Modern psychology focuses on the understanding of perception, cognition, motivation and behaviour at several different levels. The subject areas will range from the study of the brain to complex social interactions of humans and animals.

- Emphasis on research-led teaching from leading researchers in the field at every level of the degree culminating in an opportunity to conduct your own research project in well-equipped laboratories.
- Access to strong interdisciplinary research networks such as the Institute for Behavioural and Neural Sciences (IBANS) and the Centre for Social Learning and Cognitive Evolution (SoLaCE).
- The opportunity to specialise in areas of interest in the final year and to be taught in small specialist seminars.

What will I study?
Psychology can be taken by those who have specialised at school in science or arts subjects and hence is offered both as a BSc in the Faculty of Science and an MA in the Faculty of Arts. The Psychology components of your degree are the same regardless of whether you take a BSc or MA in Psychology. Psychology staff are specialised in the fields of cellular and behavioural neuroscience as well as cognitive, comparative, developmental, evolutionary, perceptual and social psychology.

First year
Taught by leading researchers, you will have four lectures and a two-hour practical per week covering the main areas of psychology. You will also learn how to conduct psychological experiments and analyse your data.

Second year
You will have four lectures and a three-hour practical in psychological methods per week as well as small group tutorials. These courses build an in-depth understanding of psychology.

Third and fourth years
(Honours)
In third year, lectures and practical classes cover advanced material in core areas of psychology (clinical, cognitive, developmental, evolutionary and comparative, perceptual and social psychology). You will also conduct a supervised literature review on a topic of your choice. In addition, advanced methodology classes will introduce you to how we can generate new psychological knowledge.

In fourth year, you choose from a wide range of specialist topics. Previous topics have included the psychology of dementia, psychology of terrorism, psychopathology, psychology of visual art, cognitive psychology and emotional disorders, and the psychology of music.

Single Honours
You can take a Single Honours degree without a further subject in third and fourth year. Details are outlined in the section “What will I study?”. This degree focuses in depth on all major aspects of psychology.

School of Psychology & Neuroscience
“Getting to know different areas of psychology before choosing your favourites to immerse yourself in is great. Lecturers who are extremely passionate about their research make this experience even better, so that I had difficulty deciding which courses to choose. Their enthusiasm also offers early opportunities to get involved in scientific research. As School President, I was impressed by the School’s commitment to teaching excellence and its willingness to shape the learning experience together with its students.”

Maria (Düsseldorf, Germany)
Psychology

Joint Honours with BPS accreditation
Some joint degrees with Psychology are recognised by the British Psychological Society and they confer Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. You are allowed to spread classes covering the advanced core psychology areas over the third and fourth year. In addition, you must study the advanced methodology and undertake a literature review in your third year and undertake a psychology research project in fourth year.

Joint Honours without BPS accreditation
You can also take Psychology as part of a non-BPS accredited degree. Apart from taking a selection of core psychology classes, you are free to select further courses of interest in Psychology from third and fourth year.

Study abroad
Psychology participates in the University-wide St Andrews Abroad programme. For information about study abroad options, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study-abroad

Careers
Psychology gives insight into human behaviour and hence can be applied in many professional fields.

With further training, careers as a professional psychologist include becoming a Clinical, Educational, Industrial, Sports or Forensic Psychologist.

Other frequent career paths include human resources, marketing and management.

Our training results in highly competent individuals who possess key transferable skills needed in today’s and tomorrow’s workplace including:
- scientific approach to problem solving and information acquisition with current IT technologies.
- critical skills in assessment and review of information.
- written and oral presentation skills.
- group discussion and participation.
- ethical values in science and society.

Recent graduates have secured positions in, for example, the health service, the civil service, the military, banking and human resources.

A Psychology degree provides entry to a range of postgraduate degrees including MSc, MPhil, PhD and, to become a professional psychologist in the UK, a doctorate in clinical or educational psychology.

Accreditation
All Single Honours Psychology degrees and many joint degrees are accredited by the British Psychology Society for Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership, a pre-requisite for further professional training in psychology (for example, clinical or educational psychology).

“The passion of the lecturers in Psychology really helps students to develop an interest in the subject, whether it is scientific research methods or a topic like developmental psychology. It has also really helped me as I did not have previous knowledge of the subject before coming to St Andrews. Studying Psychology has also really helped me in other subjects, as I have a new approach to understanding world issues.”

Soyoun (Seoul, South Korea)