>	<b>70% - 100%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>60% - 69%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>50% - 59%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>45% - 49%</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>40% - 44%</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>0% - 39%</b>

### **PLAGIARISM**

It is expected that you will support your arguments by referring to previous research. Copying a passage straight from another source without acknowledging it, however, is considered **plagiarism**. Presenting another person's work as if it were your own is regarded as a serious academic offence for which you may be penalized by being given a reduced grade. This includes copying from published texts, text downloaded from the Internet, course notes or the work of other students.

According to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org), the following are all considered plagiarism:

- Turning in someone else's work as your own
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- Using verbatim material from one assignment you've already submitted, for another (this is known as 'self-plagiarism')
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Plagiarism will result in the severest penalties, which may include a mark of zero being awarded to your work (at the discretion of the First Year Team) and – if you have plagiarised the work of another student – to his/her work as well. It may also result in University disciplinary procedures beyond those administered by the School of Psychology.

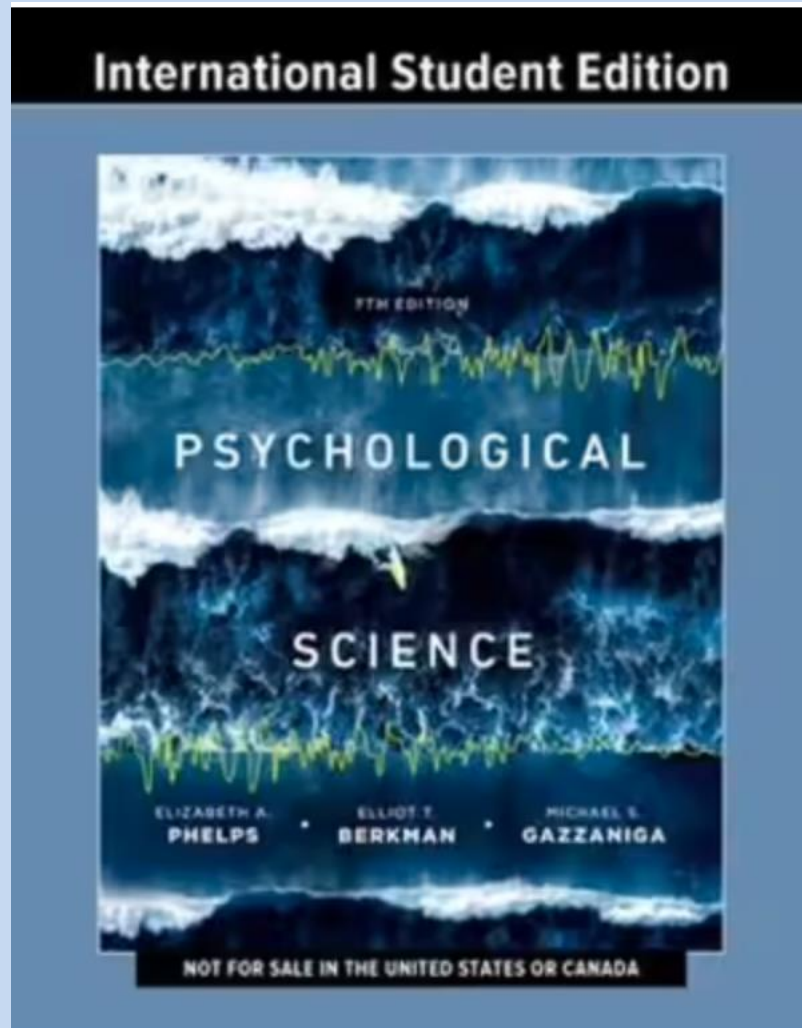
See the college website (<http://www.universityofgalway.ie/plagiarism/>) and [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org) for more detailed information on plagiarism.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Unless stated otherwise, the use of GenAI is not permitted when completing assessments or examinations. Academic Integrity is breached if students submit the products of GenAI as their own work without acknowledgement or without authorisation to use GenAI in fulfilling the task. It is important to understand that this constitutes academic misconduct and that you should only be seeking credit for work which you have produced yourself. It is your responsibility to correctly reference and acknowledge sources and resources used in your work.

**CORE TEXTBOOK (FOR ALL FIRST-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY MODULES)**

Phelps, E., Berkman, E., & Gazzaniga, M. (2022). *Psychological Science: International Student Edition* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) Norton.



Copies of this text are available to buy from the University bookshop and for short-term loan in the University library. An Ebook version is available (please contact the University bookshop for information and price reductions).

Please note: this textbook may be available in other editions, but we will be using the **International edition**, specifically. The textbook is stocked in the University bookshop at a special price for University of Galway students.

