

Diploma in Social Sciences (Psychology)



The University of Waikato offers a Diploma in Social Sciences (Psychology) as a means by which individuals who already have an undergraduate degree in another subject can acquire roughly the equivalent of an undergraduate major in psychology (e.g., to advance to graduate studies in psychology, to shift into a psychology-related career). The Diploma in Social Sciences (Psychology) requires the completion of papers at Level 2 and Level 3 to the value of 120 points and must include:

Level 2:

PSYC208 20 points Psychological Research: Analysis, Design and Measurement

PLUS four of the following:

PSYC225 10 points	Behavioural Psychology and Learning
PSYC226 10 points	Perception and Attention
PSYC227 10 points	Physiological Psychology
PSYC228 10 points	Culture, Ethnicity and Psychology
PSYC229 10 points	Social Behaviour for the Social Sciences
PSYC230 10 points	Cognitive Psychology

Level 3:

Psychology papers to the value of 60 points (INCLUDING PSYC307 Research Methods ((20 points)) if student plans to continue on to graduate study in psychology).

NOTE: Students may need to complete additional Level 2 and/or Level 3 papers under the IPC regulations in order to have the necessary academic background for some specific graduate programmes, e.g. clinical psychology.

Additionally, students are expected to familiarise themselves with the content of General & Experimental and Social & Developmental Psychology prior to taking Level 2 papers. This can be accomplished by reading relevant textbooks, details of which can be found in the University of Waikato Calendar.

Note that most Psychology papers have prerequisites, which results in most Diploma students in Psychology needing three semesters (1.5 years) to complete the qualification.

Level 1 papers are automatically waived as prerequisites for Diploma students, but all other prerequisites are not. If you believe that your previous academic background has served to prepare you such that a prerequisite/s might be waived, you will need to obtain approval from the coordinator of the paper you wish to enter, using a prerequisite waiver form available from the Psychology Office.

Depending on background, it may be possible to get a waiver to allow completion of an A semester before its B semester prerequisite. The waiver means both papers will still need to be completed but allows some flexibility to avoid delays in completion of the Diploma.

The above regulations were effective from 2007.