

The background of the slide is a dark blue field filled with a complex network of glowing blue and yellow lines and dots, resembling a neural network or a data visualization.

Master of Science (MSc) in Psychology

Your Journey to Psychology Starts Here

Part-time | Mainly Online | 2 Years

Why ICEP Europe?

Leaders in Accessible Education

For 25 years, ICEP Europe has been a leader in accessible, flexible postgraduate education. Since 2001, we have built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality, learner-centred programmes that fit around work, family, and life commitments. This approach ensures your learning experience combines academic rigour with flexibility and support, enabling you to engage fully with your studies.

World Class Expertise

Teaching on this programme is informed by internationally engaged research across psychology, education, inclusion and wellbeing.

This means your learning is grounded in current evidence addressing real-world psychological challenges. Our strong research base enriches teaching by connecting core psychological theory with contemporary challenges and meaningful societal change.



“ As Programme Director for this MSc in Psychology (Conversion), I am very excited about the launch of this course – the first of its kind in Ireland. This innovative and flexible part-time programme is designed to provide you with a comprehensive foundation in psychology, empowering you to take your first formal step into the discipline. Whether you are looking to pivot your career, deepen your understanding of psychological science, or progress towards further professional training, this course equips you with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve your goals. ”

Professor April Hargreaves,
Programme Director

Kickstart your journey in psychology today

Psychology is a discipline rooted in curiosity about how we think, how we relate to others, and how experience shapes behaviour across the lifespan. It offers powerful tools for understanding individuals, groups, and societies — and for engaging thoughtfully with the complexities of the modern world.

QQI-approved programme leading to a Level 9 MSc award on the NQF

This MSc in Psychology (Conversion) invites you to step into that discipline with confidence, clarity, and purpose. Psychology is increasingly recognised as integral to addressing contemporary societal challenges, including mental health, workplace wellbeing, and sustainability. Exploring questions such as what shapes who we are, how the brain influences behaviour, and how humans develop from childhood through to older age requires more than interest alone. It demands structured engagement with psychological science. Through this MSc in Psychology (Conversion), you will engage with these topics alongside current research and debates that shape the field.

Delivered mainly online over two years, this flexible, part-time programme is designed to widen access to psychology while supporting those who wish to enhance their qualifications or explore a new direction. Whether you are looking to broaden your professional horizons or deepen your understanding of human behaviour, the programme offers a clear and supported pathway into the discipline.

Carefully designed with adult learners in mind, the programme enables you to balance study with work, family, and other commitments while engaging in a high-quality learning experience. You will develop comprehensive knowledge across all core areas of psychology, with a strong emphasis on research skills, scientific thinking, and professional ethics—essential for evaluating psychological evidence and applying knowledge in real-world contexts.

Drawing on 25 years of ICEP Europe's experience in delivering flexible, accessible, and innovative higher education, our teaching is informed by contemporary research, inclusive learning practices, and global perspectives. You will be supported throughout your studies, and encouraged to collaborate, reflect, and apply your learning in ways that are meaningful to your personal and professional goals.

This programme is perfect for

- ✓ Graduates from non-psychology backgrounds, as well as those who have studied some psychology previously (e.g., through a minor, diploma, or psychological studies programme).
- ✓ Individuals with a strong interest in human behaviour who are seeking a flexible, primarily online, master's-level psychology programme that may lead to eligibility for Graduate Membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI).*
- ✓ Mature learners from diverse academic, cultural, and professional backgrounds who want to balance study with full-time or part-time work and/or caring responsibilities.
- ✓ Professionals who wish to enhance their current role with psychological knowledge, transition into a related field, or take the first step toward professionally accredited training in psychology.

*ICEP Europe is applying for accreditation from the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI). Subject to successful accreditation at the time of graduation, graduates will be eligible to apply for Graduate Membership of PSI, which is the first step towards professionally accredited psychology training in Ireland. PSI accreditation is pending and cannot be guaranteed at this stage.



“ This MSc is about opening psychology up to the world it seeks to understand. For too long, the discipline has been shaped by a narrow range of voices. This programme challenges that by asking whose experiences have been heard — and whose have been overlooked. We are committed to a psychology that is inclusive, contemporary, and relevant, and we actively welcome students from non-psychology backgrounds who want to bring fresh perspectives to the discipline. ”

Dr Deirdre MacIntyre
Dean of Research and Academic Affairs

Your Future Career

Psychology-informed career pathways

Graduates may progress into roles across:

- Education and educational support services
- Mental health and wellbeing services
- Disability, inclusion and neurodiversity services
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Research, policy, and evaluation roles

Applied and organisational careers

The programme also supports progression into:

- Workplace wellbeing, training, and organisational development
- Human resources (HR)
- Marketing and consumer behaviour
- Leadership and management pathways

