



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

MSc in Health Psychology 2011 – 2012 Student Guide



Welcome to the School of Psychology, NUI, Galway

Dear MSc Student

Congratulations on securing a place on the MSc in Health Psychology at NUI, Galway. I hope that your postgraduate studies with us will be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding.

This student guide has been compiled for your benefit by the MSc in Health Psychology Team and we hope you will find it useful. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this guide are accurate, some details about your course may change during the year and you will be notified about these changes as they become relevant. The most up-to-date information throughout the year will be posted on NUI Galway's Blackboard Electronic Learning System. You will have access to this one you are registered as a student with NUI, Galway.

Wishing you every success,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Byrne".

Dr Molly Byrne, Programme Director

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The academic year at a glance

	First Semester	Second Semester
Teaching begins	Monday, 5th September, 2011	Monday, 9th January, 2012
Teaching ends	Saturday, 26 th November, 2011	Saturday, 31 st March, 2012
Study Week	Monday, 28th November, 2011	Monday, 1 st April-21 st April, 2012 (includes Easter holidays)
Examinations begin	Monday, 5th December, 2011	Monday, 23 rd April 2012
Examinations end	Friday, 16th December, 2011	Friday, 18 th May, 2012
Holiday periods	Sunday, 18th December, 2011 – Sunday, 8th January, 2012	Monday, 1 st April-21 st April, 2012 (includes study week)

Summer term

Your dissertation is due to be submitted on Friday, 24th August 2012.

Some dates for your diary

Registering for your course

Online registration will open from 23rd August until 30th September 2011. YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE WITHOUT PAYING FEES. See: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/registration/>.

You must complete the registration of your course and modules within that time, thereafter, late fees will be applied. All fee queries should be directed to the Fees Office directly: fees@nuigalway.ie.

The Registration Helpdesk will be open in Áras Uí Chathail from 10am until 4pm from 23rd August 2011.

Notable dates:

2011

10:00, Tuesday
September 6th Orientation Meeting for MSc in Health Psychology students
(this meeting will take place in Room 219, the meeting room in the School of Psychology, St Anthony's/Cairnes Building)

10th - 13th Nov PSI , Annual Conference - Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway

2012

4th April 9th Annual Conference of the Division of Health Psychology,
Psychological Society of Ireland, will be held in Queen's University Belfast

The School of Psychology

Head of School	Dr. AnnMarie Groarke
Administrative staff :	Ms Nuala Donohue Ms Miriam Lohan Ms Olive O Grady Ms Alma Greally (<i>attached to Clinical Psychology programme</i>)
Postal Address:	School of Psychology National University of Ireland, Galway Galway
Telephone Numbers:	(091) 493101 / (091) 493454 (direct) (091) 524411, Ext. 3101/Ext. 3454
Fax No:	(091) 521355
Website:	http://www.nuigalway.ie/psy/
Email:	psychology@nuigalway.ie

Background to the School of Psychology

The Department of Psychology at NUI Galway was established in 1971, and became the School of Psychology in 2007. The School has grown rapidly in recent years both in the range of teaching programmes and in its research activity. While embracing a wide range of philosophies and approaches characteristic of modern psychology, the School of Psychology is strongly identified with four main research clusters:

- Clinical, behavioural and biological psychology
- Developmental and social psychology
- Perception, cognition and action
- Psychology and health

Currently, the School is primarily located on the North Campus, Newcastle Road, adjacent to the main University campus. The administrative centre of the School is located in the Cairnes Building, formerly St. Anthony's Franciscan Friary. A number of members of staff and post graduate students have offices in the New Engineering Building. This building also contains research facilities, teaching and computer laboratories, and workshops. In addition, staff and facilities for the Doctor of Psychological Science in Clinical Psychology programme are accommodated in the city centre at Woodquay.

Summary of Academic Programmes

Undergraduate. At the undergraduate level, the School offers a denominated BA in Psychology, a "double honours" programme accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), which also meets the requirements for graduate accreditation specified by the British Psychological Society. The Denominated BA in Psychology attracts students of the highest academic merit nationally, as measured by results in the Leaving Certificate Examination and end-of-year examinations in the First Year Psychology programme. In addition to the Denominated BA, a three-year sequence of Psychological Studies is offered, permitting students to combine Psychology with one other Arts subject to degree level. Provision can be made allowing the course of studies to be extended from 3 to

4 years, with students taking a study year abroad as their third year in both the Denominated programme, BA in Psychology (International) and Psychological Studies, BA (International).

