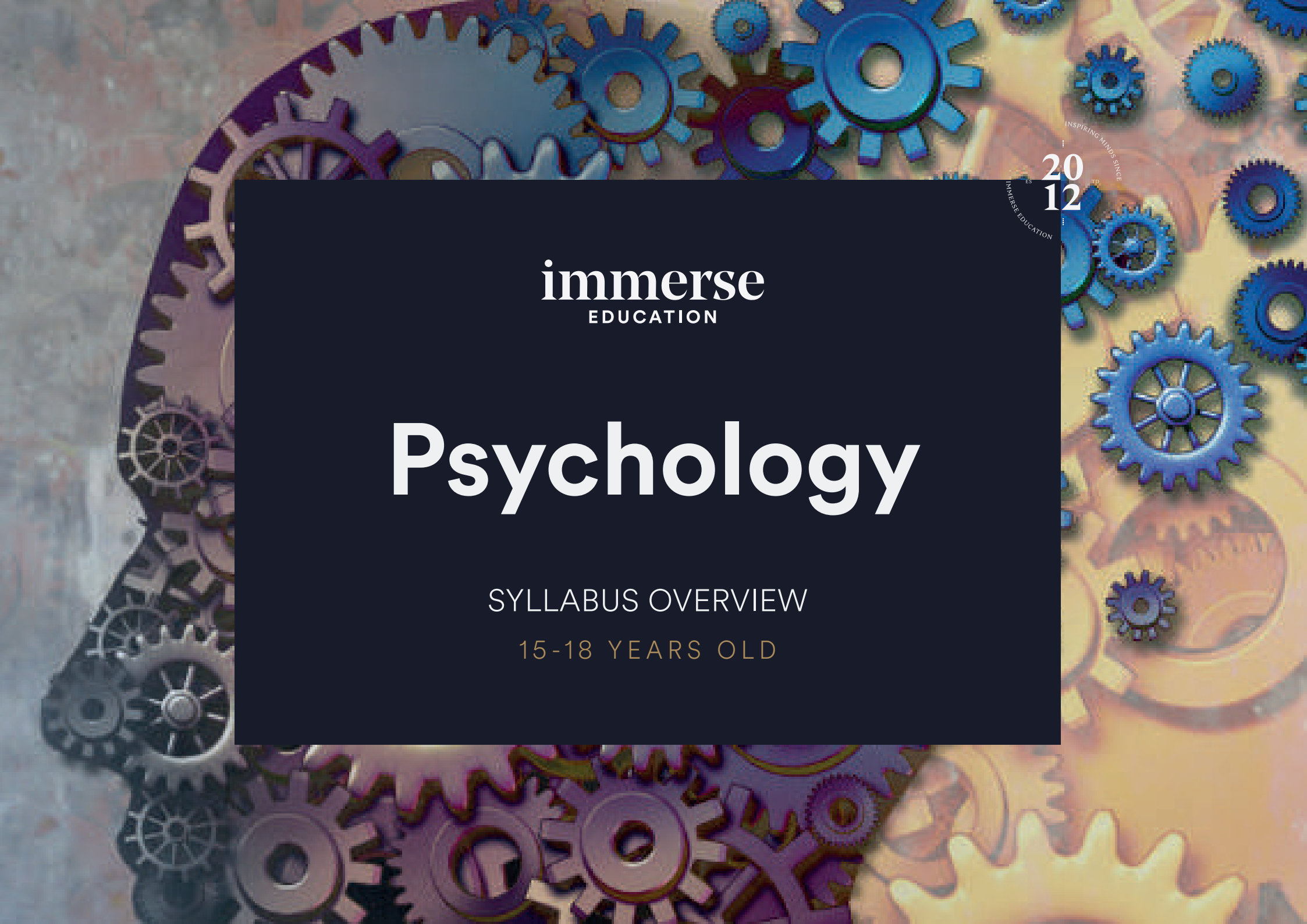




immerge
EDUCATION

Psychology

SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

15-18 YEARS OLD

20
12

INSPIRING MINDS SINCE
1870

IMMERSE EDUCATION

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About the Programme

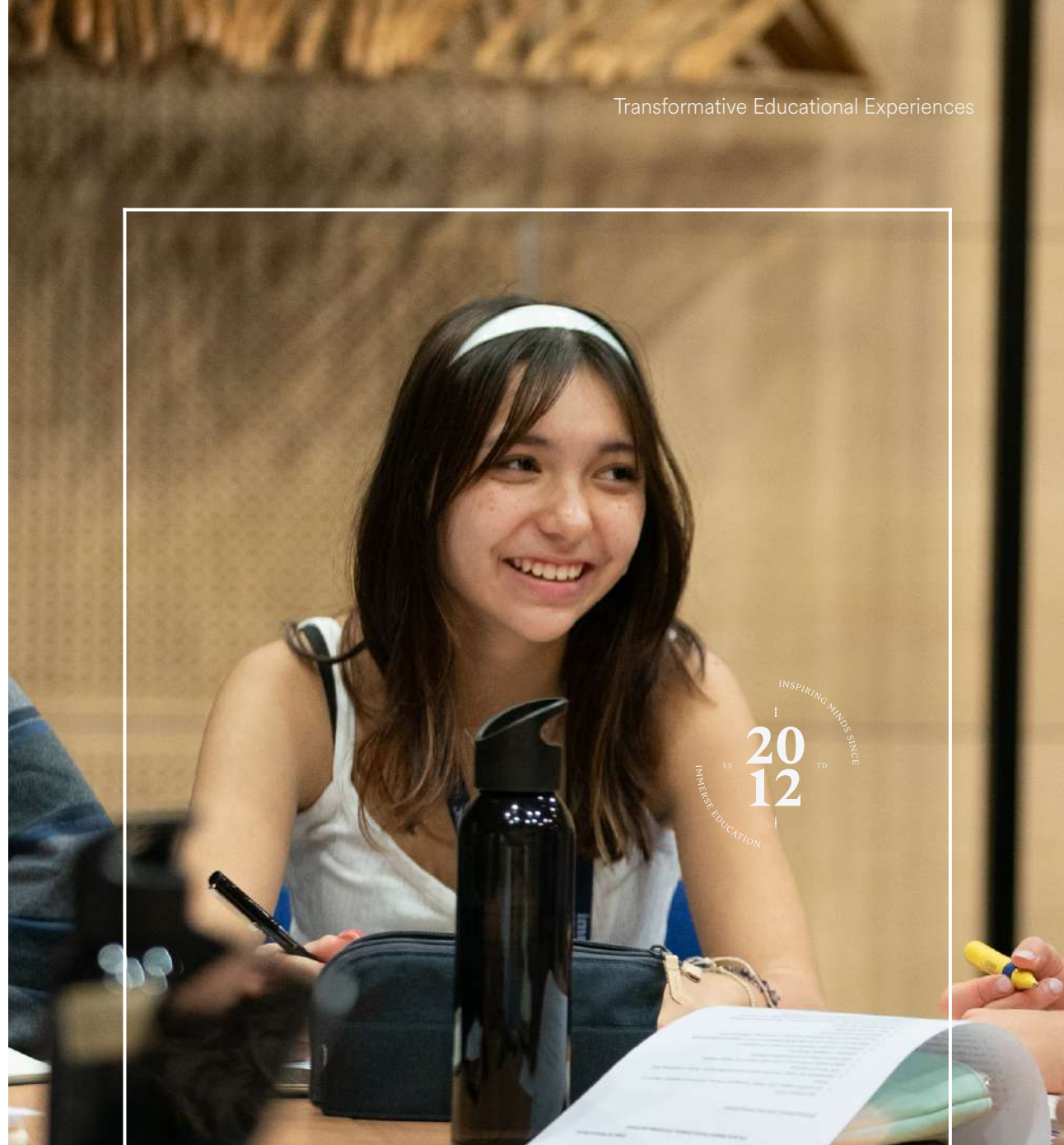
Immerse Education is an award-winning provider of summer experiences offering academic and career-focused programmes for high school students from worldwide, in such locations as Boston, Cambridge, London, New York, Oxford, San Francisco, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, and Toronto. These programmes aim to deliver engaging, academically challenging content within a university-style classroom environment.

Through academic sessions, the programme offer young students unique and valuable insights into what it would be like to study their chosen subject at an advanced level. This Syllabus Overview provides a summary of the topics and subject areas that participants can encounter during their studies with Immerse.

Academic Sessions

The academic sessions at Immerse are arranged into modules to enable participants to explore a broad range of topics over the course of their programme. The modules included in this syllabus overview are indicative but not prescriptive.