Professional psychology training pathways**

Completion of the programme with an overall pass mark of 50% or above allows graduates to apply for Graduate Membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), supporting progression to accredited postgraduate training in:

- Clinical Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Forensic Psychology

**Subject to meeting individual programme and accreditation requirements.

Skills to make an impact

In addition to building strong disciplinary knowledge, the programme emphasises psychological literacy—enabling learners to apply psychological concepts, theories, and insights to contemporary societal issues. Graduates will also develop high-demand transferable skills, such as critical and scientific thinking, digital literacy, ethical reasoning, effective communication, and the ability to understand and engage with diverse perspectives. These skills are highly relevant across a wide range of professional contexts, enhancing graduates' employability beyond traditional psychology roles.

Does this sound like you?

You can also email us at: psychology@icepe.eu
to learn more.

Book a call

Attend a webinar

Studying with ICEP Europe

We are committed to providing you with a rich, supportive, and dynamic learning environment. Delivered through a blended format, the programme offers a combination of self-directed learning, interactive online activities, live online lectures and face-to-face seminars, allowing you to balance your studies with other commitments.

Your virtual learning environment

At ICEP Europe, all online teaching and learning takes place through our bespoke and accessible Moodle-based Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Through the VLE, you will access rich interactive module content including videos, readings, and structured learning activities. You will be able to submit assignments, join Zoom sessions, view recordings, contribute to discussion forums, and monitor your academic progress.

Dedicated Support

At ICEP Europe, we ensure you have the guidance and resources you need to succeed:

- **Face-to-face induction:** You'll be introduced to the full range of academic, pastoral, and technical support during your induction, so you know exactly where to turn.
- **Academic and pastoral guidance:** Your Programme Director, Module Leads, Lecturers, Librarian and Student Support Officer are on hand to offer encouragement, advice, and referrals

to additional services when needed. Their support helps you navigate challenges, build confidence, and stay on track, so you never have to feel alone.

- **Reliable technical support:** Whether attending live Zoom sessions or using our Moodle-based Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), expert technical assistance is always available.
- **A connected learning community:** Collaborate with classmates and benefit from being part of a vibrant online network of learners.

Your online library

Access to high-quality academic resources is essential for success in postgraduate study. As a learner on this programme, you will have 24/7 access to ICEP Europe's digital library, which provides a comprehensive range of research materials (e-books, peer-reviewed journals, psychology databases, and module-specific reading lists) to support your coursework, assignments, and dissertation.

Course Structure

Designed with flexibility and accessibility at its core, the MSc Psychology (Conversion) is a part-time, two-year programme that leads to a QQI-approved Level 9 Master of Science award on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). This programme enables adult learners to balance study with work, family, and other commitments. The course structure supports coherent progression through the discipline while fostering critical engagement with psychological theory, research, and applied practice.

Key Features:

- ✓ Part-time delivery over two years, designed to support diverse adult learners and flexible study patterns
- ✓ Three terms per academic year, with manageable module loads of 15–20 credits per term
- ✓ Four dedicated face-to-face sessions for programme orientation, practical research methods experience, and dedicated dissertation guidance
- ✓ Structured progression through the PSI core curriculum, with modules sequenced to support cumulative learning and integration of theory, research methods, and applied psychology
- ✓ Early positioning of research methods modules, enabling you to engage confidently with empirical literature and plan your independent dissertation
- ✓ Integrated online and in-person psychology laboratories, supporting the development of advanced, hands-on research skills
- ✓ A dissertation project in Year 2, providing an opportunity to design, conduct, and evaluate psychological research
- ✓ Assessment aligned with Universal Design for Learning, offering multiple modes of engagement and expression — including podcasts, blogs, concept maps, infographics, and traditional academic writing — to support accessibility and meaningful participation

Course Modules

The programme has been developed to meet the criteria for Graduate Basis for Membership of PSI*, which is a prerequisite for further postgraduate training in psychology. The curriculum is designed to cover all six core areas of the discipline with a strong emphasis on the development of research skills, scientific understanding, and ethics, which are critical to the professional practice of psychology.

The programme will cover an equal level of instruction in the core subjects of psychology: research methods, biopsychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, and personality/individual differences—covering an in-depth foundation of key theories, research methods, practical applications, and empirical evidence relevant to each area. You will explore contemporary and global issues through themes such as equity, diversity, inclusion, mental health, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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Introduction to Psychology: Past and Present (5 ECTS)

Psychology is introduced through its key concepts, theories, and research methods, alongside an examination of how the discipline developed over time. Learners explore major theoretical perspectives and foundational debates. The module includes a five-hour face-to-face seminar and provides conceptual grounding for subsequent study in core areas of psychology.

