



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Psychology - master

120 credits (ECTS)/Campus Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Health Sciences on 25.09.2025



Study programme name	English: <i>Psychology - master</i> Bokmål: <i>Psychology - master</i> Nynorsk: <i>Psychology – master</i> Sami: <i>Psychology – master</i> Kvensk: <i>Psychology - master</i>
Degree obtained	Master in Psychology
Target group	Students with a Bachelor's degree in psychology (or equivalent) who want to continue their psychology studies.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	<i>The basis for admission is:</i> <i>A Bachelor's degree in Psychology or another field (min. 180 ECTS) with at least 60 ECTS in psychology and at least 20 ECTS in statistics and methods.</i> <i>An overall grade average of C (3) on the Norwegian grading scale is the minimum requirement. The average grade is calculated on the basis of all the courses that are graded using the A-F scale in the bachelor's degree in psychology, or the bachelor's degree from another field and the psychology specialization courses.</i>
The study programme's Learning Outcome	In a rapidly changing world, the ability to identify and solve pressing problems, both independently and collaboratively, is at a premium. Doing this in timely, sound, and innovative ways is evermore important. So, too, is the ability to communicate the needs and desired outcomes necessary to solve a problem – professionally and with ethical acumen. At UiT, The Master's program in Psychology prepares students for that through psychology course work and research, with a unique degree of freedom and personal choice – all to bring out the best in every student and the resources available to them at UiT. The main independent work in the Master's Program is the Master's thesis (50 ECTS). Producing a Master's thesis requires developing advanced and specialized academic skills through participation in courses, and planning and producing a Master's thesis that fits the scope of 50 ECTS. There are two thesis options. • The student can produce a monograph, or • the student and supervisor(s) can produce a manuscript for submission for journal review which the student complements with an independently written thesis summary that more broadly contextualizes the work in the manuscript (referred to as a kappe in Norwegian).

Emphasis is also placed on the development of work habits that are healthy and effective for the individual student as well as for peers and colleagues.

Supporting the Master's thesis work is our unique parallel focus on (1) scientific communication, (2) information literacy , and (3) a research-based approach to career planning.

Students with a Master's degree in psychology are expected to have developed competence in:

Conducting Sound Research

Students will learn how to conduct scientific research at a level that contributes productively to their chosen field of research. While doing so, they will also develop generalizable skills for how to conceptualize problems and thoughtfully go about solving them for the benefit of any field of work.

Knowledge: This involves

- Understanding the scientific method and its value.
- Reading and understanding important and relevant literature within a chosen area of study.
- Developing a reflective attitude about research
- Understanding the ethics of sound research practices.

Skills: This involves

- Critically and analytically assessing psychological research to develop and answer new and independent research questions.
- Making strategic use of scientific sources, research methods and statistics to design, plan and conduct an independent piece of research in basic or applied psychology.
- Drawing reasoned conclusions, communicate them appropriately, and make suggestions for further scientific work on this basis.
- Acting in an ethical manner in line with the core values of psychology and science (e.g., using research methods in trustworthy ways, in compliance with open science, ethical expectations, and the governing policies of the university and other governing bodies).
- Working independently and collaboratively.

Competence: This will support the ability to

- Be an active, enterprising member of an engaged and healthy scientific community in the Master's program (as well as the

Department of Psychology (or “Department”) and the field of psychology in general)

Information Literacy

Students will learn how to analyze and deal critically with various sources of information and use them to structure and formulate scholarly arguments

Knowledge: This involves

- Matching information needs and search strategies to appropriate search tools – both when at the university and post-graduation.
- Understanding how information systems (i.e., collections of recorded information) are organized in order to access relevant information.

Skills: This involves

- Using advanced search techniques, managing and document search processes and results effectively.
- Reuse and cite the contributing work of others in their own information production to a high standard.

Competence: This will support the ability to

- Monitor scholarly conversations, organize information and sources in meaningful ways, assess gathered information for gaps or weaknesses, and synthesize ideas gathered from multiple sources.

Communicating Science Effectively

Students will learn how to actively participate in the scientific community through various forms of scientific communication.

Knowledge: This involves

- Understanding the nature of different forms of communication and their relevance for successfully communicating with different kinds of audiences.

