

Course Specification Template

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We undertake continuous review of our courses to ensure quality enhancement and professional relevance, in response to student and other stakeholder feedback and to manage our resources. As a result, this course may be revised during a student's period of registration. Major changes to courses and modifications to courses are approved following consideration through the University College's Course Approval and Review processes or Course and Unit Modification policy, as appropriate; Any changes will be balanced against our obligations to students as set out in our Student Agreement and will be discussed with and communicated to students in an appropriate and timely manner.

Basic Course Information

Final award and title	MSc Military Psychology PGDip Military Psychology PGCert Military Psychology	Course Code	MSMPF MSMPP PDMPF PDMPP PCMPF PCMPP
FHEQ level and credit of final award	7		
Intermediate awards titles	For MSc Military Psychology: PGDip Military Psychology PGCert Military Psychology For PGDip Military Psychology: PGCert Military Psychology		
FHEQ level and credit of intermediate award	7		
Awarding Institution	AECC University College		
Teaching Institution	n/a		
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation/recognition	None		
Duration of PSRB accreditation/recognition where applicable)	n/a		
Mode of study	Full-time and Part-time		
Distance Learning course	Yes		
Standard length of course	One year (Full-time) Two years (Part-time)		

Language of delivery	English
Place of delivery	AECC University College (Online)
UCAS code (where applicable)	n/a
HECOS Code(s)	100493 Applied Psychology 199497 Psychology
Date Course initially approved	July 2024
Version number	1.0
Date this version approved	12 July 2024
Academic year from which this applies	2024-25
Author	Stewart Cotterill

Course Overview

1. Admissions regulations and entry requirements

The regulations for this Course are the University College's Standard Admission Regulations which may be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#). These regulations include the general entry requirements and specific requirements regarding English language.

Students for whom English is not their first language must achieve a score of 7.0 overall or equivalent (with no element below 7.0) for the International English Language Test Score (IELTS) that is no more than 2 years old on application; or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFLS) with a minimum score of 100 with minimum scores of 24 in listening and reading, 23 in speaking and 27 in writing.

The detailed entry requirements for the course may be found from the relevant course page on the University College website.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

AECC University College has a Recognition of Prior Learning Policy which can be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#)

In addition to the standard text please indicate any specific limits on RPL; and whether the course is particularly designed to provide for admission through RPL and if so, what arrangements apply; provide any relevant information.

2. Additional entry requirements

Not applicable

3. Aims of the course

The course aims enable students to attain specific skills in various domains of psychology to ensure in-depth knowledge and understanding in relation to the area of Military Psychology. As part of this process the course aims to enable students to:

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of military psychology, specifically relating to operational matters and psychological performance

3. Aims of the course

- develop a detailed understanding of ethical, moral, and social issues relating to conflict
- develop a deeper understanding of ethical challenges influencing research and professional practice
- critically evaluate, interpret, and synthesize current research, best practice and advanced scholarship in the content of military performance
- evaluate evidence-based methodologies, develop critiques of those methodologies, and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses
- develop continual learning and professional development strategies, and
- advance knowledge via undertaking an extensive piece of independent research that informs practice.

4. Course Learning Outcomes – what students will be expected to achieve

This course provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:	The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:
Subject Knowledge and Understanding Having successfully completed this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: A1 Approaches to critically evaluating the implications of contemporary issues in military psychology. A2 The application of psychological theory and best practice to positively influence the psychology of individuals in the military context. A3 The rigorous evaluation of psychological knowledge to enable critical application to military and conflict contexts. A4 The research process and conducting empirical research at a higher level.	Teaching and Learning Methods Seminars, workshops, groupwork. Students will engage in interactive learning opportunities and debate taught content. These methods will promote independent study skills, group/practical work will aid students' ability to work proactively with others. Additionally, by locating and accessing information, using current and emerging digital technologies, students will develop a range of communication and employability skills. Assessment Methods Essays, reports, portfolios, presentations. Assessments present a mixture of the integration of research and theory into problem-based learning, practical skills, and recall in case-based scenarios, thereby encouraging students to be critical and apply fundamental theories.
Cognitive Skills Having successfully completed this course students will be able to: B1 Systematically and creatively explore complex issues in order to make well-structured, reasoned arguments, supported by relevant evidence. B2 Evaluate and reflect upon original research to plan effectively for continuing professional development. B3 Demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in	Teaching and Learning Methods Seminars, workshops, group work, online tutorials. Students are frequently notified of professional developments, are encouraged to read new publications, and are taught about cutting edge developments within the field. Specifically, applied-relevant and research-relevant skills are integrated throughout the course. Assessment Methods Essays, reports, portfolios, presentations, research project. Assessments require a