In addition, the Psychological Studies programme articulates with a one-year full-time postgraduate programme, the Higher Diploma in Psychology (Conversion). The combined qualification provides graduates with equivalent standing in psychology to that provided by the Denominated BA in Psychology. A second higher diploma, the two-year full-time Higher Diploma in Psychology (Full), is intended for graduates who possess an honours degree in any subject area other than psychology, and provides the equivalent course content to that of the denominated BA in Psychology.

The School of Psychology also provides input to programmes in Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Language Therapy, located in the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

Postgraduate. Several postgraduate taught and research programmes are on offer. In 2006, a Board-certified Postgraduate Diploma/Masters Programme in Applied Behaviour Analysis was introduced and subsequently a structured PhD programme in ABA was developed. In 2007, a one-year full-time MSc programme in Health Psychology was introduced, replacing the former two-year Master of Psychological Science (Health Psychology) which was established in 1994. The School also offers a PSI-accredited three-year full-time postgraduate professional qualification in clinical psychology, the Doctor of Psychological Science (Clinical Psychology), which began in 2003.

In addition, the School offers supervision to suitably qualified graduates in psychology who wish to carry out research leading to MLitt and PhD degrees. The School is particularly committed to expanding the postgraduate research programme, and numbers have increased substantially. In 2009/2010, the School introduced a range of Structured PhD programmes. These include the Structured PhD programmes in Psychology and Health, among others.

Facilities in the School of Psychology

Besides the usual rooms for lectures and accommodation for staff and postgraduate researchers, the School has a variety of laboratories for experimental work. Equipment is available for research on psychophysiological functioning, visual perception; acquisition of motor skills; learning in humans; memory; the study of child behaviour; and the study of group processes. The School also has its own video studio, which is used for interview and communication skills training.

Laboratory Facilities. The School maintains a host of laboratory spaces suitable for supporting research in health psychology. These include: a haemodynamic reactivity laboratory; an EEG laboratory; a dual-use EEG/haemodynamic laboratory; an impedance cardiography laboratory; a cortisol laboratory with associated wet lab facilities; a horseshoe-shaped laboratory; an interview/observation room (with adjacent control room); a temporal factors/psychophysics laboratory; a number of larger-space lab areas (suitable for group work); a number of computer suites; and several individual research cubicles.

Psychological Test Library. The School has an extensive library of psychological tests, including intelligence tests, personality inventories, scholastic attainment tests, and measures of adaptive behaviour. The Test Library is overseen by *TO BE APPOINTED*, to whom queries and requests should be directed in the first instance. The Test Library is located on the third floor of the New Engineering Building.

Resources at the James Hardiman Library. Over 4,000 books in psychology and closely related subjects are stocked by the James Hardiman Library. In addition, over 600 journals are available that deal specifically with psychology. The library has recently introduced a new electronic search engine called e-Knowledge. It can help you identify, locate and manage the ever growing collection of e-resources and e-journals.

Staff in the School of Psychology

Name	Website (www.nuigalway.ie/psychology/...)	Email (...@nuigalway.ie)
Academic Staff*		
Dr John Bogue	j_bogue_page.htm	john.bogue
Dr Molly Byrne	m_byrne_page.htm	molly.byrne
Dr Jonathan Egan	j_egan_page.htm	jonathan.egan
Dr Mark Elliott	m_elliott_page.htm	mark.elliott
Dr AnnMarie Groarke	a_groarke_page.htm	annmarie.groarke
Dr Caroline Heary	c_heary_page.htm	caroline.heary
Dr. Olive Healy	o_healy_page.htm	olive.healy
Dr Michael Hogan	m_hogan_page.htm	michael.hogan
Dr Brian Hughes	b_hughes_page.htm	brian.hughes
Professor Jack James	j_james_page.htm	j.james
Ms Anne Marie Keane	a_keane_page.htm	annemarie.keane
Dr Geraldine Leader	g_leader_page.htm	geraldine.leader
Dr Pádraig Mac Neela	p_mcneela_page.html	padraig.macneela
Dr Brian McGuire	b_mcguire_page.htm	brian.mcguire
Dr Denis O’Hora	d_o_hora_page.htm	denis.ohora

