



# MSc Developmental Psychology

Programme Director

Dr Angela Nyhout

[a.nyhout@kent.ac.uk](mailto:a.nyhout@kent.ac.uk)

# Student Reps

Represent and Support your peers and help make meaningful change!

As a Student Rep you'll be the first point of contact for students within your school, department or division; answering questions, listening to feedback and actioning change.

Attend termly Student Voice Forums – School specific meetings for students and staff to come together for feedback and to improve the student academic experience.

What do you get out of it? Develop your skills and translate them into your CV with a dedicated workshop for reps, be part of the School community and take part in extra socials with pizza, prize draws and fun!

Sign up today to help make meaningful change at Kent: [kentunion.co.uk/studentreps](https://kentunion.co.uk/studentreps)

# Make meaningful change at Kent.

[kentunion.co.uk/studentreps](https://kentunion.co.uk/studentreps)



# Student Reps

- **We would like 1-2 of our cohort to represent the programme as student reps**
- **Get involved with the course and play a key role in shaping the development of the courses**
- **Find out more about the running of our courses**
- **Something great to put your CV**

# Course Structure (Core Modules)

Autumn	Spring	Summer	Summer+
Current Topics in Developmental and Educational Psychology	Developmental and Educational Psychology in Professional Practice	Understanding Children with Additional Needs	
Advanced Research Methods and Statistics	OPTIONAL 1	OPTIONAL 2	
Professional Research Skills for Psychologists			Psychology Research Project

The programme consists of 8 modules divided into 180 credits (= 90 ECTS credits). Psychology Research Dissertation counts for 40 credits (20 ECTS credits). All other modules count for 20 credits (10 ECTS credits).

# Your modules

## **Compulsory modules (all MSc students)**

- 1. PSYC7101 Professional Research Skills for Psychologists (20 credits) - Autumn, Spring, & Summer**
- 2. PSYC7102 Psychology Research Dissertation (40 credits) - Late Summer**
- 3. PSYC7103 Advanced Research Methods and Statistics (20 credits) - Autumn**

# Developmental modules

1. **PSYC8510 Current Topics in Developmental Psychology (20 credits) - Autumn**
2. **PSYC8520 Developmental and Educational Psychology in Professional Practice (20 credits) - Spring**
3. **PSYC8540 Understanding Children and Adolescents with Additional Needs (20 credits) - Summer**

All are compulsory for MSc in Developmental Psychology (but may include some students from other MSc Psychology courses who select as an option).

# Module options

**You must also take 40 credits from optional modules (20 in Spring and 20 in Summer).**

## **Spring**

- Psychological Measurement and Modelling
- Workplace Well-Being and Talent Development
- Current Issues in Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology

## **Summer**

- Neuropsychology of Ageing
- Mind, Brain and the Body
- Solving Social and Organisational Problems

Speak to me if you are having difficulty choosing.

# **PSYC8520: Developmental and Educational Psychology in Professional Practice**

- A. Lectures are given by a series of professionals, who are working in fields such as clinical psychology, educational psychology, healthcare, special schools for children with autism and speech and language therapy.
- B. Lectures outline major theories that inform practice in the field and critically evaluate the role of developmental psychology in these professional settings.



# The Dissertation

Worth 60 credits combined (i.e., as much as three entire option modules), accounts for 33% of the final degree mark.

Your dissertation is made up of two modules:

1. PSYC7101: planning and data collection for your project
  - You will write and submit 1500-word **research proposal** due by 8<sup>th</sup> December at 12pm (40% of PSYC7101 mark).
  - You are required to present your research findings in a **brief oral presentation**. Presentations will take place during Summer term (precise date to be confirmed in Spring term). (60% of the PSYC7101 module mark).
2. PSYC7102: project write-up.
  - You will write a 5,000-6,000 word written report in the style of a psychology journal article (word limit excludes title page, abstract, tables and appendices). (100% of 7102 mark).

# Dissertation

---



Look through project list provided by academics within the core Developmental Psychology group on the project page



You may also look through the staff web pages on the School of Psychology main page for staff who carry out Social Psychology or Cognitive Psychology research.



Email the particular staff member asking if they would be willing to supervise your MSc dissertation and if so, on which topic.