the domains of military and operational psychology. B4 Demonstrate ability to apply new knowledge and insight to inform research or understanding within military psychology.	mixture of problem-based learning, practical skills, and literature research and evaluation skills, thereby encouraging students to apply relevant knowledge to practical and theoretical situations and preparing them for further training.
Practical Skills Having successfully completed this course students will be able to: C1 Apply theory and evidence about psychology to design interventions for application in military and operational contexts. C2 Apply reflective practice skills in evaluating their own professional and practical performance. C3 Use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to military and operational psychology.	Teaching and Learning Methods Lectures, seminars, workshops, group work. Students will engage with practical and research activities throughout their course. They will be appropriately supervised and ethical independence will be promoted throughout. While such issues are considered in every module, the research-focused units are the main conduit for such learning. Assessment Methods Reports, research project. Students must integrate reflections and considerations of the BPS code of conduct and professional practice frameworks via reports, and the research project, thus being challenges to be critical, reflective and analytical.
Transferable skills Having successfully completed this course students will be able to: D1 Efficiently search large and complex literature sources, paying particular attention to the quality of the evidence provided. D2 Solve problems in creative and innovative ways. D3 Reflect on complex theory and communicate novel ideas effectively via different media, and to different audiences.	Teaching and Learning Methods Seminars, workshops. Students' will be encouraged to complete preparatory material/work and assessed work in an appropriate time frame ensuring deadlines are met. This will require students to manage and plan their time effectively and do so for multiple modules simultaneously. This will enhance students' time management and organisation skills, which are critical employability skills. Assessment Methods Essays, reports, research project. Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements and will consist of a mixture of written, practical and oral assessment modes which require a range of IT packages and knowledge.

Intermediate exit award outcomes

Postgraduate Certificate

Subject Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 Approaches to critically evaluating the implications of contemporary issues in military psychology.
- A2 The application of psychological theory and best practice to positively impact upon the psychology of individuals in the military context.

- A3 The rigorous evaluation of psychological knowledge to enable critical application to military and conflict contexts.

Cognitive Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- B1 Systematically and creatively explore complex issues in order to make well-structured, reasoned arguments, supported by relevant evidence.
- B3 Demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in the domains of military and operational psychology.

Practical Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- C1 Apply theory and evidence about psychology to design interventions for application in military and operational contexts.
- C3 Apply reflective practice skills in evaluating their own professional and practical performance.

Transferable skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- D1 Efficiently search large and complex literature sources, paying particular attention to the quality of the evidence provided.
- D2 Solve problems in creative and innovative ways.
- D3 Communicate ideas effectively via different media, and to different audiences.

Postgraduate Diploma

Subject Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 Approaches to critically evaluating the implications of contemporary issues in military psychology.
- A2 The application of psychological theory and best practice to positively impact upon the psychology of individuals in the military context.
- A3 The rigorous evaluation of psychological knowledge to enable critical application to military and conflict contexts.

Cognitive Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- B1 Systematically and creatively explore complex issues in order to make well-structured, reasoned arguments, supported by relevant evidence.
- B2 Evaluate and reflect upon their individual research or applied practice in order to plan effectively for continuing professional development.
- B3 Demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in the domains of military and operational psychology.

Practical Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- C1 Apply theory and evidence about psychology to design interventions for application in military and operational contexts.

- C2 Apply reflective practice skills in evaluating their own professional and practical performance.
- C3 Use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to military and operational psychology

Transferable skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- D1 Efficiently search large and complex literature sources, paying particular attention to the quality of the evidence provided.
- D2 Solve problems in creative and innovative ways.
- D3 Communicate ideas effectively via different media, and to different audiences.

Course Structure

5. Outline of course content

The course is composed of 180 credits of compulsory postgraduate (level 7) units as follows:

- Dissertation (60)
- Research Methods (20)
- Performance Psychology (10)
- Mental Health (10)
- Performance Vision (10)
- Psychology of Injury, Pain, and Recovery (10)
- Leadership (20)
- Ethics, Morality and Conflict (20)
- Operational Psychology (20)

The course is designed to develop student understanding of key aspects of performance psychology and in addition, their understanding of military and operational-focused contexts. The course draws on the research and applied practice strengths of the applied psychology team here at AECC University College, to provide students with a course that supports their career aspirations and the development of their understanding of military and operational contexts.

