



Your Qualification



Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE)

The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology is designed to develop high-level skills in the field of applied psychology. These skills include measurement skills (e.g. how to operationalize the measurement of complex processes); environmental awareness (e.g. habit formation and social appropriateness); interpersonal awareness (e.g. the mechanisms of social communication and potential sources of interpersonal conflict); problem-solving skills (e.g. the ability to tackle a range of different types of problems and to employ a range of approaches to understanding problems); critical evaluation (e.g. to identify the shortcomings and pitfalls of a particular action); perspectives (e.g. the ability to explore issues from multiple points of view); higher-order analysis (e.g. identifying recurrent patterns in human activity); and, pragmatism (e.g. a pragmatic approach to work and problem-solving). All of these skills are scarce and promote employability.

This qualification is designed to academically prepare students for potential admission into further qualifications. For example, in order to become a clinical or counselling psychologist, a qualification at HEQSF level 9 is required. Consequently, the IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology will prepare students, both in terms of their research skills and their knowledge of the discipline of psychology for potential admission into an HEQSF level 9 qualification.

The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology requires the production of an independent research project, which will result in the development of skills that are attractive to employers.



Varsity College is an educational brand of The Independent Institute of Education (Pty) Ltd which is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (reg. no. 2007/HE07/002). Company registration number: 1987/004754/07.

This particular set of skills includes information-gathering skills, analysis and synthesis skills, methodological skills, statistical reasoning skills, interpersonal skills, and, writing skills.

Finally, The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology will develop a set of skills that are asked for by, and, can be applied to almost any job. Adopting a skills approach, the skills that employers seek from a graduate include, critical thinking skills; problem-solving skills; oral, writing, presentation and interpersonal communication skills; the ability to organise and evaluate information from multiple sources; appreciation of diversity and individual difference; potential for continued learning and professional development in line with lifelong learning; innovation and creativity in the completion of work tasks; the ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

What is this Honours degree's accreditation status?

The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology is accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and is registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as a 120-credit qualification on level 8 (SAQA ID: 105032).

Who is the Honours degree aimed at?

The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology is aimed at graduate students with an interest in furthering their knowledge in the field of Psychology. This qualification is designed to consolidate and deepen the student's expertise in the disciplines of four core and aligned fields within Psychology, namely, psychopathology, therapeutic interventions, psychological assessment and with a choice between developmental psychology or community psychology*.

* Please note the availability of either the Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology modules will be dependent on student numbers, and campus resources.

What entry requirements will I need to study this Honours degree?

<p>Minimum Admission Requirements: An appropriate Bachelor's Degree with an average of 60% in the final year; OR An appropriate Advanced Diploma, provided that a 360 credit Diploma or appropriate equivalent has been completed, with an average of 60% in the final year.</p>	<p>Candidates must have completed Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) or Bachelor of Social Science or equivalent qualification(s), with one of the psychology disciplines at NQF Level 7 and a foundation research module at the undergraduate level, preferably at NQF Level 7. Those who have not completed a foundation research module at undergraduate level will be required to do The IIE Introduction to Research SLP and need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic research before they can commence with their research report. Candidates are normally required to have a minimum final year average of 60% in the qualifications final-year (NQF L7) modules. Those with a final year average of 55 to 59% will be admitted if they attained an average of 60% or higher for the designated cognate/core discipline modules at final-year (NQF L7) level.</p>
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Senate Discretionary Admission	BA Honours in Psychology: Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	Candidates who fall outside the above criteria, but who can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of The IIE that they have an appropriate , related qualification or work-based learning, which has taken the candidate to the equivalent of an NQF Level 7 Psychology-related qualification, may be considered for admission into this programme through an RPL process.
Additional Notes	Graduates of The IIE who do not meet the admissions requirements for admission to Honours can enrol for and repeat all or some of their NQF Level 7 modules in order to improve their marks so that they can meet the entry requirements for Honours. These graduate students will then receive an additional transcript after the completion of the repeat module(s), where the repeat module(s) will appear as a second iteration of the module(s) on the transcript. The marks from the second iteration can then be used for admission to Honours in the subsequent academic year. This option is only available to graduates from The IIE and does not apply to graduates from other HE institutions	
	International	A SAQA NQF L7 Evaluation Certificate in an appropriate field and meeting the additional admission requirements.

