Programme Specification

1. Programme title	MSc Developmental Psychology in Action
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	N/A
5. Final qualification(s) available	MSc Developmental Psychology in Action
	PGDip Developmental Psychology in Action
	PGCert Developmental Psychology in Action
6. Year of validation / last review	Year of validation: 2020/2021
Year of amendment	2021/2022
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time or Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme
An upper second-class degree in Psychology or related degree is preferred. Applicants without such qualifications but relevant experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students whom English is a second language must have achieved IELTS 6.5 or above.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:
1. Provide students with the skills to engage critically with core theory, classic and contemporary research in developmental psychology and psychopathology
2. Develop a critical understanding of the relationship between theory/research and practice in developmental psychology by considering how our understanding of developmental psychology is important in real world settings
3. Develop in-depth cross-disciplinary knowledge (e.g., psychology and education) and interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g., cognitive psychology, neuroscience)
4. Provide students with a knowledge base and practical skills in research designs, tools and methods of specific relevance for developmental psychology
5. Provide students with a knowledge base and practical skills in inferential statistics, as well as an understanding of quantitative research methods
6. Provide critical understanding of the unique challenges and special issues associated with conducting research and develop intervention with infants and children
7. Facilitate the completion of an independent research project in developmental psychology

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. Key issues, theories and topical research in relation to the application of developmental psychology to real-world settings including education, health, clinical and social settings

2. The spectrum of child development, including how and why developmental disorders and psychopathology may occur

3. The important implications of developmental psychology for policy-makers

Teaching/learning methods
Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

Directed reading, with lectures used interactively to supplement basic sources, assess student difficulties and promote critical analysis. Other strategies will include resource-based learning, e-learning, classroom situations including flipped learning, critical discussions and an observation workshop. Learning and teaching will fully utilise the affordances of the virtual learning environment (MyLearning) in order to provide a blended learning environment.

Assessment methods
Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

Quizzes, MCQs and self-assessed short-answers delivered through the MyLearning virtual learning environment (LO1-LO7).

4. Quantitative research techniques and research designs, specific to developmental psychology, embedded by theoretical perspective 5. Appropriate research methodologies and schemes for observing the behaviour of infants and young children 6. Challenges associated with conducting research with infants and children including a thorough understanding of ethical issues 7. Develop in-depth cross-disciplinary knowledge (e.g., psychology and education) and interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g., cognitive psychology, neuroscience)	Students will also carry out an observation of infants using videotaped data. They will analyse the video recordings using a standardised procedure. They will then attend an interactive group workshop session and complete an observation report based on a standard template. Students will also design their own observation and coding scheme (LO4, LO5, LO6). Other assessments will include critical essays and reviews (LO1, LO5, LO6), individual and group projects and presentations (LO2-LO4), research proposals (LO2, LO3) and an empirical research project.
B. Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Critically evaluate contemporary research in developmental psychology and consider areas of application 2. Make a positive contribution to group (team) working 3. Effectively present ideas verbally and in written form 4. Contribute effectively to argument and debate with peers 5. Evaluate judgements of work produced (by self and by peers) 6. Use inferential statistics to examine psychological data 7. Design and carry out an original research project in the field of developmental psychology	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive skills through directed reading, interactive lectures, resource-based learning, e-learning, classroom situations including flipped learning, in-class critical discussions and an observation workshop. **Assessment methods** Students' cognitive skills are assessed by self-assessed short-answers delivered through the MyLearning virtual learning environment (LO1, LO3), an observation of infants using videotaped data, completion of an observation report and the design of an observation and coding scheme (LO3, LO4, LO5), critical essays and reviews (LO3), individual and group projects and presentations (LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5), research proposals (LO1, LO3) and an empirical research project (LO1, LO3, LO6, LO7).

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Full-time route

October – January	January – April	May - September
Research Methods – Quantitative (15 credits) (PSY4050)		
Open Science (15 credits) (PSY4062)		
Topics and Applied Issues in Developmental and Educational Psychology (15 credits) (PSY4158)	Developmental Disorders and Psychopathology (15 credits) (PSY4159)	
Fundamentals of Neuropsychology (15 credits)(PSY4157)	Developmental Neuroscience (15 credits) (PSY4060)	
Trauma impacts and intervention (30 credits)(PSY4223)		
Research: Practice & Reporting (60 credits) (PSY4035)		

Part-time route
Year 1

October – January	January – April	May - September
Research Methods – Quantitative (15 credits) (PSY4050)		
Open Science (15 credits) (PSY4062)		
Topics and Applied Issues in Developmental and Educational Psychology (15 credits) (PSY4158)	Developmental Disorders and Psychopathology (15 credits) (PSY4159)	
Research: Practice & Reporting (60 credits) (PSY4035)		