## **FIRST YEAR PSYCHOLOGY TUTORIALS**

During the academic year, each student is expected to attend one tutorial session **every designated week** of each semester. These sessions are designed to provide:

- Opportunities for interactive learning and contact with a tutor in a small group setting
- An organizational framework for the preparation and submission of written assignments which will contribute to a continuous assessment element in the First Arts examination
- A chance of submitting requests for clarification of issues that arise in lectures, which will usually be channelled to the relevant lecturer

All tutorials will be taught in person, on campus. Tutorials will commence beginning 9th October 2023 Semester 1. Dates for Semester 2 will be confirmed later. You sign-up for ONE of the tutorial groups, through an online system, the link for which will be sent to you by email, and also posted on Canvas **after** the final deadline for subject registration closes. Tutorial groups of approximately 15-20 students meet to discuss an assigned topic and its associated readings. The First Year Team oversees the tutorial sessions, which in turn, are run by individual tutors (normally PhD and MSc students in the School of Psychology).

Please note that psychology tutorial times are, for the most part, reserved exclusively for Psychology on the College of Arts timetable, which means most of them should not clash with your other subjects. **You must ensure that the time you sign up for your psychology tutorial will not clash with other subject classes. Changing tutorial groups after sign-up will not be permitted.**

**First Arts Psychology students are required to attend all tutorials. Your tutor keeps a record of attendance.** If you miss a tutorial as a result of illness or for any other reason deemed valid by the Academic Coordinator, you should give medical certification or an

explanation in writing to your tutor. This must be done ***immediately on your return*** to college – **retrospective medical certificates or explanations will not be taken into account.**



## **CÉIM peer learning for 1st year Psychology students**

CÉIM is an academic peer learning programme for 1st year Psychology students and is a joint initiative of the School of Psychology and the Students' Union.

You will meet weekly in small discipline-specific groups for 50 minutes throughout the academic year to learn from each other under the guidance of trained higher year Psychology student leaders, with input from academic staff.

### **Each 1st year Psychology student is automatically assigned to a CÉIM group.**

Designed to complement your lectures and tutorials, CÉIM helps you gain a better understanding of your coursework in a relaxed atmosphere, adjust quickly to life at University of Galway, become a successful higher education learner and get to know other students in your course. Research shows that students who attend CÉIM regularly achieve higher grades on average than those who do not.

CÉIM sessions are welcoming and friendly, yet purposeful, with the emphasis on everyone in the group working together.

### **How to take part**

Psychology CÉIM sessions start on Wednesday, 4 October at 3pm and Thursday, 5 October 4pm. In early October, log into [YourSpace](#) and click on CÉIM in the left menu to see all

relevant information about your CÉIM group. If you have any queries, please email [su.ceim@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:su.ceim@universityofgalway.ie)

[ceim.su.universityofgalway.ie](http://ceim.su.universityofgalway.ie)

## **RECHECKS & APPEALS AFTER EXAMS**

The University provides a service for students to have their examination results re-checked. Students can also appeal their results. There are specific grounds as to why students may appeal their result(s). See the Exams Office website for more information:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/exams/policies-procedures/>

## **EXAM CONSULTATION DAY**

Each year, the University holds an official consultation day (usually in July), during which students can request to meet up with staff to discuss exam work/results. If you have questions about your results, please make sure to attend on the specified consultation day (check the **exams office website** for further details). Booking an appointment in advance with the relevant lecturer is normally required. Please note that you can only appeal results for a subject/course if you have received feedback and consulted with the lecturer in question.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS**

### **CANVAS**

**Canvas will be used for all notices and postings throughout the academic year.** Important notices about your Psychology course are posted regularly on Canvas, so ***it is very important that you check this regularly.***

Canvas is a *Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)*. It allows lecturers and tutors to establish an online presence for their university module.

Students can log into the Canvas system using their standard student ID and password (i.e. the same credentials as used to log into the PC Suites). Most of the lecturers post copies of the slides they use during their lectures in the appropriate module folder on Canvas.



It should be noted that while the material may be of assistance to students in revising their course modules, it is no substitute for notes taken by students themselves during lectures, much less for lecture attendance.

#### UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY E-MAIL

Notices to individual students are sent to your college email address only.

***It is your responsibility to check your University of Galway email on a daily basis.***

One way of doing this is to automatically re-direct your University of Galway email to your own personal account (e.g., Gmail or Hotmail etc.).

***Failure to check your University of Galway email regularly may mean you could miss out on important information.***

## LOCATION OF SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

The School of Psychology is located on the main campus, beside the Arts Millennium Building. It is a central location in University of Galway (see map below).



## Safety Measures on Campus at University of Galway – COVID-19 Measures

### What do I need to do to protect myself and others while on campus?

Each one of us has an important role to play in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our university. The following steps are vital in keeping the virus at bay:

- **Act immediately on any symptoms:** As soon as you feel any symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly:** Use soap and water to keep your hands clean. Look out for hand sanitisation stations across campus.
- **Log your health status:** Open the HSE COVID Tracker app every day and log your health status. As soon as you feel any symptoms of COVID-19, make sure to log them on the app.