*It is assumed that the student would have met the admission requirements and would thus be competent in the language of instruction (English) and the theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding accomplished at that level.

What is The Teaching and Learning Strategy of The IIE’s Varsity College, and how will it help prepare me for the 21st century working world?

Our teaching and learning approach is based on active learning which enables us to focus on the skills you need to succeed in the New World. This way, the student is at the centre of learning. Academic life, we believe, should be as relevant and participative as possible – a dynamic, two-way exchange. This enables students to:

- Engage with subject material
- Build understanding
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills for the 21st Century workforce.

This collaborative approach teaches you how to think, and to ask questions; the right questions. We call it New World Thinking.

Our active learning approach is structured as a blend between online and face-2-face lectures. This allows us to take learning beyond the confines of the lecture room. Our Learning Management System called VCLearn enables this blend and affords you a range of approaches to teaching and learning, and resources that are designed to promote self-organised learning and thought leadership.

How is this Honours degree structured?

The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology degree is a one-year post-graduate degree. The modules are delivered on a contact full-time basis.

Please note that in line with academic practice, The IIE’s curriculum is annually reviewed thus changes may occur in module structure and sequence in order to ensure that the qualification

remains relevant. The exit level outcomes of the programme do not change. Registered students receive an updated programme curriculum on an annual basis.

The IIE's full-time programmes are aimed at students wishing to dedicate themselves to full-time studies for the duration of their qualification. This means that students are expected to engage in additional learning activities and assessments outside of the scheduled lecture-time.

Students must understand that timetables remain subject to change throughout the year. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that timetable structures will remain the same during each year of your studies with us. In addition, where students are repeating modules, these modules may be offered in the evenings or on weekends. Students are required to attend lectures in order to remain up to date with the academic programme. Students who would like to pursue limited part-time employment opportunities outside of the academic programme must prioritise their studies and avoid committing to work schedules until after they have received their timetables and academic calendar from the institution.

What will I study in this Honours degree?

MODULE PURPOSE
<p>Psychological Assessment PSAS8111 (Semester 1) - 20 Credits</p>
<p>The purpose of the module is to develop students' critical engagement with the technical, ethical, and multicultural issues that inform the design and implementation of psychological assessment measures. Students will become familiar with basic psychometric principles, as well as different assessment tools and their functions. Traditional and contemporary theories of child development, intelligence, neuropsychology, and personality are examined. Course content is structured across different contexts of assessment, namely early child development, cognitive and scholastic assessments, career counselling, clinical diagnostics, and organisational management. The focus is primarily on critical perspectives to provide a foundation for future postgraduate studies in which students focus on the manual administration of assessment tools.</p>
<p><u>Electives:</u></p> <p>Students will choose between Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology.</p> <p>* Please note the availability of either the Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology modules will be dependent on student numbers, and campus resources.</p>
<p>Developmental Psychology DPSY8111 (Semester 1) - 20 Credits</p>
<p>The purpose of this module is to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the systematic, complex, successive and multifactorial changes that occur across the lifespan. Areas of concern and significance within the South African context, with regards to the impact on development will also be covered.</p>

Community Psychology CPSY8111 (Semester 1)

- 20 Credits

The purpose of this module is to equip students with a strong conceptual and applied understanding of community psychology principles, methodologies and praxis.

The course frames the historical development of community psychology as a socially responsive sub-discipline of psychology, recognising theoretical and methodological diversity within the field and divergence from mainstream approaches to mental health. With reference to the South African context, students engage with community psychology's explicit values and ideological orientation as an applied discipline, drawing links to critical psychology.