Dr Kiran Sarma	k_sarma.html	kiran.sarma
Dr Ian Stewart	i_stewart_page.htm	ian.stewart
Dr Jane Walsh	j_walsh_page.htm	jane.walsh

**Detailed biographical notes and publication lists for all academic staff are available on each staff member's website*

Technical Staff

Mr Declan Coogan	staff_tech.htm	declan.coogan
Mr Joe Mee	staff_tech.htm	joseph.mee

Administrative Staff

Ms Miriam Lohan	staff_admin.htm	miriam.lohan
Ms Olive O Grady	staff_admin.htm	olive.ogradey
Ms Nuala Donohue	staff_admin.htm	nuala.donohue
Ms Alma Greally (Clinical Psychology)	staff_admin.htm	alma.greally

School of Psychology office hours, appointments and requests for references

The main office of the School of Psychology, is located at Room 227/228 in the Cairne's Building (formerly St. Anthony's). The office is usually staffed from 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Re: Appointments

Members of the academic staff are available to assist and advise students as much as possible. However, their availability is limited by their other responsibilities. Most academic staff will arrange particular hours of the week during which they are available for appointments. (Of course, staff will try to be flexible in the event of genuinely urgent or emergency circumstances.)

Re: Requests for Academic References

It is likely that you will consider applying for further study or occupational opportunities, and it is normal in these circumstances to request academic references from members of the School's staff. It is recommended that you allow at least two weeks notice, if you require a reference. However, individual staff commitments may vary. Students who wish to request such a reference should submit:

- (i) a copy of their CV;
- (ii) a copy of relevant academic transcripts of results; and
- (iii) details of the intended recipient of the reference (i.e., details of the course or programme to which they are applying, including "Instructions for Referees" or equivalent documentation supplied by the course organisers; prospective employers details) to the staff member from whom they are requesting the reference.

The MSc in Health Psychology

The MSc in Health Psychology is a one-year taught Master's programme of academic study in the discipline of health psychology. The course is concerned with the application of psychological theory, methods and research to health, illness and health care. The course includes lectures, seminars and workshops on the biopsychosocial basis of health and illness; models of health-related behaviour and illness cognition; health psychology in applied settings; psychosomatic influences on health and current issues relevant to health psychology. Students also take classes in research methods in health psychology and carry out an empirical research project in a health-related area.

The overall aims of the course are:

- To equip graduates with a comprehensive knowledge base in health psychology, at postgraduate level
- To train students to conduct high quality research in the area of health psychology
- To prepare students to undertake future professional training in health psychology and other areas of psychology, such as clinical psychology.

The programme is delivered across three academic terms (Semester 1, Semester 2, and the Summer Term). Semesters 1 and 2 contain a number of taught modules, which are assessed based on course-work, continuous assessment assignments and written exams. Throughout both Semesters 1 and 2 and the Summer Term, students carry out and report on a significant piece of supervised research, which comprises a Minor Dissertation. In addition, to the dissertation, other forms of assessment include exams, essays and other forms of continuous assessment. The distribution of modules across terms is presented overleaf.

Programme Overview

Semester 1

Module code	Module Title	Weighting (ECTS units)
PS577	Models of Health-Related Behaviour and Cognition	10
PS579	Research Methods in Psychology	10
PS576	Foundations of Health Psychology	10
PS580	Psychosomatic Influences on Health	10

Semester 2

Module code	Module Title	Weighting (ECTS units)
PS541	Applied Health Psychology	10
PS581	Current Issues in Health Psychology	10

Semesters 1 & 2, and Summer Term

Module code	Module Title	Weighting (ECTS units)
PS582	Research Seminar	5
PS583	Minor Dissertation	25