Skills: This involves

- Writing scientific texts in the form of a thesis and other types of texts (e.g., applications).

- Giving oral presentations about science clearly and confidently in shorter and longer forms to audiences with different levels of expertise.
- Presenting scientific work visually in the form of informative, comprehensible and compelling slides, posters or other visual media for an audience of peers.

Competence: This will support the ability to

- Comfortably give and receive useful feedback for their work and actively use that to raise the quality of their final output. (Competence)

Managing Their Career Trajectory

Students will develop general skills that equip them to master their career trajectory in thoughtful and effective ways during and after their studies. Their practice will be up to the students based on their career aspirations.

Knowledge: This involves

- Understanding their knowledge, skills and competencies relevant to the workplace in general and their desired workplace in particular.

Skills: This involves

- Representing their competence and place in the field through accurate and concise presentations of (1) their particular Master's Program goals and content, (2) their work within it, and (3) how their work and degree fit in the greater context of psychology in Norway and the rest of the world.
- Representing their competence in a career platform (e.g., LinkedIn) that communicates the relevance and importance of their academic background for jobs they seek.

Competence: This will support the ability to

- Independently use communication skills (see above) and training in career thinking and building in job seeking during and after the program.

	By the end of the program overall, and in line with the Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, students should be able to • Analyze relevant academic, professional and research ethical problems, • Apply knowledge and skills in new areas in order to carry out advanced assignments and projects, • Communicate extensive independent work and masters language and terminology of the academic field, • Communicate about academic issues, analyses and conclusions in the field, both with specialists and the general public, • Contribute to new thinking and innovation processes, and • Strategically apply that knowledge in their career trajectory
Academic content and description of the study programme	The Master's Program in psychology consists of three distinct elements: mandatory courses, elective courses and the Master's thesis. Mandatory Courses Mandatory courses are worth a total of 30 credits; these are PSY-3000 Proseminar (10 ECTS) and STA-3300 Applied Statistics 2 (10 ECTS), and TVR-3000 Sustainable Innovation (i.e., a multidisciplinary workshop-based course for UiT master's students). Elective Courses Elective courses enable specialization in topics complementary or supplemental to the content of the Master's thesis . These are worth a total of 40 ECTS, and at least 20 of these must be in psychology (either from courses offered in the Department of Psychology at UiT or at another university). It is recommended that the elective courses be decided in consultation with the thesis supervisor or Master's Committee. The Department of Psychology offers a series of master's level courses that are offered either annually or periodically. The remaining 20 ECTS may be taken in other departments pending approval of the course leader and departments who offer them. Note that the schedules of courses outside the Department of Psychology are not coordinated with the courses offered within the Department. Master's thesis The PSY-3900 Master's thesis work is spread over three semesters, allowing for creating and submitting any necessary applications for outside review (e.g., ethics committee approval or funding options). The thesis is subject to a written agreement between the student and the supervisor and is controlled by the Master's Committee. In addition to the thesis, there are required workshops and related assignments that are submitted to and approved by the supervisor

	every semester through the Learning Management System (LMS, e.g., Canvas). These assignments serve as documentation for the achievement of the learning goals.																							
Table: programme structure	<table><tr><th>Semester</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th></tr><tr><td>1st semester</td><td>PSY-3000 Proseminar</td><td>STA-3300 Applied Statistics</td><td>TVR-3000 Sustainable Innovation</td></tr><tr><td>2nd semester</td><td>PSY-3900-1 Master's thesis</td><td>Elective course</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>3rd semester</td><td>PSY-3900-2 Master's thesis</td><td>PSY-3900-2 Master's thesis</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>4th semester</td><td>PSY-3900-3 Master's thesis</td><td>PSY-3900-3 Master's thesis</td><td>Elective course</td></tr></table>				Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits	1 st semester	PSY-3000 Proseminar	STA-3300 Applied Statistics	TVR-3000 Sustainable Innovation	2 nd semester	PSY-3900-1 Master's thesis	Elective course	Elective course	3 rd semester	PSY-3900-2 Master's thesis	PSY-3900-2 Master's thesis	Elective course	4 th semester	PSY-3900-3 Master's thesis	PSY-3900-3 Master's thesis	Elective course
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Learning activities, examination and assessment	Lectures The program's courses use different teaching and learning methods. Lectures are used to highlight main points, explain concepts, point out relationships and provide examples from the general principles they illustrate. They also present perspectives on theory and research that the texts in the syllabus cannot always provide. In this way, they support the aims to describe, define and explain, but also to demonstrate how to develop a scientific approach to the understanding of psychological processes and behaviour. Seminars and Workshops Lectures are usually supplemented by mandatory course requirements that provide practice in information literacy skills, written, oral and/or visual communication, collegial guidance and dialog, observations, data analysis and the like. All required assignments for PSY-3000 and PSY-3900 are presented in seminar and workshop form where students are introduced to concepts for the work (e.g., preparing a milepost plan, preparing an oral and visual presentation of their study for peers and new students), and then produce drafts, develop skills giving and receiving peer feedback on those drafts, before finalizing the work with their supervisor who ultimately gives the work the final approval in the LMS (e.g., Canvas). The goal of these tasks is to create quality work samples that																							