As emergent psychological practitioners, the module develops the student's practical skills, critical thought and reflexivity so as to allow effective and meaningful community engagement. The module extends capacity for social analysis, theoretical synthesis and methodological application by calling upon students to devise and evaluate community psychology intervention programs in response to real-world problems.

Therapeutic Interventions THIN8112 (Semester 2)

20 Credits

The purpose of the module is to provide the student with a succinct overview of the divergent approaches to counselling and psychotherapy, beginning with the basic issues in counselling practice such as values, the therapeutic process and ethical considerations. The student will become familiar with the key concepts of the approaches and will gain a working knowledge of the techniques and procedures of each, by applying the theories to a community health context within South Africa. The module will encourage students to think critically, and evaluate each theory from a multicultural perspective, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each when applied to diverse populations.

Psychopathology PSPA8112 (Semester 2)

20 Credits

The purpose of this module is to have students critically consider, on a theoretical and practical level, the classification, development, treatment and prevention of psychological problems. It also aims to sensitise students to the impact of culture on the experience and expression of mental illness, and have the students engage with critical, current literature on psychological health and illness, particularly within the South African context.

Research RESE8419 (Year long)

40 credits

The purpose of this module is to develop students' essential research skills for both professional and academic contexts alongside the ability to present and defend research to an expert audience. Emphasis is placed on independent and critical thinking, analysis, research design and methods, as well as academic discourse. Students complete a self-directed research project of limited scope under supervision in the discipline of the degree.

What practical and technology requirements are there for this programme?

None

What must I pass in order to graduate with this Honours degree?

In order to be awarded the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology degree, you must have achieved a minimum final year mark of fifty percent (50%) for each module of the programme.

How long do I have to complete this qualification?

Full-time students have a maximum of two years to complete this qualification.

With what qualification will I graduate?

You will graduate with The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology.

Career opportunities: what career areas can I pursue once I have completed this Honours degree?

The qualification focusses on four core and aligned fields within Psychology, namely: psychopathology, therapeutic interventions, psychological assessment as well as one of the following electives: developmental psychology or community psychology, depending on availability. All of these areas of study will have a sustained focus on their utility in the South African context, and the contribution that they can make to address the challenges currently faced in South African society. These core aspects of psychology are presented in five respective modules carrying the names of these aspects (Psychological Assessment, Psychopathology, Therapeutic Interventions and Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology).

Examples of possible career opportunities for graduates include:

- Clinical Psychology/Counselling/Therapy (with further postgraduate studies)
- Human resources
- Teaching (with further postgraduate studies)
- Community worker
- Marketing or advertising
- Research
- Academia

Would it be possible to study further to obtain a postgraduate qualification once I have completed The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology?

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Call your nearest IIE Varsity College campus to discuss your career options with one of our Student Advisors.

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Disclaimer: Please note that this fact sheet is accurate at the time of publication. The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE) reserves the right to alter any of the content prior to commencement of registration due to changes in regulation, policy, market requirements or any other valid reason.



British Accreditation Council

The IIE is not only accredited in South Africa but its dedication to providing quality education also led to it being accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) in 2014. The British Accreditation Council is an independent authority in the United Kingdom that accredits private providers globally, including Greece, Switzerland, Singapore, India, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates. In 2017 The IIE had its accreditation status confirmed by the BAC as an Independent Higher Education Institution confirming our confidence in the international comparability of our standards.

“South African students need to know, when they select a private higher education institution, that the standards offered are equivalent to those of a public University. Our students get this from our extensive local accreditation and registration. The students also benefit from knowing that we meet international standards too. The IIE is accredited as an Independent Higher Education Institution by the British Accreditation Council. Locally and internationally we have demonstrated the quality of what we offer,” said Dr Coughlan, Director, The Independent Institute of Education.

The IIE’s Varsity College students can be confident that their IIE learning experience meets international best practice standards.