Semester 1 timetable

Semester 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 – 10			CA114 Cairnes Building PS580 (Dr Jonathan Egan)		
10 – 11			CA114 Cairnes Building PS580 (Dr Jonathan Egan)	CA107 Cairnes Building PS577 (Dr. Molly Byrne)	
11 – 12		TBC PS579† SPSS Training (Ms. Andrea Gibbons)	CA114, Cairnes Building PS579 (Dr. Jane Walsh)	CA107 Cairnes Building PS577 (Dr. Molly Byrne)	
12 – 1		TBC PS579 SPSS Training (Ms. Andrea Gibbons)	CA114, Cairnes Building PS579 (Dr. Jane Walsh)		
1 – 2					
2 – 3		CA115 Cairnes Building PS576 (Prof. Jack James)	EN335* New Engineering Building PS583 (Dr. Molly Byrne)		
3 – 4		CA115 Cairnes Building PS576 (Prof. Jack James)	EN335* New Engineering Building PS583 (Dr. Molly Byrne)		
4 – 5					

* Lectures for PS583 will not take place every week. The first class will take place in week 2 (14th September); you will receive a timetable at this class.

† SPSS training (part of PS579) will start in week 2.

Δ Additional sessions (for PS582 Research Seminar) will be scheduled throughout the year, at which attendance is required. Where possible, these will be scheduled for Thursday afternoons.

Semester 2 timetable

Semester 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 – 10					
10 – 11		CA109 Cairnes Building PS541 (Ms Anne Marie Keane)		IT206 PS583 (Dr. Caroline Heary)	
11 – 12		CA109 Cairnes Building PS541 (Ms Anne Marie Keane)		IT206 PS583 (Dr. Caroline Heary)	
12 – 1					
1 – 2					
2 – 3			CA109 Cairnes Building PS581 (Dr. Caroline Heary)		
3 – 4			CA109 Cairnes Building PS581 (Dr. Caroline Heary)		
4 – 5			CA109 Cairnes Building PS581 (Dr. Caroline Heary)		

* Lectures for PS583 will not take place every week.

Semester 1

PS577

Models of Health-Related Behaviour and Cognition

ECTS Weighting: 10

Module Coordinator: Dr Molly Byrne

Contributors: Dr Molly Byrne, Dr AnnMarie Groarke, Ms Andrea Gibbons

Description: In this module, students will be introduced to models and theories which seek to explain the relationships between psychological variables, particularly illness and health cognitions, and health-related behaviour and health outcomes. In addition, students will be introduced to the discipline of health promotion and explore how psychological theory can contribute to the development of health promoting interventions.

Learning outcomes: On completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate current theories of health related cognition and behaviour.
2. Apply psychological theory to the development of health promoting interventions.
3. Critically evaluate current theories of illness related cognition and behaviour.
4. Understand a broad range of influences upon symptom and risk perception and factors that influence delay in seeking healthcare advice for symptoms.

Basic Reading

Morrison, V. & Bennett, P (2009). An Introduction to Health Psychology. 2nd Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall. (Main Library 616.0019)

Additional course content related reading lists will be provided.

Assessment: Written examination (60%) and continuous assessment (30%) & attendance (10%).

PS579

Research Methods in Health Psychology

ECTS Weighting: 10

Module Coordinator: Dr Jane Walsh

Contributors: Dr Jane Walsh, Dr Denis O'Hora, Ms Andrea Gibbons

Description

This course focuses on methodological issues that arise when conducting research in the area of health psychology such as threats to validity and ethical considerations. The application of a number of advanced statistical methods to research designs in health research is also covered (e.g., factorial analysis of variance, MANOVA, multiple regression, etc.). The course will also provide advanced training in SPSS

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop an understanding of advanced statistical methods used in health psychology research
- Students will be able to evaluate the link between research methods used in psychological research and the appropriate statistical methods used to analyse data
- Students will develop skills needed to set up a database and analyse the data using SPSS
- Students will report the results of research using APA (American Psychological Association) style

Basic Reading

Howitt, D., & Cramer, D. (2011). An introduction to statistics in psychology (5th ed.). London: Prentice Hall.

Howitt, D., & Cramer, D. (2008). Introduction to SPSS in Psychology: For version 16 and earlier (4th ed.). London: Prentice Hall.

Tabachnick, B.G., & Fidell, L.S. (2007). Using multivariate statistics (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Assessment

Continuous assessment, plus an in-class exam on SPSS (40%); written examination (50%) & attendance (10%)

PS576

Foundations of Health Psychology

ECTS Weighting: 10

Module Coordinator: Professor Jack James

Description

In this module, students will gain an understanding of how health and illness result from interacting biological, psychological and social processes. Emphasising the role of psychosocial factors, evidence will be reviewed showing these factors explain more of the variance in population health and illness than biology.