The course will enable students to become evidence-based practitioners who are active problem-solvers, providing the best psychological solutions to the challenges they encounter when seeking to enhance performance in military contexts.

In the course students develop a strong foundation of core factors that impact upon overall performance including performance psychology, mental health, sports vision. In addition, students will develop an understanding of psychological factors influencing injury, pain, and recovery. There will also be a focus on military-focused understanding including leadership, operational psychology and ethics, morality and conflict.

Finally, students will also develop a clear understanding of the research process through the research methods unit, to develop the skills required to undertake their personalized research project in the dissertation unit.

6. Placements, work-based learning or other special features of the course

There are no specific placement or work-based learning requirements to the course. Students will be encouraged to apply their learning in practice in their own specific contexts.

The course will utilize case-based approaches to learning to provide examples of context for students on the course.

7. Course structure, levels, units, credit and award

The level of study, units and credits required for the course and for final and exit awards are set out in the **course diagram** provided at [Appendix 1](#).

The **learning outcomes mapping document** at [Appendix 2](#) shows the relationship between ILOs for units and the overarching ILOs of the course.

The **Course summary document** at [Appendix 3](#) shows the structure of each unit in terms of summative assessment and gives an indication of learning hours/student workload for each unit.

8. Learning hours/student workload

AECC University College courses are made up of units of study, which are given a credit value indicating the notional amount of learning undertaken. One credit equates to ten student study hours, including student contact time, tutor guided learning time, and independent study (including assessment). Ten University credits are equivalent to five European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

Student contact time is a broad term, referring to the amount of time students can expect to engage with University College staff in relation to teaching and learning. It includes scheduled teaching sessions (sessions on a student and/or staff timetable), specific academic guidance (i.e. not broader pastoral support/guidance) and feedback. Contact time can take a wide variety of forms depending on the subject and the mode of study. It can include engagement both face-to face (in person) through on-campus seminars, labs, studios and workshops - and online, for example through Teams seminars, online discussion forums, webinars, e-mail or live chat. Online contact time can be synchronous or asynchronous. Online contact time is always characterised by personalised tutor presence and input within a specified timeframe.

Opportunities for one-to-one interaction with members of staff, during which students can receive individual help or personalised feedback on their progress, may not always present themselves as formal scheduled sessions. 'Office hours' for example are a frequent feature where members of staff are available for one-to-one sessions at set times. Interactions via email is another example of contact time.

Independent study incorporates student-led activities (without the guidance of a member of teaching staff), such as preparation for scheduled sessions, reflecting on feedback received and planning for future tasks, follow-up work, wider reading (including reading beyond set topics), or practice, revision, and completion of assessment tasks,

Independent study helps students learn to manage their own learning as preparation for the expectations of a professional life that emphasises continuing professional development and life-long learning.

Tutor-guided learning covers specific learning activities that students are asked to undertake by a tutor, such as directed reading, review of learning materials on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in advance of scheduled 'flipped classroom' sessions.

In a typical week students on this course will normally have around 12 hours of learning time, that may include a range of asynchronous learning activities including interactive tasks, videos, quizzes, reading and workshops.

In addition to contact time and guided non-contact hours, students are expected to undertake around 12 hours of independent study per week. This includes time for revisions/preparation for assessments, as well as activities such as private reading and researching.

More detail about student workload is provided in unit specifications.

9. Staff delivering the course

Students will be taught by AECC University College academic staff and qualified professional practitioners with relevant expertise. This will include both HCPC registered practitioner psychologists and individuals with relevant military expertise.

10. Progression and assessment regulations

The regulations for this course are the University College's Assessment Regulations which may be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#).

Where specific requirements apply – for example, where Professional, Statutory and Regulatory bodies have additional or alternative requirements this is specified in the relevant course-specific section of the Assessment regulations.

11. Employment progression routes

It is envisaged that graduates will either progress to positions working as performance psychologists in the UK or Internationally or will begin or continue to work in a range of support roles in the military context (e.g., strength and conditioning coaches, physiotherapists, counsellors, nutritionists).

12. Additional costs and special or unusual conditions which apply to this course

Additional costs are mandatory or optional costs which students will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete their course. Students will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Tuition Fee they are charged.

'Special or unusual conditions' are aspects of the course which students may not be expecting and which may therefore have an impact on whether or not they wish to undertake the course.

