

Master's Programme

Master Specialisation Legal Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Thinking like an Expert

Full course description

Some have argued that the story behind miscarriages of justice is, in fact, the story of expert errors and misjudgements. Experts do, indeed, play an important role in judicial decision-making; the law expects them to reach their decisions based on scientifically grounded principles. Consider the handwriting expert who has to decide whether a ransom note was written by the defendant. Or the child psychologist who has to decide whether a child should stay with an emotionally labile mother. Should we trust the expertise of these professionals? How can their decisions be optimised? Psychometrics, decision-making and other issues typically thought to be the province of expert witnesses are discussed at length during this course. In doing so, the course focuses on biases that may plague experts.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students:

- are able to explain and critically evaluate the theoretical background/anchors of the literature on biases, specifically the notion of dual processing;
- are able to explain key concepts in the psychological literature on expertise and feedback;
- are able to articulate biases that have been particularly well-studied in the context of legal decision making. Specifically, they are able to explain what these biases are and how the experimental procedures look like with which these biases can be evoked;
- are able to explain and use key terms from the decision making literature, notably sensitivity, specificity, base rate, positive and negative predicting power, ROC, and AUC;
- are able to perform calculations required to determine Oddsratios, Likelihood ratio's, and optimal cut offs on tests;
- are able to specify procedures that may reduce the risk of biases, i.e. effective de-biasing techniques.

PSY4043

Period 1

1 Sep 2021

22 Oct 2021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.J. Schreuder](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Presentation, Written exam

Keywords:

expert witnesses, diagnostic accuracy, decision making, biases

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Psychology of Eyewitness Testimony

Full course description

This course provides contemporary insights into the psychology of eyewitness testimony. For example, students will learn about how well eyewitnesses are able to recall the offence they experienced, and whether they are subsequently able to identify the culprit from a line-up. Students will also learn about human face recognition, the principles underlying composite construction, and the best practices in constructing and administering line-ups. Other issues that are addressed in this course relate to whether claims of repression and subsequent recovery of traumatic experiences can be valid or whether they (sometimes) reflect false memories, whether the testimonies provided by young children are as reliable as those of adults are, and what all of the studied topics imply for the courtroom.

By the end of the course students will: be familiar with current issues and controversies in eyewitness research; be able to give descriptions of typical methods and experimental work in these disciplines; and have insight into the problems that arise from court decisions which hinge upon testimonies from eyewitness.

Course objectives

- students are able to apply theories on memory to cases on the reliability of testimonies;
- students are able to recognize important research methods and paradigms in legal psychology;
- students are able to recognize important factors related to the reliability of eyewitness memory (e.g., co-witness effects, cognitive interview);
- students are able to assess the reliability of eyewitnesses' testimony in a given case;
- students are able to discuss relevant theories and link it to legal cases;
- students are able to recognize and discuss controversies in the psychology of testimony (e.g., repression);

students are able to design research studies by using the studied research paradigms and methodology.

PSY4019

Period 1

1 Sep 2021

22 Oct 2021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [H.P. Otgaar](#)
- [M. Sauerland](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

eyewitnesses, interviewing, line-up, face recognition, child memory of trauma

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Practical Training: Legal Psychology in Action

Full course description

Legal Psychology in Action offers students the opportunity to become familiar with the practical aspects of legal psychology. Students will acquire hands-on experience with the administration of instruments frequently used by legal psychologists, such as tools to measure malingering, suggestibility and compliance. Students will also learn the basics of criminal court proceedings and are informed about the role of an expert witness. Furthermore, lectures will be given by professionals working in the legal field. Students will spend a substantial amount of time in administering tests, reading relevant literature and writing case reports. At the end of the practical training, students are expected to act as an expert witness in a mock court case and must submit a written expert witness report.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- can administer, interpret, and explain psychodiagnostic assessments applicable to the legal psychology field;
- can generate, interpret and summarize assessment findings in a research/case report;
- can generate, check and criticize expert witness reports; Understand court proceedings;
- have an idea about legal psychology working areas.

PSY4042

Period 1

1 Sep 2021

17 Dec 2021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- S.T.L. Houben
- [G. Bogaard](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Skills, Training(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment

Keywords:

legal assessment tools, case reports, court proceedings

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Neuropsychology in the Courtroom

Full course description

Defendants in criminal cases increasingly state that they do not have any memory for their offence. This raises the question of whether this is always a valid defence. Besides this, defendants and witnesses with traumatic brain injury, intellectual disabilities, and/or functional or neurodegenerative disorders are becoming more common in legal settings. It is often assumed that these persons can, as a witness or as a defendant, give accurate statements.