Learning Outcomes

On completing the course students should understand the main historical influences leading to the emergence of health psychology, and the biopsychosocial foundations of population health and illness. Students should be able to apply that understanding when evaluating information concerning areas of health psychology not covered in this module. Students will be able to interpret and apply key concepts and methods of epidemiology.

Basic Reading

Brannon, L. & Feist, J. (2010). *Health Psychology: An introduction to behaviour and health* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Assessment

Assessment will include a continuous assessment component based on brief critiques of readings distributed during semester, and a one-hour written examination at the end of Semester. The distribution of marks will be 50% for CA assignments, 10% for attendance, and 40% for examination.

PS580

Psychosomatic Influences on Health

ECTS Weighting: 10

Module Coordinator: Dr Jonathan Egan

Contributors: Ms Anne Marie Keane MLitt, Dr Brian Hughes, Dr Helen Greally.

Description

In this module, students will gain an understanding of the psychosomatic influences on health and development of illness. Attention is focused on the nature of stress and its psychobiological consequences, on those variables that moderate the stress experience and on strategies for the management of stress.

Learning Outcomes

Gain an understanding of:

- The psychosomatic influences on health and development of illness
- Nature of stress and its psychobiological consequences
- Those variables that moderate the stress experience as well as strategies for the management of stress

Basic Reading

Morrison, V. & Bennett, P (2009). An Introduction to Health Psychology. 2nd Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Assessment

This module will be assessed by written examination (60%), continuous assessment (30%) and attendance at lectures (10%).

As part of this module, a workshop on Stress will be given by Dr Helen Greally in the Cancer Support Centre, Seamus Quirke Rd. Galway.

Semester 2

PS541

Applied Health Psychology

ECTS Weighting: 10

Module Coordinator: Ms Anne Marie Keane

Contributors: Dr AnnMarie Groarke, Dr Caroline Heary, Ms Anne Marie Keane, Dr Pdraig Mac Neela, Dr Jane Walsh

Description

This course covers the role and application of psychological processes in illness and health care delivery. In this module, students will examine: (i) patient-provider communication, using health services / issues raised by hospitalization and medical care, treatment adherence and preventive health behaviour; (ii) the impact of chronic illness upon psychological functioning and factors influencing coping and adjustment, pain and its management; (iii) the role of rehabilitation and interventions in the context of chronic illness.

Learning Outcomes

- The student will understand the role of biological, psychological and social factors in illness and health care delivery contexts
- The student will understand the application of psychological process in the rehabilitation and management of chronic illness and health care delivery
- The student will be able to evaluate the efficacy of interventions in the context of chronic illness and health care delivery

Basic Reading

Morrison, V. & Bennett, P (2009). *An Introduction to Health Psychology*. 2nd Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Taylor, S.E. (2006). *Health psychology* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

Assessment Two-hour written examination (65%), continuous assessment assignments (25%) and 10% attendance

PS581

Current Issues in Health Psychology

ECTS Weighting: 10

Module Coordinator: Dr Caroline Heary

Contributors: Various contributors

Description

This module will cover a variety of topical & emerging issues relevant to health and health-related behaviours. Topics that may be examined include: childhood obesity, psychopharmacology and the biobehavioural study of caffeine, the application of acceptance commitment therapy to the area of chronic pain and mixed methods & participative methodologies relevant to health psychology. The module may also explore health issues relevant to ageing and adaptation.

Learning Outcomes

- To familiarise students with evolving perspectives relevant to health
- To encourage critical reflection on current controversies and emerging issues
- To assist students in identifying areas to which health psychology could contribute fruitfully in the future

Basic Reading

To be confirmed.

Assessment

Continuous assessment (Essay and class presentation) worth 90% and 10% for attendance.

Semesters 1 & 2, and Summer Term

PS582

Research Seminar

ECTS Weighting: 5

Module Coordinator: Dr. Molly Byrne/Dr Caroline Heary

Contributors: Visiting speakers; as well as all students on the MSc in Health Psychology

Description

This module is designed to support and complement students in their research activities. A number of seminars will be delivered by visiting and internal speakers on an occasional basis throughout the programme, at which attendance will be compulsory. All MSc students will also deliver at least one presentation on their Dissertation research.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Appreciate the importance of empirical research as the basis of health psychology
- Understand with greater depth the processes, as well as the products, of research
- Have a greater understanding of the practical reality of research in health psychology
- Present a research proposal to peers.