Information about additional costs and special or unusual conditions applying to students on this course can be found in the **Important information to take into account when choosing your course** available from the [Latest Policies webpage](#)

If there are any specific costs which the course team consider should be drawn to the attention of students this may be added

13. Methods for evaluating the quality of learning and teaching

Students have the opportunity to engage in the quality assurance and enhancement of their courses in a number of ways, which may include:

- Completing student surveys annually to give feedback on individual units and on the course as a whole
- Completing the National Student Survey in the final year of the course (delete where not applicable)
- Taking part in focus groups as arranged
- Seeking nomination as a Student Union representative OR engaging with these elected student representatives
- Serving as a student representative on Course Consideration panels for course approval/review
- Taking part in Course Consideration or professional body meetings by joining a group of students to meet with the panel
- Taking part in meetings with the external examiner(s) for the course (such meetings may take place virtually)

The ways in which the quality of the University College's courses is monitored and assured, both inside and outside the institution, are:

- Annual monitoring of units and courses.
- Periodic Course review, at least every six years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report.
- Oversight by Academic Standards and Quality Committee (which includes student representation), reporting to Academic Board.
- Professional body accreditation and annual reports to these bodies

14. Inclusivity statement

AECC University College is committed to being an institution where students and staff from all backgrounds can flourish. AECC University College recognises the importance of equality of opportunity and promoting diversity, in accordance with our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. We are committed to a working and learning environment that is free from physical, verbal and non-verbal harassment and bullying of individuals on any grounds, and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, within a positive and satisfying learning and working environment.

AECC University College seeks to ensure that all students admitted to our courses have the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The interests of students with protected characteristics will be taken into consideration and reasonable adjustments will be made provided that these do not compromise academic or professional standards as expressed through the learning outcomes.

15. External reference points

- UK Quality Code for Higher Education: The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (October 2014)
- QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (2020)
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education (2016)

16. Internal reference points and policy frameworks

- AECC University College Strategic Plan
- AECC University College Course Design Framework
- AECC University College Feedback on Assessments policy

The course conforms fully with the University College's academic policies and procedures applicable to Taught Courses.