Criminal courts are becoming increasingly aware of the unique and important contribution neuropsychological assessment may have to mental health evaluations in forensic practice. This pertains especially to cases with specific central nervous system pathology (e.g., congenital, developmental, injury). As a result, neuropsychologists are being asked to prepare reports in both civil and criminal cases: physical/psychological injury cases, and competency assessment (competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility). The neuropsychological evaluation is typically based on multiple sources of information (case files, medical files, neuropsychological assessment, etc). The most difficult part of the assessment is often the interpretation of the neuropsychological evaluation within the legally relevant criteria. Because every expert in the courtroom will sometimes be confronted with neuropsychological issues, it is important to have basic knowledge on brain structure and function, brain-behavior relationships, neuropsychological assessment and legal issues related to neuropsychology. Moreover, the use of high-tech brain imaging techniques in defendants, to explain or underscore specific theories on brain-behaviour relationships, is becoming increasingly common nowadays. But what is the value of such brain images in individual defendants? Given the increased demand for experts in the courtroom, it is desirable to have expertise in this particular field.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students:

- are able to understand neuropsychological assessment (including intelligence testing) and apply and interpret basic neuropsychological tests;
- are able to specify and explain the role of specific brain structures in aggression and memory and amnesia;
- are able to explain and criticize the use of brain scans in the courtroom;
- have an idea how to make appropriate judgments about specific brain-behaviour relationships and about other experts' decisions in the courtroom.

PSY4020

Period 2

25 Oct 2021

19 Nov 2021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- S.T.L. Houben

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL, Skills

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam

Keywords:

Neuropsychology, brain structure, functionality, violence, brain disorders, Memory

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Interrogation & Interviewing

Full course description

Interrogation and interviewing are at the core of many police investigations. In this course, students will learn about the different strategies that can be used when interrogating or interviewing a suspect. The course will deal with the difference between the accusatory interrogation style (i.e., an interrogation aimed at eliciting a confession), and the information gathering approach (i.e., an interview aimed at eliciting relevant information rather than a confession), and their effects on eliciting false confessions. In addition, the course will deal with the best way to detect deception in such interrogation/interviews. Students will discuss the use of non-verbal and verbal cues, but also the use of the polygraph to detect deception. Finally, the course will deal with mediation in criminal and civil law.

Course objectives

- students are familiar with the best practices in investigative interviewing;
- students are familiar with the aetiology of false confessions, and considerations to prevent them;
- students are familiar with the theories of deception and deception detection;
- students are familiar with the role of mediation in penal and civil law.

PSY4018

Period 2

25 Oct 2021

17 Dec 2021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [E.H. Meijer](#)
- [G. Bogaard](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam

Keywords:

investigative interviewing, false confessions, deception detection, mediation

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Public Policy in Legal Psychology

Full course description

To adequately prepare students for the job market, it is important that they develop skills related to policy development. In this 4-week course, students will learn the basics of public policy in legal psychology, and learn how to write a policy report on a relevant topic.

Students will work in subgroups, and select a topic of their interest at the beginning of the academic year (e.g., "Should the lie detector be used in the assessment of sex offender recidivism?"; "How to adequately assess post-traumatic stress disorder in asylum seekers?"; "Is there a reliable profile of a lone-acting terrorist?"; "Can we increase the successful detection of child abuse in schools?").

Groups will be coached by an expert staff member who will supervise the writing of the policy report. Students are expected to select relevant research papers and perform desktop research into existing policies and where possible, work with existing databases, such as the one from the Wetenschappelijk Onderzoeks en Documentatie Centrum (WODC). Lectures will be given by policy makers from the field. End product will be a (short) policy report including clear practical guidelines. This report will be presented to a panel of experts.

Course objectives

- at the end of this course student will know how to critically evaluate
- legal psychological research and theory;
- they will be able to translate research and theory into practical guidelines;
- they will know how to write a policy report, make new policy based on societal problems, or evaluate existing legal psychological policy.

PSY4017

Period 2

22 Nov 2021

17 Dec 2021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [K.I.M. van Oorsouw](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

Public policy, legal psychology, science-based policy

Internships

Research Internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Proposal

Full course description

The research proposal is closely connected to PSY4075 (academic skills) and PSY4957 (mentor program 1y FPN masters) and prepares students for their internship and master's thesis.

