

Master's Programme

## Master Specialisation Legal Psychology

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 1

2 Sep 2019

25 Oct 2019

[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:

investigative interviewing, false confessions, deception detection, mediation

# 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, 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

2 Sep 2019

25 Oct 2019

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

4.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

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

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

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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**

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 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

2 Sep 2019

25 Oct 2019

[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

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Assignment

Keywords:

Measurement of malingering, assessment, court hearing

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 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: compensation cases, criminal cases, and competencies (capacities related to pleading and standing trial). 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 relationship, 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 explain general neuropsychological assessment 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

28 Oct 2019

20 Dec 2019

[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:

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

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

## Experts and Their Biases

### 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.

PSY4041

Period 2

28 Oct 2019

20 Dec 2019

[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

## 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

- 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

28 Oct 2019

20 Dec 2019

[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 PSY4075, 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;
- 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 proposal;
- understanding research ethics and applying for approval from the ERCPN;
- planning for future career.

This module is not applicable for 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 2019

31 Aug 2020

[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;
- providing peer feedback on a research proposals;
- understanding research ethics and applying for approval from the ERCPN;
- planning for future career.

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

### Course objectives

- students are able to execute a literature review;
- students are able to use Endnote;
- students are able to select a research design and corresponding methods for a research project;
- students understand and apply 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;
- students are able to execute a peer review that is both constructive and encouraging;
- students recognize ethical aspects of conducting research and are able to complete an ethics application;



## Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

- students are able to produce a research proposal;
- students recognize career perspectives for their future.

PSY4075

Period 3

6 Jan 2020

31 Jan 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

0.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [S. Stutterheim](#)

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.

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](mailto:k.vanoorsouw@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

## Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Health and Social Psychology: Ghislaine Schyns

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

Email: ghislaine.schyns@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Work and Social Psychology: Robert van Doorn

Phone (043) 38 81926, 40 Universiteitssingel East, Room 4.765,

Email: r.vandoorn@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: Romain Hollands

Phone (043) 38 83421

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. Furthermore, academic research skills (4075) must be submitted and 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

1 Sep 2019

31 Aug 2020

[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

## Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

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:

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Phone (043) 38 83421

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

Clinical internships: Ieke Winkens

Phone: (043) 38 84512,

Location: Universiteitssingel 40, East

Email: [fpn-np-internship@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto: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. Furthermore, academic research skills (4075) must be submitted and 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

1 Sep 2019

31 Aug 2020

[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.

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

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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. Furthermore, academic research skills (4075) must be submitted and 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

1 Sep 2019

Master Psychology Specialisation Legal Psychology

31 Aug 2020

[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