Record of Modifications

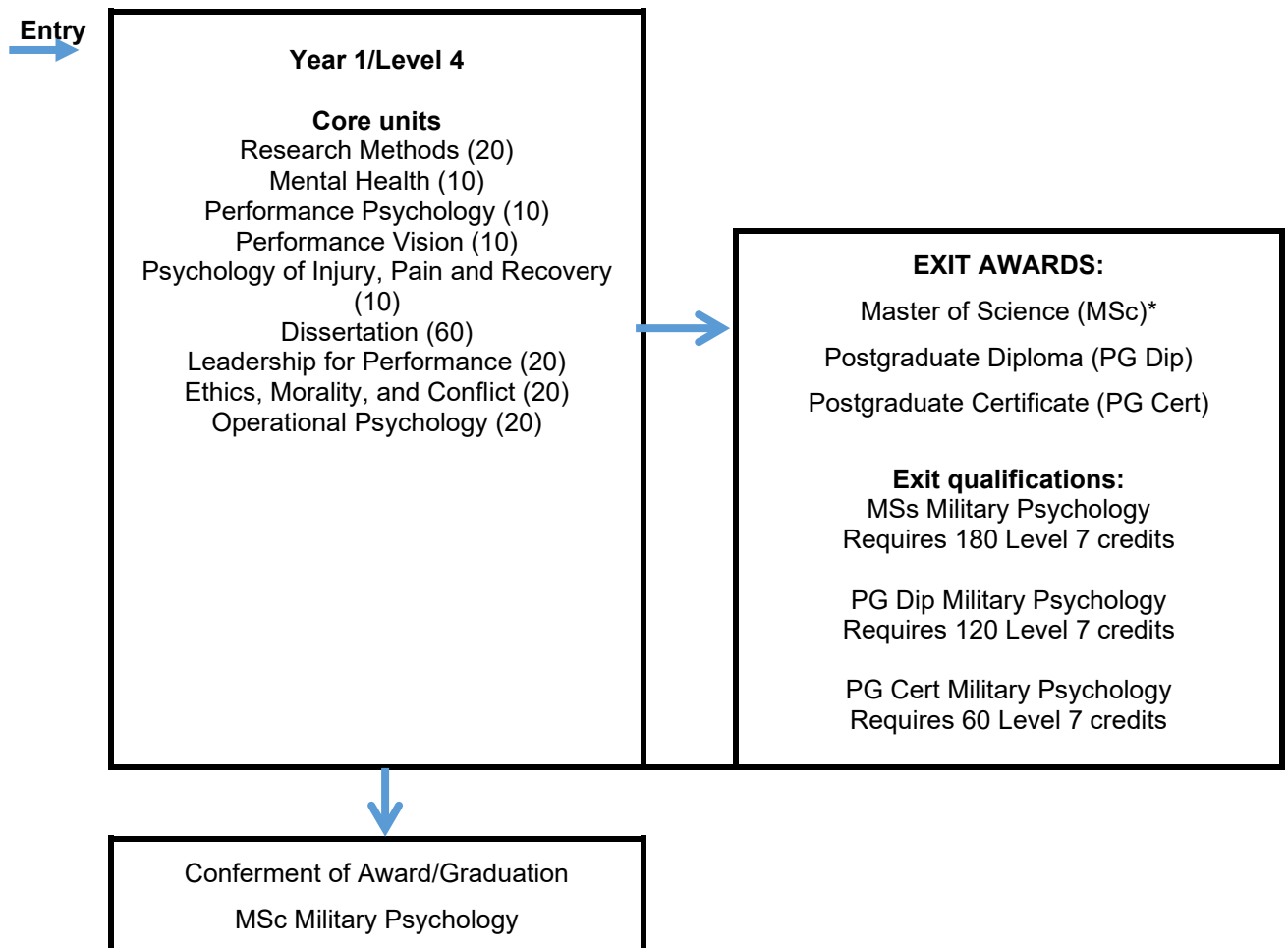
Course level

Description of Modification	Date approved	Intake to which modification applies

Unit level

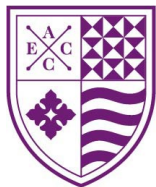
Unit code and title	Nature of modification	Date of approval/ approving body	Intake to which modification applies
PPS7008 Mental Health	Editorial correction to assessment weightings	N/A- Correction	September 2025 and all future
PSY-coded units	Editorial correction to PSY-coded units version number- all v2.0	N/A- Correction. Applied June 2025. No version change	September 2024 and all future

Appendix One - Course Diagram MSc Military Psychology (Online)



Any interim awards conferred will be on the basis of successful completion of sufficient level 7 learning outcomes in the listed units to achieve the required number of credits for the relevant award.

Only completion of all units will confer the award of MSc Military Psychology



Appendix 2: Learning outcomes mapping document template

This table shows where a learning outcome referenced in the course specification may be taught (T), developed (D) and/or assessed (A) within a unit. The numbers A1 A2 B1 B2 etc refer back to the learning outcomes listed under Subject Knowledge and Understanding, Intellectual Skills, Practical Skills and Transferable skills in this course specification template (Course [Intended Learning Outcomes](#)).

Unit Code	Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3
PSY7000	7				X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
PSY7001	7				X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
PSY7005	7	X	X	X		X	X			X			X	X	
PPS7008	7						X		X	X	X			X	X
PSY7009	7		X	X			X			X	X			X	
PSY7010	7		X				X		X	X	X	X		X	X
PPS7011	7	X	X	X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X
MPS7013	7						X			X	X			X	X
MPS7014		X				X	X		X	X				X	X

Appendix 3 Course summary

Course title: MSc Military Psychology

Unit details						Assessment Component Weightings (%)*						Prof. body requirement Applies*	Estimated learning hours		
Code	Title	Version	Credits	Core/Option	Pre/co requisites	Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	Prac 1	Prac 2		scheduled contact	directed non-contact	self-directed
PSY7000	Dissertation	2.0	60	C				80%	10%	10%			16	44	540
PSY7001	Research Methods	2.0	20	C				100%					32	64	104
PSY7005	Performance Psychology	2.0	10	C				100%					16	32	52
PPS7008	Mental Health	2.0	10	C				50%		50%			16	32	52
PSY7009	Psychology of Injury, Pain and Recovery	2.0	10	C				100%					16	32	52
PSY7010	Performance Vision	2.0	10	C				100%					16	32	52
PPS7011	Leadership for Performance	1.0	20	C				50%		50%			32	64	104
MPS7013	Ethics, Morality and Conflict	1.0	20	C				20%	80%				32	64	104
MPS7014	Operational Psychology	1.0	20	C				50%	50%				32	64	104
Exit qualification: MSc Military Psychology (requires 180 credits at Level 7) PGDip Military Psychology (requires 120 credits at Level 7) PGCert Military Psychology (requires 60 credits at Level 7)															

* If this box is marked 'yes,' then it is a requirement set by the relevant professional body that the pass mark must be achieved in all components of assessment to pass the unit, regardless of the overall aggregated mark.