Tip: You can also first ask them to email you some further relevant empirical journal articles to read, as well as asking them further details about the dissertation project (e.g., Would you be directly testing children? Or using parental questionnaires? Or carrying out secondary data analysis?)

# Testing children directly

- Students must NOT approach outside bodies (schools, hospitals, charities, and so on) without first.....
  - a) the express permission of their supervisor and;
  - b) prior full ethical approval from the School of Psychology committee.
- Even informal contacts are not permitted unless a) and b) above.
- Many schools in East Kent are already working with researchers in our department

# What is the Kent Child Development Unit?

- **A suite of developmental testing labs.**
  - Waiting room / general play area;
  - Interactive measures room (g05) with wall-mounted cameras;
  - Parent recruitment and data storage room (g04)
  - Additional testing room with touch-screen (g06)
  - Separate eye-tracking lab (Level 2 Research Labs).
- **A database of ~6000 children**
  - These parents have agreed to give us their details.
  - We call / email these parents and ask them accompany their child to the testing lab.



# KCDU waiting room



# KCDU interactive measures room





# KCDU touch-screen room



# KCDU touch-screen room used for interactive measures



# KCDU eye-tracking room



# KCDU eye-tracking room

---

# What is the Kent Child Development Unit?

- The KCDU hosts children and families several times a week
- Some studies do take place online
- The database and the KCDU can still be used, but will depend on project and supervisor

# Disclosure and Barring Service Check

- If your dissertation involves directly testing children or testing vulnerable adults (e.g., with learning disabilities or autism), **you will need a valid, Enhanced DBS Barred-List Check via the University of Kent.**
- Your supervisor will request a link for you to complete an initial form online. This will then be passed to central registry, who will contact you and ask you to bring supporting documents to show them.
- You should submit this initial application form ASAP (it can take quite a while, especially if you have lived outside the UK at some point during last five years).

# Applying for DBS:

## Information which registry will ask to see

- ORIGINAL COPIES of ID documents and 5 year address history (and dates when you lived at each address):
  - A valid passport
  - Current UK / EU driving licence photocard.
  - Debit or credit card
  - (If UK) birth certificate or adoption certificate.
  - (If non UK/ non EU) biometric residence / work permit or visa.

# Dissertation supervisor and job references

Your supervisor is likely to be your referee for the job (or course) you apply for after your MSc.

A key transferable skill you can learn during practical research is professionalism, which can include:

- Professionalism in oral and written communication including appropriate level of language formality;
- Punctuality (particularly with participants, but also for meetings);
- Manner of interaction with participants;
- Maintaining professional boundaries;
- Adequate consideration of the participant's comfort, autonomy and privacy.

# Transferable skills: project management

- Thoughtful planning regarding timeline for stimuli development
- Planning regarding when other labs (or technicians) are likely to be busy with other projects.
- Ability to set priorities
- Clear communication to allow successful co-ordination of tasks with the supervisor and / or project partners.

# Final deadline for dissertation

Deadline = **September 8th**

Supervisors will read and comment on one and only one draft version of each section (abstract, introduction, methods, results) EXCEPT FOR the discussion section, which should be entirely the student's own work. These comments will help you improve the dissertation prior to submission.

- *Each supervisor will set their own deadlines for these drafts. If you miss the deadline, the supervisor may not be able to provide feedback.*

Note that this deadline is outside of term time, which means staff members may not be available at the time of the deadline. It is very important to plan ahead to ensure you can get feedback.



# Signing up to a dissertation supervisor

Deadline = **End of week 14**

Read through project descriptions

Email those supervisors whose projects you find interesting.

Make it clear in the email whether you:

- definitely want to carry out your dissertation on their project
- want more information
- would like to meet the potential supervisor in person for a face to face chat about possibilities. (NB: Some supervisors may ask to meet you in a group together with other candidates).