Basic Reading

Some seminar presenters may provide reading material related to their contributions.

Assessment: 100% attendance and presentation of dissertation proposal.

PS583

Minor Dissertation

ECTS Weighting: 25

Module Coordinator: Dr. Molly Byrne/Dr Caroline Heary

Description

In this module students conduct and report an original empirical research project in a health-related area. The project may be carried out in a psychological laboratory or in a community or health-care setting.

Learning Outcomes

- Under supervision, students will be able to conduct a critical review of the literature, develop testable aims and hypotheses or a research query, devise a suitable method for testing specified aims/hypotheses or queries, collect data, analyse data, and report results in accordance with peer review journal criteria.

Basic Reading

American Psychological Association (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.(6th Edition)

Wood, C., Giles, D. & Percy, C. (2009). Your Psychology Project Handbook. Essex, England: Pearson Education Limited

Assessment

Comprehensive literature review of dissertation topic (20%) and manuscript based on their empirical work (80%)

Submitting your work

As well as written examinations, students will be assessed on the basis of submitted work with respect to certain modules. Submitted work will include assignments set by lecturers. Please take note of the following regulations.

- 1. Submission arrangements.** With regard to continuously assessed work (e.g., essays), all materials for examination should be submitted in **two ways**: (1) submitted electronically, via the Blackboard Turnitin facility and (2) a paper copy should be submitted into the School's Assignment/Project Deposit Box at the School Office, *unless* alternative arrangements are in place. Students will be notified of such alternatives where relevant.
- 2. Copies.** You are requested to keep a copy of all submitted work. In the unlikely event that a submitted piece of work is misplaced or that a dispute emerges as to whether or not a piece of work was originally submitted, the *student* will be responsible for supplying the School with a copy of the submission on request.
- 3. Late Submission of Course Work/Assignments.** All work submitted late will attract a reduced mark, except in particularly extenuating circumstances. The School has decided upon a uniform deduction of **10%** of marks **per day** overdue. This system is intended to ensure that students who meet deadlines are not disadvantaged by fellow students being allowed to submit work late. Accordingly, the system is *not* intended to disadvantage students who encounter genuinely problematic circumstances that interfere with their ability to meet deadlines. Should students experience such circumstances, they are requested to notify the School at the earliest possible opportunity (e.g., *in advance* if possible) so that a fair allowance can be made. If a student is unable to meet a deadline as the result of an illness, an allowance can normally be made so long as medical certification can be produced.

4. **Plagiarism.** *Plagiarism* refers to the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It can refer to the copying of someone else's work, the adaptation of it for a different purpose, or to the close paraphrasing of it.

Plagiarism goes against the spirit of university education, and to a great extent defeats its purpose. Plagiarising other people's work does not entail true learning, as the information you read and transcribe is processed by you at a cognitively superficial level. Therefore, in a case of plagiarism, the offender is depriving themselves of valuable opportunities to exploit the challenges of a learning environment. Given that most learning is transferable, the offender may also find that their ability to perform well in other assignments is not helped – or indeed is somewhat undermined – by their plagiarism. On the other hand, when an assignment is conducted honestly, it generates useful associations and thought processes that impinge positively on the student's ability to perform well across a range of areas of study, as well as in the area in which the assignment is based.

In order that conscientious students receive fair marks for work conducted honestly, plagiarism is treated as an extremely serious academic offence (equivalent to cheating in an examination hall). Everything you submit in written form should be your own work, written in your own choice of words. If you wish to refer to the work of another author, you must credit him or her in your text. Otherwise, text copied from other sources – even in small amounts – is completely prohibited. This applies to all written work that you present for your course. It includes the copying of published texts, text downloaded from the Internet, course notes, and the work of other students (or other people generally). **Please note that the 'Turnitin' facility on Blackboard assesses all submissions for degree of plagiarism and unacceptable levels of plagiarism will result in the severest penalties, which will probably include a mark of zero being awarded to your work. It may also result in University disciplinary procedures beyond those administered by the School of Psychology. Further information is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/exams/Plagiarism.html>.**

Assessment

As well as continuously assessed work, you will be required to take written examinations at the end of each Semester as part of the overall assessment of your performance.