	students can use to guide independent work on similar tasks in the future. Thesis supervision The Master's thesis (PSY-3900) consists of extensive research under detailed supervision. Empirical research is most common, but theoretical theses may also be written. The aim of any thesis is to demonstrate that the student is capable of independently conducting and reporting on research at a suitably high level. The work for a Master's thesis based on empirical data will include finding a research topic, formulating a research question, designing an ethically sound study, collecting, recording and/or coding the data, and analysing and writing the results in accordance with the general rules for publication. The work for a theoretical thesis will vary depending on the research area and topic. The thesis must be written in English (with abstracts in both English and Norwegian). All topics and research approaches must be agreed upon, in writing, by the student and the student supervisor. Master's theses are archived in a UiT database (Munin). Students are encouraged to use the end of their last semester to begin preparing their thesis work for publication in a scientific peer-reviewed journal, if appropriate, with guidance from their supervisor.
The study programme's relevance	The focus of the PSY-3900 training is to help students master the scientific method of identifying, planning, pursuing, analysing and communicating important and timely research questions in a thriving research community. The scientific method is valuable for all future endeavours, be they applied or research-based. With this background, students who finish the program are ready to work at a high level, both independently and collaboratively in teams, on problem identification and problem-solving.
Work scope	The program is a full-time, on-campus offering with the expectation of a full work week of time spent on the master's courses, assignments and thesis.
Language of instruction and examination	Teaching is in English. The language of examination is English. Students may take electives in other languages if given prior approval by the course leader, and their supervisor or Master's Committee.
Internationalisation	This is an international program. It is offered in English and open to students from abroad. Furthermore, UiT is an attractive host institution for inbound students from around the world. In this way, whether Master's students study abroad or not, we aim to enable all Master students to benefit from multicultural perspectives in multiple ways through their master's studies (i.e., internationalization at home).
Student exchange	Subject to careful planning and preparation, Master's students may study abroad in the 2nd or 3rd semester by agreement with the

	Master's Committee. The period of study abroad is one semester. Studies abroad are subject to prior approval by the Department. Applications to study abroad must be submitted in the semester before the planned study period. The student's work for the master's degree is subject to an agreement between the student, the supervisor and the Master's Committee. Any changes to normal program progression related to, for example, a study period abroad, must also be included in the agreement with the department in order to clarify for the student which class they belong to, and which mandatory course requirements must be fulfilled in the semesters during and following a study period abroad. NB! Plans for how to participate in the mandatory PSY-3900 instruction and completing the mandatory PSY-3900 assignments during the abroad semester must be included in the student's study plan and Milepost plan.
Supervised professional training	
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	The Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Health Sciences is administratively responsible for the Master's Program. The master program has a program leader and a program committee (Master's Committee) consisting of academic and administrative staff. Student representation occurs through the information and quality assurance meetings held three times per semester.
Quality assurance	Obligatory information and quality assurance meetings are held three times every semester to monitor how the program is going overall, and how the courses and assignments are going more specifically. A set agenda guides the meetings, and both Department of Psychology faculty and master's students can bring matters to each meeting's agenda. The focus is on identifying where things are going well, where they could be better, and how those improvements will be pursued, by whom, and by when. Matters from the Master's Committee are also shared and discussed with students here.