# Dissertation project topics



David Kelly: Visual and cognitive development, eye-tracking, early marker of atypical development



Angela Nyhout: Imagination, hypothetical reasoning

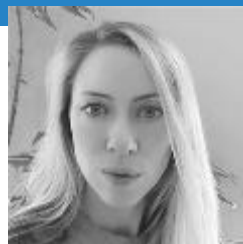


Kirsten Abbot-Smith: Language learning, pragmatics in typically developing children and autistic peers

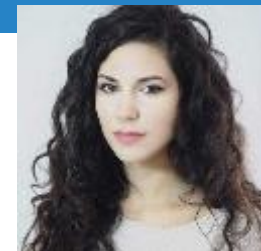
Lindsey Cameron: Social development, inter-group processes



Katie Goodbun: Individual differences in children and adolescents



Francesca Carbone: Can cinematic art enhance children's open-mindedness?



University of Kent SharePoint

Search this site

HSS MSc Projects

Private group 1 member

Published 22/09/2022 Edit

+ New Send to Page details Immersive Reader Analytics

Title	Description	Academic year	Project leader	Project leader ...	Programme/co...	Spaces left
Identity and ideology	I welcome students interested in the study of group identity (especially collective narcissism)	2022/2023	Aleksandra Cichocka	ack9	MSc Social Psych... MSc Political Psy... MSc Organisatio...	2
Decision-making and Hidden Profiles	The need for superior decision making in organisations has, arguably, never been greater. Yet decision	2022/2023	Dawn Nicholson	dhn6	MSc Organisatio...	1
Leadership and Employee Wellbeing	The projects can involve either experimental paradigms or	2022/2023	Christie Marsh	cjm70	MSc Organisatio...	4
Understanding the neural factors associated with sense of agency/ reality monitoring	Using high-definition transcranial direct current stimulation we will explore the causal brain	2022/2023	Andrew Martin	am2440	MSc Cognitive/N...	1
				am2440	MSc Cognitive/N...	1

# Many Sources of Support



# Sources of Support

## Skills for Academic Success (SAS)

Academic skills support and advice for all students from foundation to PhD.



Book an appointment



Study guides and videos



**S.A.S. offers study skills, writing advice, maths and stats support, assignment and revision support.**

# Sources of Support

## Skills for Academic Success (SAS)

Academic skills support and advice for all students from foundation to PhD.



Book an appointment



Study guides and videos



**Support is offered in the form of 1-1 appointments, workshops, and videos.**





# Sources of Support

## Student Support and Wellbeing



Register Online



Contact Us



[Student Support and Wellbeing -  
University of Kent](#)

# Sources of Support

Kent Student Support and Wellbeing (SSW) provides a range of services to help you thrive academically and personally. Their support includes:

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Confidential counselling, mental health advising, specialist wellbeing support, and addiction management.
- **Disability and Neurodiversity:** Assistance for dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, autism, mobility issues, sensory impairments, and long-term health conditions.
- **Accessing Learning and Support:** Support for care-experienced and international students, accessibility resources, Disabled Students' Allowance, and Kent Inclusive Practices (KIPs).





[Student Support and Wellbeing -  
University of Kent](#)




# Student Support & Wellbeing

## Wellbeing & Mental Health Support

 Counselling, mental health advice, and emotional wellbeing guidance.


 Confidential, non-judgmental support whenever you need it.


## Disability & Health Support


 Support for students with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

 Tailored help to manage your academic journey with confidence.


## Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)

 Once registered with us, we'll work with you to create an ILP


 Includes reasonable adjustments for your studies and assessments.

 Find out more about [Inclusive Learning Plans](#).

## Specialist Support & Safeguarding

 Help with issues such as harassment, sexual violence, bullying, discrimination, or hate incidents.

## Report and Support Tool

 Report concerns anonymously or with your name:

 Visit: [ReportAndSupport.kent.ac.uk](https://ReportAndSupport.kent.ac.uk)

## Get in Touch

Visit: [Kent.ac.uk/student-support](https://Kent.ac.uk/student-support)

 Email: [KentSSW@kent.ac.uk](mailto:KentSSW@kent.ac.uk)



# Careers & Employability

We provide the advice, workshops and tools to prepare Kent students and graduates for employment and further study.

## Your Careers Service

Make the most of your time at Kent by using your Careers and Employability Service



<https://student.kent.ac.uk/careers>

# Thank you, and welcome !

- Feel free to email me with questions at any time:  
[a.nyhout@kent.ac.uk](mailto:a.nyhout@kent.ac.uk)