Year 2

October – January	January – April	May - September
Fundamentals of Neuropsychology (15 credits)(PSY4157)	Developmental Neuroscience (15 credits) (PSY4060)	

Trauma impacts and intervention (30 credits)(PSY4223)	
Research: Practice & Reporting (60 credits) (PSY4035)	

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 7		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: 1. Research Methods – Quantitative (15 credits) (PSY4050) 2. Open Science (15 credits) (PSY4062) 3. Topics and Applied Issues in Developmental and Educational Psychology (15 credits) (PSY4158) 4. Developmental Disorders and Psychopathology (15 credits) (PSY4159) 5. Fundamentals of Neuropsychology (15 credits) (PSY4157) 6. Developmental Neuroscience (15 credits) (PSY4060) 7. Trauma impacts and intervention (30 credits) (PSY4223) 8. Research: Practice & Reporting (60 credits) (PSY4035)		

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	**Module code**
Research: Practice & Reporting	PSY4035

13. Information about assessment regulations
Please see specific guidance on completing this section
Assessment regulations are followed as approved by Middlesex University:
https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/assessment/regulations

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support
No placement opportunities are offered on this programme.

15. Future careers / progression
With the strong combination of contemporary and applied child psychology, the programme paves the way to a wide range of careers and employment contexts. The programme is designed for students who wish to apply for further PhD study in Psychology or Psychology of Education or who plan to progress to Clinical Doctoral and Post-Graduate trainings with a focus on the developmental population. It is particularly targeted at individuals wishing to pursue careers with the developmental population, particularly child practitioners, cognitive neuropsychological assessment, mental health services, health settings, teaching and education, as well as other related real-world settings requiring further PG training (e.g., paediatric clinical neuropsychology, PhD).

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)
All new students go through an induction programme and some have early diagnostic numeric and literacy testing before starting their programme. The Learner Enhancement Team (LET) provide one-to- one tutorials and workshops for those students needing additional support in these areas.
Research activities of academic staff feed into the teaching programme, which can, on some occasions, provide an opportunity for students to work with academics on some aspect of research.

17. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	C820 Developmental Psychology

	C821 Child Psychology
	C810 Applied Psychology
	HECoS 100953 Child Psychology
	HECoS 100493 Applied Psychology
18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	

19. Reference points

Internal documentation

- Middlesex University (2006) Learning Framework Document. London, MU

- Middlesex University (2019) Middlesex University Regulations. London, MU

- Middlesex University (2019) Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook. London, MU

- Middlesex University (2019) Medical Science and Technology Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy. S&T

External documentation

- Quality Assurance Agency (2008) Framework for Higher Qualification. London, QAA

20. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for *MSc Developmental Psychology in Action*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

	Knowledge and understanding
A1	Key issues, theories and topical research in relation to the application of developmental psychology to applied settings including education, health, clinical and social settings
A2	The spectrum of child development, including how and why atypical development may occur and key issues concerning core and extended topics covered in developmental psychopathology
A3	The important implications of developmental psychology for policy-makers
A4	Quantitative techniques and research designs, specific to developmental psychology, embedded by theoretical perspective
A5	Appropriate methodologies and schemes for observing the behaviour of infants and young children
A6	Challenges associated with conducting research with infants and children including a thorough understanding of ethical issues
A7	Develop in-depth cross-disciplinary knowledge (e.g., psychology and education) and interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g., cognitive psychology, neuroscience)
	Skills

B1	Critically evaluate contemporary research in developmental psychology
B2	Make a positive contribution to group (team) working
B3	Effectively present ideas verbally and in written form
B4	Contribute effectively to argument and debate with peers
B5	Evaluate judgements of work produced (by self and by peers)
B6	Use inferential statistics to examine psychological data
B7	Design and carry out an original research project in the field of developmental psychology

Programme outcomes													
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Highest level achieved by all graduates													
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Research Methods: Quantitative	PSY4050				X	X	X	X						X	
Topics and Applied Issues in Developmental and Educational Psychology	PSY4158	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		

Course	Code														
Developmental Disorders and Psychopathology	PSY4159	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		
Open Science	PSY4062	X		X				X						X	
Developmental Neuroscience	PSY4060						X	X							
Research: Practice & Reporting	PSY4035	X			X		X	X	X		X			X	X
Trauma impacts and intervention	PSY4223			X			X	X							
Fundamentals of Neuropsychology	PSY4157						X	X		X					
Trauma impacts and intervention	PSY4223		X	X			X	X							