Something extraordinary happens to children around the age of four or five. They suddenly realise that other people can think differently than they do. From then on, they start thinking about other people's thoughts. They become amateur psychologists.

When you choose to become a psychologist, you take this a step further. You can start to apply scientific knowledge and methods to gain an understanding of what other people think, feel, desire and do.

The Bachelor of Science in Psychology offers you insight into the workings of the mind, the brain and behaviour.
"Psychology is everywhere you look. Even though it is a relatively young field, over the last 100 years it has already penetrated the very fabric of society. Humans and their behaviour are an endless source of inspiration for research." - Ingmar Visser, director

Why study Psychology at the UvA?

- You will be taught by leading researchers, and our lab offers excellent facilities for research.
- Psychology at the UvA offers you a choice of many different Bachelor’s specialisations.
- As well as large-scale lectures, you will attend more intimate tutorials where you will explore issues in depth with your fellow students.
- The Roeterseiland campus is an open, city campus located in the vibrant heart of Amsterdam.
- You can spend part of your study programme abroad. We have a wide network of contacts with universities across the world.
- Perhaps you want even more? We offer a unique Honours programme and an extensive choice of minors.

Study programme

The Bachelor’s programme is structured to include approximately 40 study hours per week. During the first year, you will have approximately 12 hours of teaching each week.

The remaining time is spent on self-study. Self-study may include assignments, searching for and reading study materials in the library, preparing for exams and write essays.

Get to know all the different facets of Psychology

It is not easy to find a Bachelor’s programme that suits you. I asked myself, 'what do I enjoy learning? What topics do I enjoy discussing about?' For me, the answer was Psychology.

I have been interested in human behaviour from an early age. Understanding why people do things or think in a certain way, that’s what I enjoy.

The Roeterseiland Campus is my favourite place to study. Although Psychology is pretty large-scale, the programme does a good job at creating a degree of intimacy within that.

What I’d tell prospective students is: choose something you really like, and the rest will follow.’
From a biological and cognitive perspective we know that the brain continues to develop into early adulthood. This development can be affected by outside influences. For instance, excessive alcohol use has been linked to reduced hippocampal volumes, which relates to reduction of memory retrieval and attention span. This influence might be even stronger during ongoing brain development.

Knowledge about possible negative effects of early alcohol use is broadly available to adolescents. Yet they still decide to start drinking at an early age. Social and cognitive psychology provides possible explanations; for example, we know that peer pressure influences decision making, which is a brain function that develops into early adulthood.

Punishment may seem like an effective strategy to prevent underage drinking. However, we know from developmental psychology that sanctions only affect behaviour for short amounts of time. Adolescents are likely to fall back into old drinking habits while trying to avoid punishment.

These findings give an insight into the wide range of psychological research that addresses this issue and how its findings might play a role in shaping behaviour and society.

The first year: introduction

The first year of study, known as the propaedeutic year, consists of a substantive component and a research component. During the substantive component, you are introduced to the field of psychology and all its sub-disciplines. In the research component, you will learn academic skills and writing skills. After completing all components in the propaedeutic year, you will receive the first-year diploma.

The second year: how to conduct research

In the second year, the focus is on learning how to conduct research. In addition you will practice your communication skills in oral practical training.

Also, you will get a basic training in Psychodiagostics and we will focus on your future possibilities within the field of Psychology. You will get to choose two electives by example Animal Cognition or Infant Mental Health.

The third year: specialisation

In the third year, you will choose a major. We offer 7 different specialisations:
- Organisational Psychology
- Brain and Cognition
- Social Psychology
- Psychological Methods
- Clinical Neuropsychology
- Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology
- Clinical Psychology

After completing the third year you will receive your Bachelor's degree.

After graduation

You can further specialise in:
- Behavioural Data Science
- Brain and Cognition in Society
- Coaching and Vitality in Organizations
- Consultancy and Organization Development
- Cultural Psychology
- Development and Health Psychology
- Human Resource and Career Management
- Social Influence
- Research's Master's
Career Prospects

As a Master’s graduate, you will have developed an academic level of thinking and working. You will know how to analyse psychological problems and develop research questions on the basis of these problems. Graduates find employment in a range of different positions, depending on the major.

How to apply

For information about application and admission, entry requirement, application deadlines please visit our website www.uva.nl/bsc-psychology or contact the Education Desk at obalie-fmg@uva.nl.

Application deadline: 15 January 2018

Get to know the programme

Bachelor's Day
14 October 2017, 10 March 2018
Get to know our programme at the information fair or during special information sessions. Register at uva.nl/bachelorsday

Taster Week
15 December 2017, 11 April 2018
Attend a lecture and practical training and get a realistic view of the study programme. uva.nl/tasterweek

Some examples of jobs currently held by our graduates include:

- clinical psychologist
- human resource officer
- consultant communication skills
- sports psychologist
- test developer
- policy adviser
- researcher

Analyse psychological problems & develop research questions