In this course, the research proposal is drafted in preparation for the research internship. To ensure a timely process, PSY4074 is done in conjunction with PSY4075, since PSY4075 serves to support the development of the research proposal and subsequent execution of the internship via assignments, workshops, and lectures that allow students to practice and develop their academic skills.

The research proposal describes what you will investigate, why it is important, and how you will do the research. The format of a research proposal varies between (sub)fields, but most proposals should contain at least these elements: Cover page, Introduction, Literature Review (incl background, relevance, and research question), Research design and methods, Reference list, and a Timeline/planning. Students discuss the content of the proposal with their internship supervisors (preferably 2-3 months prior to the official start of the internship).

This module is not applicable for the Master in Work & Organizational Psychology, and (the subsample of) students of the Master Neuropsychology that complete a clinical internship.

Course objectives

- to produce a scientifically sound research proposal;
- to adequately prepare for a research internship.

PSY4074

Year

1 Sep 2021

31 Aug 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- G.A. ten Hoor

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Academic skills, Research skills, methods, statistics, Writing, internship

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Academic Skills

Full course description

The Academic Skills course is closely connected to the research proposal and the mentor program for the 1y masters (not for MMH) and prepares students for their internship and thesis.

This module offers students an opportunity to practice and apply academic writing and research skills, and prepares students for their research internship (including the writing of their research proposal and thesis). To achieve this, a series of assignments, workshops, and lectures are offered in the 3rd period (four weeks). In addition, students will be encouraged to consider their future career (inc. what their interests are/what career(s) they would like to pursue).

This module is not applicable for the Master in Work & Organizational Psychology, and (the subsample of) students of the Master Neuropsychology that complete a clinical internship.

The Academic Skills course has to be completed within 6 weeks after the start of a students' research internship (so no need to have this finished at the end of period 3). To make sure that students can pass this course when delaying (the start of) their internship this course is open during the entire academic year. For most students, however, the academic skills course is focused on period 3 (January).

Course objectives

Intended learning outcomes (ILO's) are tailored to the individual student and depend on the individual motivations and needs for their research internship. ILO's are related to:

1. The (general) mandatory skills that students followed as part of the assessment in PSY4075.
2. The additional academic skills deemed necessary by internship supervisor.
3. Additional (online) skills courses and/or experiences that students may have followed or obtained additionally to point 1 and 2 out of interest/personal growth.

Mandatory ILO's are:

- students know what the criteria/guidelines are for writing a research proposal;
- students know what transparency in science is (including data management and research ethics);

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- students recognize ethical aspects of conducting research and are able to complete an ethics application.

Additional ILO's (if skills are not yet mastered) are:

- students are able to execute a literature review;
- students are able to use a reference manager;
- students are able to select a research design and corresponding methods for a research project;
- students understand basic statistical techniques;
- students can explain characteristics of academic writing and are able to implement and apply that knowledge to the writing of a research proposal.

(this list is just an example, and will be updated each year, based on student and supervisor needs)

PSY4075

Period 3

3 Jan 2022

28 Jan 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

0.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- G.A. ten Hoor

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Skills, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment

Keywords:

Academic skills, Research skills, methods, statistics, career skills, Writing, peer reviewing, ethics in research

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Graded

Full course description

The second part of the one-year master's program (from period 3 onwards), is devoted to conducting a research internship that involves 1) writing of a research proposal, and preparing and planning of the research project, 2) conducting the research project, and 3) analyzing the results of the research project. This work will result in an individually written 4) master's thesis. Step 1 will be done in period 3, steps 2 to 4 from period 4 onwards.

The internship can be carried out at Maastricht University, at an external research institute or at other, more practically oriented institutions. In all cases, a student's research proposal and master's thesis will be evaluated by two assessors. At least one of these assessors is a staff member at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN). The other assessor can be an external researcher. One of the assessors must hold a PhD, the other can be a PhD candidate.

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Information about research internships offered by faculty members can be found on AskPsy > Curriculum > internships/ stages.