1. **Grade bands.** For the MSc in Health Psychology, grades will be based on the following bands:

Percentage	Honours band
70–100	First class honours
60–69	Second class honours, Grade one
50–59	Second class honours, Grade two
40–49	Pass
0–39	Fail

2. **Checks and Appeals.** At the end of the year, after official University transcripts of results have been issued, students are entitled to seek ‘checks’ or ‘appeals’ of their results. Checks and appeals involve payment of an administrative fee, and are subject to formal University procedures operated through the Examinations Office. Further details are available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/exams/appeals.html>.
3. **Resits/Deferrals.** If the need arises for a student to sit a repeat paper or a deferred written examination, this can be organised in collaboration with Programme Director and the Examinations Office.

NOTE: The information presented above is for guidance only. Students are referred to the University’s *General Calendar* for information on regulations regarding University courses.

Other Important Information

Attendance

Attendance at all organised sessions is obligatory. Attendance sheets will be distributed at all classes and collated by the module coordinator at the end of each semester to monitor attendance. To incentivise attendance, 10% of marks for all modules are awarded for attendance. Marks are deducted proportionately for non-attendance. If you are unable to attend for a valid reason, e.g. sickness, you must speak to the module co-ordinator who will give you an exemption which will mean that marks will not be deducted.

Student Liaison with External Bodies. The co-operation of schools, hospitals and other centres in the research work of the School is greatly appreciated. It is the policy of the School to seek the assistance of such outside agencies only for research work at postgraduate level. Any such contact must be with the permission of an assigned lecturer/supervisor or the Head of School.

Computer Facilities. All students may register without charge with the University's Computer Services. In this way they are given access to a number of PC LAN rooms and the University's mainframe computers. The school will also provide access to experimental software in the school PC room throughout the year. Students will have access to these PCs for project and assignment work.

Professional Organisations. The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) is the professional body and scholarly society for psychology in Ireland. Students are entitled to apply for Student Subscribership of PSI. For a small annual fee, Student Subscribers receive PSI's monthly bulletin *The Irish Psychologist*, *The Irish Journal of Psychology* and the many notices issued by the PSI about its programme of activities. They also can avail of reduced registration fees at events organised by the Society. Students are strongly encouraged to become Student Subscribers of PSI. Application forms are available from the School Office, online at www.psihq.ie, or from: The Psychological Society of Ireland, Floor 2, Grantham House, Grantham Street, Dublin 2.

Students may, if they wish, apply for student membership in other psychology organisations such as the American Psychological Association, Association for Psychological Science, and the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Students are also encouraged to join the PSI Division of Health Psychology. The Division's primary aims are to promote awareness of health psychology in Ireland as a distinct specialism, to develop a clearly-defined career pathway for Health Psychologists in Ireland, and to promote and encourage research in Health Psychology and the application of this research to improve health services and the health status of the people of Ireland. The Division of Health Psychology organises training events throughout the year and an annual scientific conference – which will take place in Queen's University Belfast in 2012. The Division may provide a useful forum for students to keep up-to-date with developments in the area of Health Psychology in Ireland. Affiliate membership of the Division is available to those studying in a postgraduate training course in Health Psychology for a small fee (€20). Further information is available on the Division website at: http://www.psihq.ie/members_div_health.asp.

The NUI Galway Student Psychological Society. The NUI Galway Student Psychological Society was established to promote the learning and enjoyment of psychology in the university. In order to become a member of the Society and to receive the regular updates sent out by the Society, students are requested to register at the NUI Galway Societies' Office, submitting their name, e-mail address, identification number and phone number to that office. <http://www.socs.nuigalway.ie/society-profiles/view77>

If you have a problem

If you have a query or concern regarding an element of the course, we would ask you to speak with the relevant module co-ordinator in the first instance. Thereafter, the Programme Director, Dr Molly Byrne, is available if you have any queries or concerns. The Head of School, Dr AnnMarie Groarke, is also available to you if you have concerns which cannot be dealt with by the Programme Director.