Individual Differences (10 ECTS)

This module examines theories and research on personality and intelligence. Learners engage with psychoanalytic, behavioural, cognitive, humanistic, and trait theories, as well as classical and modern models of intelligence. It provides insight into individual psychological variation and the theoretical foundations of psychometric assessment.

Social Psychology (10 ECTS)

The role of social context in shaping individual and group behaviour is explored. Learners examine social cognition, attitudes, conformity, obedience, group processes, prejudice, and prosocial behaviour. You will be encouraged to interrogate assumptions and critically evaluate how social influences operate in everyday life and applied settings.

Developmental Psychology (10 ECTS)

Psychological development across the lifespan is introduced using both global and Irish perspectives. The module considers inclusion, ethics, and policy relevance, with attention to the needs of diverse and vulnerable populations. Core themes include developmental trajectories, risk and resilience, and cultural competence.

Biological Bases of Behaviour (10 ECTS)

Links between biology and behaviour are explored through brain structure, neural function, genetics, and hormonal systems. Learners examine how these biological systems influence cognition, emotion, motivation, and psychological health. Key topics include the nervous system, genetic influences, biological mechanisms of motivation, and connections between biology and mental health.

Research Methods 1 (5 ECTS)

This module introduces core research methods in psychology, with a primary focus on quantitative research design and analysis, alongside an introduction to qualitative approaches. Learners develop essential skills in research design, measurement, data handling, and ethics, and are introduced to descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing using SPSS. The module provides a foundation for engaging with empirical research across the programme.

Cognitive Psychology (10 ECTS)

This module explores cognitive processes including perception, attention, memory, language, and decision-making. Learners engage with key theories and empirical research to understand how mental processes influence behaviour, and how cognitive functioning is investigated in psychological science.

Dissertation (20 ECTS)

In this capstone module, you will investigate a psychological topic of your choosing under academic supervision. You will be responsible for formulating a research question, conducting a literature review, selecting appropriate methodologies, and ensuring ethical standards are met. You will collect and analyse data, interpret findings, and situate your work within the wider psychological literature.

Advanced Research Methods (10 ECTS)

Advanced competence in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research is developed through SPSS-based data analysis and training in qualitative methodologies such as thematic analysis. Emphasis is placed on research design, methodological justification, and ethical planning, preparing learners to design and conduct an independent dissertation.

Contemporary Issues, Career and Research Series

This seminar series spans three semesters in Year 2 and features nine one-hour live online sessions. It explores careers in psychology, research skills, and contemporary global issues. You will engage with guest speakers from academic and applied contexts, deepening your understanding of real-world psychological applications, including sustainability, digital mental health, and global health equity. The series promotes reflective thinking and career planning through interactive discussions and optional journaling.



Entry Requirements

We welcome applicants from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds. Our admissions team can advise you on eligibility and application requirements. If you have any queries, please contact psychology@icepe.eu. We're happy to talk through your experience and help you understand your options.



Academic eligibility

Applicants should normally hold:

- An NFQ Level 8 Honours Bachelor's Degree (or international equivalent)
- A minimum classification of Honours 2.1 (or equivalent GPA)

Applicants from cognate disciplines such as education, health, social sciences, social care, humanities and related areas are particularly suited to the programme. Applicants from non-cognate backgrounds may also be considered where relevant transferable skills can be demonstrated.

English language requirements

Applicants whose first language is not English must meet ICEP Europe's English language requirements (IELTS 7.0 or equivalent).

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Applicants with relevant professional experience or prior learning may apply through ICEP Europe's Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. This may include experience related to psychology, research methods, human behaviour or data analysis.

We welcome any queries about RPL and encourage you to contact us at psychology@icepe.eu.



“ We look forward to working with you over the coming months and years as you begin your journey in psychology. We are here to support you every step of the way and wish you every success in your studies and future career. ”

Dr Moya O'Brien
CEO, ICEP Europe

How to Apply?

Ready to get started? Apply online via the ICEP Europe application portal once applications open. Supporting documents such as transcripts and proof of English proficiency (if applicable) are required.

Apply now

Fees and Funding

The annual tuition fee for the programme is €6,750.

Annual tuition fees may be paid:

- Upfront in full, prior to registration; or
- In two instalments

There is an application fee of €65.

A QQI certification fee of €200 is payable at the awards stage.

The MSc in Psychology is eligible for Irish tax relief on qualifying tuition fees. Qualified teachers may also be able to apply for the Teacher Fee Refund Scheme. For more information on potential funding supports, scholarships and bursaries, please email psychology@icepe.eu.

Get in Touch

For applications and admissions queries

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Masters of Science (MSc) in Psychology

Applications are now open for the September 2026 intake

Register your interest

Apply now

✉ psychology@icepe.eu