Each specialisation has its own internship coordinator:

Legal Psychology: Kim van Oorsouw

Phone (043) 38 84050, 40 Universiteitssingel East, Room 3.767,

Email: k.vanoorsouw@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Health and Social Psychology: Ghislaine Schyns

Phone (043) 38 84523, 40 Universiteitssingel East, Room 4.777a,

Email: ghislaine.schyns@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Developmental Psychology: Hans Stauder

Phone (043) 38 81933, 55 Oxfordlaan, Room 2.009,

Email: h.stauder@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Cognitive Neuroscience: Amanda Kaas

Phone (043) 38 82172, 55 Oxfordlaan, Room 2.019,

Email: a.kaas@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Neuropsychology:

Research internships: Michael Schwartz

Phone (043) 38 82802

Clinical internships: Ieke Winkens

Phone: (043) 38 84512,

Location: Universiteitssingel 40, East

Email: fpn-np-internship@maastrichtuniversity.nl

This module is not applicable for students of the Master Neuropsychology that attend a clinical internship.

Course objectives

Students are able to understand:

- conducting a supervised empirical research project and summarising this research in a master's thesis.

Prerequisites

The Research Internship can only be started when at least 8 credits of the compulsory core courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. The research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start of the data collection. In addition:

- certain Research Internships may require that practical or skills training(s) have been completed.

PSY4078

Year

31 Jan 2022

31 Aug 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G.C. Kraag](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Paper(s), Research, Skills, Working visit(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Academic skills, internship, research, Research proposal, master's thesis

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Research Internship Ungraded

Full course description

The second part of the one-year master's program (from period 3 onwards), is devoted to conducting a research internship that involves 1) writing of a research proposal, and preparing and planning of the research project, 2) conducting the research project, and 3) analyzing the results of the research project. This work will result in an individually written 4) master's thesis. Step 1 will be done in period 3, steps 2 to 4 from period 4 onwards.

The internship can be carried out at Maastricht University, at an external research institute or at other, more practically oriented institutions. In all cases, a student's research proposal and master's thesis will be evaluated by two assessors. At least one of these assessors is a staff member at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN). The other assessor can be an external researcher. One of the assessors must hold a PhD, the other can be a PhD candidate.

Information about research internships offered by faculty members can be found on [AskPsy > Curriculum > internships/ stages](#).

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Neuropsychology:

Research internships: Michael Schwartz

Phone (043) 38 82802

Clinical internships: Ieke Winkens

Phone: (043) 38 84512,

Location: Universiteitssingel 40, East

Email: fpn-np-internship@maastrichtuniversity.nl

This module is not applicable for students of the Master Neuropsychology that attend a clinical internship.

Course objectives

Students are able to understand:

- conducting a supervised empirical research project and summarising this research in a master's thesis.

Prerequisites

The Research Internship can only be started when at least 8 credits of the compulsory core courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. The research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start of the data

collection. In addition:

- certain Research Internships may require that practical or skills training(s) have been completed.

PSY4079

Year

31 Jan 2022

31 Aug 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

15.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G.C. Kraag](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Paper(s), Research, Skills, Working visit(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Academic skills, internship, research, Research proposal, master's thesis

Thesis

Master's Thesis

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Master's Thesis

Full course description

The second part of the one-year master's program (from period 3 onwards), is devoted to conducting a research internship that involves 1) writing of a research proposal, and preparing and planning of the research project, 2) conducting the research project, and 3) analyzing the results of the research project. This work will result in an individually written 4) master's thesis. Step 1 will be done in period 3, steps 2 to 4 from period 4 onwards.

The internship can be carried out at Maastricht University, at an external research institute or at other, more practically oriented institutions. In all cases, a student's research proposal and master's thesis will be evaluated by two assessors. At least one of these assessors is a staff member at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN). The other assessor can be an external researcher. One of the assessors must hold a PhD, the other can be a PhD candidate.

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Location: Universiteitssingel 40, East

Email: fpn-np-internship@maastrichtuniversity.nl

This module is not applicable for students of the Master Neuropsychology that attend a clinical internship.

Course objectives

Students are able to understand:

- conducting a supervised empirical research project and summarising this research in a master's thesis.

Prerequisites

The Research Internship can only be started when at least 8 credits of the compulsory core courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. The research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start of the data collection. In addition:

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

- certain Research Internships may require that practical or skills training(s) have been completed.

PSY4091

Year

31 Jan 2022

31 Aug 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G.C. Kraag](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Paper(s), Research, Skills, Working visit(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Observation, Participation

Keywords:

Academic skills, Internship, Research, Research proposal, master's thesis