

Medical Sciences Divisional Board**Approved by:** PVC (Education) on behalf of Education Committee (May 2017)**Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation [if general]**

Master of Science by Coursework in Psychological Research

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to the Core and Optional Modules. To change Computer Modelling of Brain Function from a Core to an Optional Module. To change Philosophical Foundations of Psychology from an Optional Module to a Core Module.

Effective date

For students starting in MT 2017

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016-17* (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mosbcinpsycrese/administratorview/>), Master of Science by Coursework in Psychological Research

Detail of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016-17* (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mosbcinpsycrese/administratorview/>), Master of Science by Coursework in Psychological Research, citation references 1.14, 1.15, 1.20, 1.24, 1.36 and 1.39

[1.14] ~~IV. Computer Modelling of Brain Function~~ Philosophical Foundations of Psychology

~~[1.15] Each candidate shall be required to submit one electronic copy of a portfolio of reports based on practical work completed during the module and an essay of no more than 3,000 words. All such assignments must be uploaded to the Assignments section of the Degrees WebLearn site by the time and date specified at the start of the course in the Course Handbook. Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work. Essay topics must be approved by the Organising Committee. Candidates who fail to submit a portfolio will be deemed to have failed the module.~~

[1.20] ~~I. Philosophical Foundations of Psychology~~ Computer Modelling of Brain Function

[1.24] For each optional module undertaken, candidates shall be required to submit one electronic copy of an essay of no more than 3,000 words. All such assignments must be uploaded to the Assignments section of the Degrees WebLearn site by the times and dates specified at the start of the course in the Course Handbook. Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work. Essay topics must be approved by the Organising Committee.

For the Computer Modelling of Brain Function optional module, each candidate shall additionally be required to submit one electronic copy of a portfolio of reports based on practical work completed during the module. This assignment must be uploaded to the Assignments section of the Degrees WebLearn site by the time and date specified at the start of the course in the Course Handbook. Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work.

[1.36] IV. *Computer Modelling of Brain Function* This module provides an introduction to the goals and methods of computational modelling in the context of cognitive neuroscience, covering the architecture, function, and properties of a number of basic prototypical classes of neural network. It also looks at how these basic neural networks provide building blocks for larger-scale models of brain function. Lectures will be supplemented by practical sessions providing hands-on experience of computational modelling.

Philosophical Foundations of Psychology This module begins with historical and foundational issues and progresses to philosophical issues arising from areas of contemporary research in psychology. Topics studied will include some of: the subject matter of psychology; levels of description; the epistemology of psychology; psychological understanding; cognitive science; the study of neuropsychological and psychiatric disorders; the scientific study of consciousness; and philosophical issues arising from areas of contemporary research.

[1.39] I. *Philosophical Foundations of Psychology* This module begins with historical and foundational issues and progresses to philosophical issues arising from areas of contemporary research in psychology. Topics studied will include some of: the subject matter of psychology; levels of description; the epistemology of psychology; psychological understanding; cognitive science; the study of neuropsychological and psychiatric disorders; the scientific study of consciousness; and philosophical issues arising from areas of contemporary research.

Computer Modelling of Brain Function This module provides an introduction to the goals and methods of computational modelling in the context of cognitive neuroscience, covering the architecture, function, and properties of a number of basic prototypical classes of neural network. It also looks at how these basic neural networks provide building blocks for larger-scale models of brain function. Lectures will be supplemented by practical sessions providing hands-on experience of computational modelling.

Explanatory Notes

The Philosophical Foundations of Psychology module was originally offered as a core module when all modules on the MSc in Psychological Research were compulsory. When the optional modules structure was introduced in 2014, Philosophical Foundations of Psychology was made an optional module.