

Liverpool John Moores University

Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology

FAQ for Potential Applicants

Who can I discuss the programme with?

We encourage you to contact the Programme Leader, Dr Mark Forshaw (m.j.forshaw@ljmu.ac.uk) to start a dialogue which will help you to make the best possible application for the programme. It's in your interests and ours that your application is the best it can be. We do not recommend applying without having discussed the application with the programme leader. Read this FAQ, and then please do get in touch.

I can see the fees listed. Are there any other costs?

The fees are the main cost, but there are some other, smaller costs, which we need to inform you of:

1. Travel: you will need to cover your own travel costs to the university and to and from various placements.
2. Professional Body membership: we recommend that you join the British Psychological Society and also become an in-training member of the Division of Health Psychology. These costs change annually and can be found at www.bps.org.uk.
3. Trainee liability/indemnity insurance. This is an annual cost which might or might not apply to you depending on the nature of your placement. We can advise you accordingly when we discuss your placements with you. Typically, for trainees, costs are below £75 per annum.
4. DBS: in most cases, trainees will need to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check, which normally the university will pay for, but you will need to pay for an identity check at the Post Office which costs £11 at present. Costs are updated regularly, and we can advise you on this when you enquire. If you change placement during your training, it might mean that a second DBS is necessary. Sometimes your placement involves a DBS through your employer as a part of the nature of your employment, in which case it may well serve our purposes too and you might not need another one from our perspective.

What if I do not have the qualifications listed for admission to the programme?

The nature of the programme is such that if you do not have ALL of the listed qualifications then we cannot accept an application from you.

Do you find us placements?

Although we sometimes can assist in supporting you in finding initial placements, it is primarily your responsibility to secure your placement, and we will mostly advise on suitability. This is another reason why we strongly encourage you to engage in a dialogue with the Programme Leader prior to application in order that we can help you to be in the right position to ensure success on the programme. Once you are on the programme we do our very best to support you in maintaining suitable placements and finding additional opportunities where necessary.

What is a suitable placement?

We judge placement suitability broadly thus:

1. Is it in an area concordant with “health psychology”, broadly defined? If so, then the placement is likely to be suitable. This can include mental health work provided that there is good scope to enhance and support physical health in that role. Typical placements are found in the NHS, occupational health and safety companies, health consultancy, universities, private companies offering psychological services or training in health, and so on.
2. Is the work going to allow you to develop and evidence the five key competences of research, consultancy, teaching and training, professional skills, and behaviour change interventions in health psychology?
3. Is the work likely to allow you to demonstrate D level competence? This is partly defined in terms of an original contribution, where you have also shown autonomy. So, if your work is very formulaic and does not involve you “solving new problems” then it might not be suitable for a health psychology placement.

How many placements do I need?

You must cover at least two “work areas”. Many trainees can achieve this across one placement with a shorter one elsewhere. Some split their time equally across two or more placements. Placements can be paid or voluntary.

What is full-time and part-time?

Full-time means that you are working (including days spent in university) the standard 37 hours per week for approximately 47 weeks of the year. Part-time is defined, for the purposes of this programme, as HALF of that, i.e. a minimum of 18.5 hours per week for approximately 47 weeks a

year. If you are working less than full time but more than part-time then your training will be counted as part-time and you must enrol accordingly. The full-time programme runs for a minimum of two years, and the part-time for four.

When would I have to come to university?

In the first year you would normally be coming in on alternate Thursdays. It would be regular in your second or subsequent years, but less frequent. The rest of the time is spent in your placement. You are required to have a good attendance record in placement and at university sessions. Exact details of attendance requirements are discussed with you when you contact us about the programme.

What happens in the taught sessions?

These are a blend of lecture-type delivery, seminars, discussions, problem solving, and presentations by you and others. Role play is sometimes involved.

How is the programme assessed?

The majority of assessments are coursework, with the exception of a viva voce examination at the end. All assessments are graded on a PASS/FAIL basis, and ALL assessments must be passed, without exception.

Will I enjoy it?

Our experience is that trainees on this programme find it an extremely rewarding experience and feel well supported and can identify clearly how it is helping them develop key skills and competences.