3.1.5. Department of Psychology

1. About us

Welcome to the Department of Psychology at the University of Konstanz. We aim to offer international students the best conditions during their stay. The department is successful in international research and participates in several projects of the Germany-wide Excellence Initiative. It regularly achieves excellent results in evaluations and university rankings, both on the national and the international level. The excellent quality of teaching and research will ensure that your stay in Konstanz will be enriching, both personally and professionally. The eleven teaching and research units of the Department of Psychology cover the entire scope of basic and applied psychological research, ranging from the neuroscientific foundations of human cognition, emotion, and behaviour to their social and organizational contexts. For more details, visit our web pages and have a look at our research groups.

2. Degrees

The degrees offered by the department are:

- Undergraduate/bachelor’s programme
  - Bachelor of Science Psychology (period of study: six semesters)
  - Psychology (period of study: eight semesters)

- Graduate/master’s programme
  - Master of Science Psychology

The two-semester Master of Science Psychology follows up the eight-semester Bachelor of Science Psychology.

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Exemplary study plan for the four-year bachelor’s programme Psychology

(subject to change)

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Important: Table subject to change due to updates to the study programme. For current information, please visit our web pages.

Department of Psychology

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Legend:

ECTS = ECTS credit points
WiSe = winter semester
SoSe = summer semester
L = lecture
S = seminar
T = tutorial
L/T = lecture with practice tutorial
SWS = weekly teaching hours

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3. Curriculum

The curriculum equips students with the empirical tools that are required in modern scientific studies. The bachelor’s programme also includes a wide array of fundamental studies of different aspects of psychology (e.g., biopsychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, perception, cognition, assessment, learning and memory, motivation and emotion).

Furthermore, it introduces in-depth studies in various fields (e.g., health psychology, work psychology, clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology). Key qualifications for working as a psychologist are acquired during the programme. Psychological techniques of consultation and chairmanship, experimental work and systematic observation and execution of surveys, competences in IT and the presentation of scientific results using modern presentation techniques are essential parts of the curriculum.

4. Course categories and course choices

The diversity of the field of Psychology leads to a wide variety of courses which are divided into three different categories.

- **Lectures** (Vorlesungen) entail teaching in large groups. At the end of the lecture period, you will be assessed by means of a final written examination at the University of Konstanz.

- **Seminars** (Seminare) entail student-centred teaching and active learning in smaller group sessions. Regular class attendance is one of the prerequisites for passing a seminar. You might be asked to hold presentations on a given topic and/or to hand in homework and seminar theses.

- **Tutorials** (Übungen) provide a platform for discussions of exercises and case studies. They usually accompany lectures.

The study programmes in psychology are divided up into various modules (Module). The bachelor’s programme consists of different lectures, seminars and tutorials belonging to the same thematic field. The master’s programme consists of seminars and case seminars only.

Courses are offered in a certain sequence. Each course is offered either during the summer semester or during the winter semester. Some courses are offered every semester.

The exemplary term schedule for the four year bachelor’s programme provides an overview of the courses offered, the weekly hours that are required and the ECTS credits that are awarded upon completion of each course. These specifics are also mentioned in the commentary section of the course description in ZEuS, the online course catalogue of the university, where a constantly updated list of courses can be found.

Even if most courses are offered in German, lecturers may be willing to accept assessments (papers, exams) in English if you ask them in advance.

Note: As an international exchange student, you also have the opportunity to choose courses of departments or degree programmes other than your own as long as the responsible lecturer, the respective departmental Erasmus coordinator and the coordinator of your home university agrees. Please contact the responsible lecturer and the Erasmus coordinator of the degree programme independently to obtain their consent. The International Office offers courses specifically for international students. The common rule is that exchange students should take at least half of their courses within their own department.

**Assessment information**

Details on the coursework and assessments of each course are either mentioned in the online course catalogue or announced by the lecturer in the first meeting of class. You should therefore make sure to attend the first meeting of a course you are interested in, even if you are unsure about your participation in it. Where registration is explicitly requested, you should follow the instructions in the course commentary.

5. Course registration

**Psychology seminars**

Incoming students of the Department of Psychology have to complete the Excel file “Your Course Choices” before their arrival in Konstanz and submit the file to
the departmental Erasmus coordinator via email. The Department of Psychology will register their incoming students for the chosen seminars and the corresponding assessments before the beginning of the semester.

Note: Taking psychology seminars is not possible for students from other departments because of the prior knowledge required and the limited number of places available. However, students from other departments interested in psychology may find other, eligible courses here:
– psychologie.uni.kn/en/study/psychology-courses-for-students-from-other-disciplines

Lecture exams in psychology
Differently from seminars, psychology lectures are open for students from any department without registration in ZEuS, but you have to join the Ilias course in order to have access to course materials. Note that you have to register in ZEuS yourself if you want to take the final exam, receive a grade and gain ECTS credits.

Typically, registration for lecture exams is during the semester in ZEuS within the following periods:
– winter semester 01.01. to 31.01.
– summer semester 01.06. to 30.06.

These specifics are also mentioned in the course description in our online course catalogue ZEuS.

Exam registration is completed using the central enrolment and student portal of the University of Konstanz, ZEuS.

6. Language requirements
Exchange students have to hand in proof of adequate language skills in either German or English as part of their application. The minimum level B2 (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) will be required to be able to follow the courses in either language.

More information can be found on our website:
– psychologie.uni.kn/en/study/international/immisions

We wish you an enjoyable, productive time in Konstanz and in our department!

7. Contact and advice
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