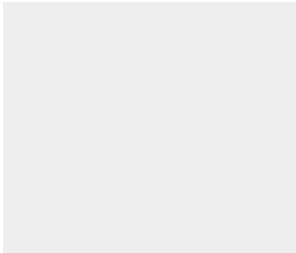


## Module Details for PERSONALITY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

### Historic Record

<b>Module Code</b>	PS12300
<b>Module Name</b>	PERSONALITY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES
<b>Module Short Title</b>	
<b>ECTS weighting</b>	5
<b>Semester/term taught</b>	HT
<b>Contact Hours and Indicative Student Workload</b>	One semester: 22 lectures; 103 hours independent study
<b>Module Coordinator/Owner</b>	Dr Kristin Hadfield
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the foundations of personality psychology, including the definition of personality, major theories, and the historical context of the field;</li><li>• Critically evaluate personality measurement tools, describing, analysing, and assessing different tools and methods used for measuring personality traits, including their strengths and limitations;</li><li>• Analyse the role of genetic and environmental factors in personality development, understanding how these factors interact to shape personality and intelligence across the lifespan;</li><li>• Identify and understand personality disorders, differentiating between various personality disorders and how they contrast with normal personality variations;</li><li>• Understand the impact of individual differences in real-world contexts, examining how personality and intelligence research applies to behaviours, decisions, and outcomes in various life domains;</li><li>• Understand and explain key theories related to personality and individual differences;</li><li>• Understand gene-environment interactions and their impact on personality and intelligence, recognizing how genetic predispositions and environmental contexts interact to shape individual differences;</li><li>• Critically analyse genetic and environmental contributions to personality and intelligence, evaluating the extent to which each contributes to individual differences and understanding the complexity of their interplay;</li></ul>



- Synthesise and apply knowledge on personality and individual differences; and
- develop skills in academic research, writing, and critical thinking, particularly in the context of personality and individual differences.

**Module Learning Aims**

This module will introduce you to the key themes, concepts, theories, and applications of major psychological processes and individual differences. The goal of this course is to provide you with a clear picture of psychological processes and the individual psychological differences that contribute to the complexities of human nature. We will cover what personality is, 'abnormal' or deviant personality traits, how personality and ability can best be measured, individual differences in intelligence, genetic underpinnings of individual differences, and how these differences impact people across their lifespan. In addition to an academic understanding, it is hoped that students will gain personal insight and be aware of the application of these theories in society.

**Module Content**

- Introduction to personality and individual differences
- What is personality?
- Narrow personality traits
- Determining 'normal' behaviour
- Subclinical and antisocial personality traits
- Personality disorders
- Biological, cognitive, and social bases of personality
- Measuring personality and intelligence
- Constructing a test
- Problems with tests
- What is intelligence?
- Genetic and environment influences on intelligence
- Gene-environment interplay in intelligence
- Diathesis stress and differential susceptibility
- Resilience and vantage sensitivity
- Gene-environment interplay
- Individual differences in mood and motivation
- Changes in personality and ability across the lifespan

**Recommended Reading List**

Recommended text  
 Cooper, C. (2020). Individual differences and personality. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Plus the following papers:

- Plomin, R., & Von Stumm, S. (2018). The new genetics of intelligence. *Nature Reviews Genetics*, 19(3), 148-159.
- Sauce, B., & Matzel, L. D. (2018). The paradox of intelligence: Heritability and malleability coexist in hidden gene-environment interplay. *Psychological Bulletin*, 144(1), 26.
- Tyrer, P., Reed, G. M., & Crawford, M. J. (2015). Classification, assessment, prevalence, and effect of personality disorder. *The Lancet*, 385(9969), 717-726.
- Ungar, M., & Theron, L. (2020). Resilience and mental health: How multisystemic processes contribute to positive outcomes. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 7(5), 441-448.

Other readings are given as the module progresses. Supporting additional reading resources are made available to students on Blackboard and through the library.

**Module Pre-requisite** None

**Module Co Requisite** None

**Assessment Details@I-MOD-ASSM** TBC

**Module Website**

**Module approval date**

**Approved By**

**Academic Start Year**

**Academic Year of Data** 2024/25