

Master's Programme

## Master Specialisation Psychology and Law

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

### Eyewitnesses and Victims

#### Full course description

This course provides contemporary insights into the psychology of eyewitnesses and victims. For example, students will learn about how well eyewitnesses and victims 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 the best practices in how to administer line-ups, the neurobiological processes in the brain that are responsible for storing emotional events during times of stress, and whether eyewitnesses and victims are able to deal with the consequences of having experienced traumatic events. 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, 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 and the psychology of victims; be familiar with the important terminology of Forensic Psychology (e.g., posttraumatic stress disorder, false memories, sequential line-ups, psychological debriefing, etc.); 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 and/or victims.

#### Course objectives

Knowledge of: Estimator variables, system variables, co-witness effects, post-identification feedback, reliability of testimonies, cognitive interview, self-administered interview. Line-up identification procedures, traumatic memories, stress, HPA-axis, neurobiology of learning and memory, resilience, acute and posttraumatic stress disorder, psychological debriefing, repression, recovered memories. False memories and behavioural consequences, forgot-it-all-along effect, coaching, truth-telling and lying in children.

PSY4012

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

27 Oct 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M. Sauerland](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

eyewitnesses, victimology, trauma, Memory

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

## Interrogation & interviewing Strategies

### 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

Knowledge of:

Interrogation and interviewing strategies, false confessions, deception detection.

PSY4018

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

27 Oct 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E.H. Meijer](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam

Keywords:

interrogation and interviewing strategies, false confessions, deception detection

## **Practical Training: Psychology and Law in Action**

### **Full course description**

Psychology and Law in Action offers students the opportunity to become familiar with the practical aspect of psychology and law. Students will acquire hands-on experience with the administration of instruments frequently used by experts in the legal field, including use of tools to measure suggestibility and malingering. Furthermore, lectures will be given by professionals working in the legal field. The basics of criminal proceedings in court will be outlined with an accompanying visit to a court hearing. In addition, field trips to different legal settings will be organised (e.g., forensic institution, jail). Students will spend a substantial amount of time in administering tests and on reading relevant literature. At the end of the practical training, students are expected to act as an expert witness in a mock criminal law case and must submit a written expert report.

### **Course objectives**

Knowledge of: Administration and application of tests; testing relevant for legal arena; working field of psychology and law; visit psychology and law settings.

PSY4015

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

27 Oct 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G. Bogaard](#)

Teaching methods:

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

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Assignment

Keywords:

Measurement of malingering, excursions, assessment, court hearing

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

## **Forensic Neuropsychology**

### **Full course description**

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. As a result,

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neuropsychological expertise is requested in a substantial number of criminal and civil cases. Evidence suggests that traumatic brain injury is highly prevalent in individuals in forensic settings. The use of high-tech brain imaging techniques in defendants and forensic patients, 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 forensic neuropsychology, it is desirable for forensic psychologists to have expertise in this particular field.

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 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. In search for answers on the validity and credibility of these issues, forensic psychologists should have state-of-the-art knowledge of clinical neuropsychology, neuropsychological assessment, neuropsychology of memory, and neurological vulnerability.

### **Course objectives**

Knowledge of: Brain structure and function, neurological disorders, confabulation, amnesia, violence, structural brain scans in court, functional brain scans in court, neuropsychological assessment (psychometrics and psychodiagnostics), aggressive behaviour, mental retardation.

PSY4016

Period 2

30 Oct 2017

17 Nov 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- C.W.E.M. Quaedflieg

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL, Skills

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

forensic neuropsychology, brain structure, functionality, violence, brain disorders

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## **Experts and their Decisions**

### **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

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expects them to reach their decisions on the basis of 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 and decision making and other issues typically thought to be the province of expert witnesses are discussed at length during this course: How do experts reason about the causality underlying, for example, accidents? Can modern techniques like fMRI assist experts in drawing conclusions on issues such as criminal responsibility of defendants? What about defendants who feign all kinds of psychiatric symptoms? How can the expert detect these? This course tackles these and related questions.

