

Goals/objectives and final attainment targets of the master's programme in Psychology University of Twente

Programme objectives

The learning objectives and attainment targets of the Psychology programme, both bachelor and master, are established on the basis of the domain-specific framework, the requirements set by a postgraduate programme, the professional field and the context of "Psychology at a technological university".

The Psychology master's programme consists of five specialisation tracks, of which students select (at least) one. Technology as a means, and the relationship between technology and mankind (High Tech, Human Touch) are key areas in each specialisation track.

The five specialisation tracks are:

- Conflict, Risk & Safety (CRS) (in English)
- Health Psychology & Technology (HPT) (in English)
- Human Factors & Engineering Psychology (HFE) (in English)
- Learning Sciences (LS) (in English)
- Positive Psychology & Technology (PPT) (in Dutch)

The master's programme continues to build on the attainment targets of the Psychology bachelor's programme. During the master's, each track constitutes a deepening of the knowledge obtained during the bachelor's degree, and competences acquired in the field of research and design will be developed to a more advanced level. This means that the student is required to work more independently on a more complex design or research assignment and to demonstrate the ability to contribute to the development of a scientific theory, model or tool.

The programme prepares students for the independent practice as a psychological professional, such as an adviser, coach/trainer or policy officer. For example, alumni of various specialisations are working as behavioural scientists at the police or defence, as coach/trainer at an education centre, as human factors expert or consultant, or as policy officer or coordinator of health psychology interventions. After completing the master's programme, graduates can also choose a scientific career (PhD). The master's thesis and, if selected, the internship, ensure that the student gained insight into the future professional field and developed an idea of personal career desires and prospects.

Students who completed the master's specialisation Positive Psychology & Technology have mastered basic professional skills in the field of diagnostics and treatment of psychological disorders, and are capable of applying these skills in practical situations, in order to be able to work as a basic psychologist in individual counselling after graduation. If possible, they can obtain a basic registration in Psychodiagnostics and meet the prerequisites for the post-academic programme to become a licensed health care psychologist.

Final attainment targets of the programme

1. The graduate has mastered disciplinary and specialist knowledge and skills at an advanced level

The graduates of the Psychology master's programme at the University of Twente have:

- 1.1 specialist and in-depth knowledge of and insight in contemporary theories, technologies and methods/instruments in the field of their chosen specialisation;
- 1.2 the skills to critically analyse and assess disciplinary concepts, theories, models and procedures in a professional manner, as well as the skills to apply and integrate them to solve a complex issue in a new context in the field of their chosen specialisation;
- 1.3 knowledge of and insight in dilemmas, methods and processes of academic and applied psychological research and the ability to assess the quality of research;

2. The graduate has research/design competences at an advanced level

The graduates of the Psychology master's programme at the University of Twente are individually and largely independently able to:

- 2.1 analyse complex psychological problems and relate them to a theoretical framework, in such a way that it results in a researchable question or a workable problem statement. In case of a

- design assignment, either internal or external, the student can adequately translate the needs, desires and requirements of the clients into a tangible problem statement;
- 2.2 make a reasoned selection of research methods and instruments that fit the problem statement and theoretical framework, and to collect, describe, process and analyse information in an adequate and transparent manner, resulting in valid and reliable research outcomes;
 - 2.3 design an intervention or instrument for complex psychological problems using a systematic approach, taking into account the characteristics of the people involved during the design process as well as the ethical standards;
 - 2.4 reach a clearly phrased conclusion and discussion on the basis of reflection and critical judgement for an individually executed research or design assignment, in which research results are critically assessed and interpreted in relation to the original problem statement and theoretical framework, recent research and, if applicable, social and ethical aspects;
 - 2.5 in research/design assignments, provide theoretical and practical implications and convincing substantiated recommendations for further research and/or for the optimization and implementation of the developed interventions;
 - 2.6 achieve the development of new, original, knowledge and ideas and to contribute to the development of theories, models and/or instruments;
 - 2.7 provide a report on the executed research and design assignment in a clear and concise manner, containing a logical, insightful structure, correct language use, an academic style of writing and application of the common scientific standards and conventions;
 - 2.8 hold a target audience-oriented, informative, convincing and appealing presentation with effective use of media, about an executed research and/or design assignment and discuss and defend research design, results and conclusions.

3. Academic and professional skills and attitude aspects

The graduates of the Psychology master's programme at the University of Twente (UT) have general, academic and professional skills at an advanced level that they can employ for the benefit of their future careers. The skills concerned are:

- 3.1 the attitude and skills to be able to critically reflect on and form an opinion on the meaning and value of scientific knowledge, as well as being able to reflect and pass judgement on their own work and professional actions;
- 3.2 the attitude and skills to be able to initiate their own learning and working process, shape and adjust it in a goal-oriented and methodical manner and bear a great extent of responsibility for their own learning and working process;
- 3.3 information skills: being able to localize relevant recent, specialist information sources and being able to critically assess their usefulness and reliability;
- 3.4 sufficient social and communication skills and strategic insight to be able to pleasantly work together with customers, supervisors, clients and peers;
- 3.5 general oral communication skills (skills of expression, reasoning, communicating in a professional context, being able to present yourself in a group and the professional field);
- 3.6 specifically applicable to the master's specialisation Positive Psychology & Technology: the graduate has mastered professional competences in the field of diagnostics, counselling, and treatment of psychological disorders and is, in case they completed a 'clinical' internship, demonstrably capable of applying these skills to practical situations.