### Course objectives

Knowledge of: Decisions making styles, biases, debiasing, signal detection theory, Receiver Operating Characteristics, expectancy effects, likelihood ratio's, heuristics, psychopharmacology, drugs and crimes, neuro-imaging and criminal responsibility, malingering.

PSY4014

Period 2

30 Oct 2017

22 Dec 2017

[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, malingering

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 small groups (max 6), 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

Knowledge of: Critical evaluation of research and theory, translation of research and theory into practical guidelines, writing of policy reports, writing new policy based on societal problems, evaluation of existing policy.

PSY4017

Period 2

20 Nov 2017

22 Dec 2017

[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 drafted in preparation for the research internship. To ensure a timely process, PSY4074 is done in conjunction with PSY 4075, which serves to support the development of the research proposal and subsequent internship via assignments, workshops, and lectures that allow students to practice and develop the following skills: Conducting literature reviews
- Using Endnote

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- Choosing a research design
- Selecting appropriate statistical methods
- Managing data and applying statistics
- Writing a research proposal using academic writing
- Providing peer feedback on a research proposals
- Understanding research ethics
- Applying for approval from the ERCPN
- Planning for their future career

### Course objectives

To produce a scientifically sound research proposal

To adequately prepare for a research internship

PSY4074

Year

1 Sep 2017

31 Aug 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [S. Stutterheim](#)

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

This module offers students an opportunity to practice and apply academic writing and research skills, and prepares students for their research internship. To achieve this, a series of assignments, workshops, and lectures will be scheduled in the 3rd period (four weeks). In addition, students will be encouraged to consider their future career. The following topics and activities will be covered:

- Conducting literature reviews
- Using Endnote
- Choosing a research design
- Selecting appropriate statistical methods
- Managing data and applying statistics
- Writing a research proposal using academic writing

## Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

- Providing peer feedback on a research proposals
- Understanding research ethics
- Applying for approval from the ERCPN
- Planning for their future career

### Course objectives

Knowledge of:

How to conduct literature reviews, using Endnote; how to select a research design and corresponding methods; how to write in academics; how to peer review; how to apply for ethics approval; how to produce an acceptable research proposal; career perspectives.

PSY4075

Period 3

8 Jan 2018

2 Feb 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

0.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [S. Stutterheim](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Skills

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment

Keywords:

Academic skills, Research skills, methods, statistics, career skills, Writing, peer reviewing

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.

Information about research internships offered by faculty members can be found on AskPsy >

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Curriculum > internships/ stages.

Each specialisation has its own internship coordinator:

Psychology and Law: Kim van Oorsouw,

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Health and Social Psychology:

Sandra Mulkens:

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## Course objectives

Knowledge of:

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 courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. Furthermore, the research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start. In addition:

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

PSY4078

Year

5 Feb 2018

31 Aug 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [G.C. Kraag](#)
- [A.A.N. Mulkens](#)

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

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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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Email: a.kaas@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Neuropsychology: Esther Keulers,

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esther.keulers@maastrichtuniversity.nl

## Course objectives

Knowledge of:

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 courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. Furthermore, the research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start. In addition:

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

PSY4079

Year

5 Feb 2018

31 Aug 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

15.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [G.C. Kraag](#)
- [A.A.N. Mulkens](#)

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.

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

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esther.keulers@maastrichtuniversity.nl

## Course objectives

Knowledge of: 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 courses have been obtained of the modules offered in periods 1 and 2. Furthermore, the research proposal must be assessed as sufficient by both assessors and must be ethically approved before the start. In addition:

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

PSY4091

Year

5 Feb 2018

31 Aug 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

10.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [R.R.A. van Doorn](#)
- [G.C. Kraag](#)

## Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

- [A.A.N. Mulkens](#)

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