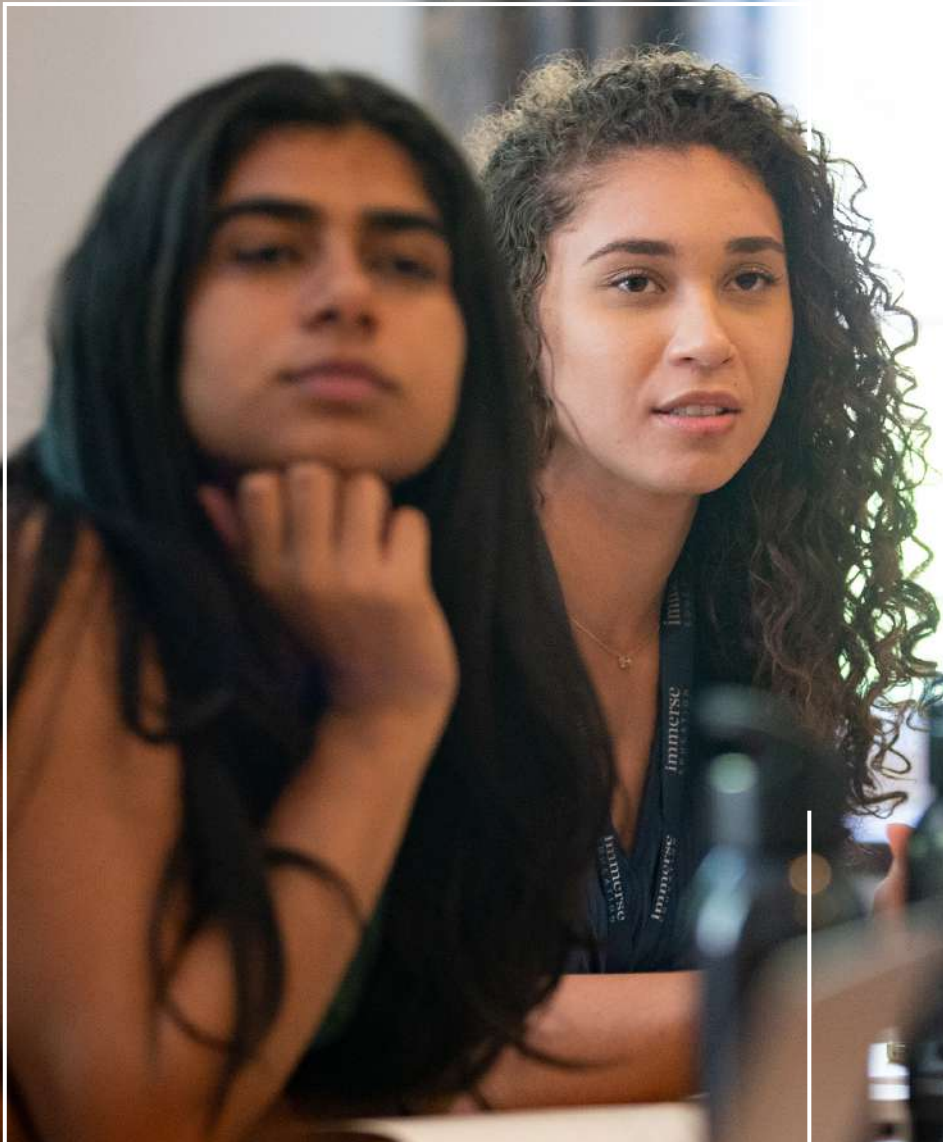
Tutors are encouraged to include their own specialisms and also focus on any particular areas of interest expressed by participants within the class. They may choose to provide further detail on a specific topic, or they may include new material and information that builds on the knowledge already developed during the programme.





Personal Project

Each programme includes an element of individual work, generally termed the 'Personal Project'. This can take many forms but is commonly an essay or presentation delivered on the final day of the programme. Participants will receive feedback on this work which may also be mentioned in the participant evaluation which is provided in writing by the tutor once the programmes have ended.



Preparatory work

Some tutors may ask participants to complete some preparatory work, such as reading or a series of exercises in advance of the programme. Participants are strongly encouraged to complete this work since it will be included in the opening sessions of the programme. Any preparatory tasks will be provided in advance of the programme directly to the participant.

Academic Difficulty

As all of our programmes are designed to provide a unique introduction to advanced material, the syllabus will be academically challenging at times.

This is something to be excited about and all of our tutors will encourage and support participants throughout the programme. Immerse Education aims to develop every participant regardless of ability, and our tutors will adapt their teaching to individual needs.

Aim of the Psychology Programme

The Immerse Education Psychology programme in Toronto is designed for students eager to deepen their understanding of the human mind and behaviour. Building on foundational scientific and analytical skills, this programme encourages participants to explore advanced topics in psychology while fostering independent thinking and evidence-based analysis.

Through engaging sessions and hands-on experiences, you'll gain insights into university-level psychology content, exploring branches such as cognitive, social, and behavioural psychology. By the end of the programme, you'll not only understand the variety of degree options in psychology but also the career opportunities in fields such as mental health, research, and applied psychology.



An Introduction to Psychology and The Brain

In this session we will consider the interdisciplinary nature of psychology and explore the range of fields that can influence, or are influenced by psychology. We will examine the various branches and topics available for study within psychology and broadly categorise these into cognitive, biological, developmental, individual differences, and social psychology. We will then explore the structure of the brain and its lobes, and consider how psychologists use scientific methods to learn more about the relationship between behaviour and the brain. To do this we will consider a number of fMRI images and famous case studies in the development of psychology.



Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience

Explore the intricate processes of the human brain and how it shapes our perceptions, thoughts, and actions. This session focuses on cognitive psychology and neuroscience, delving into how the brain processes information, impacts decision-making, and influences mental health. Through practical examples and case studies, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the mind's complexity and its role in everyday life.

Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination

In this session we will consider what we mean by a 'stereotype' and discuss whether the use of stereotypes is part of human nature, or a symptom of society. We will explore the link between stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination before taking a closer look at what constitutes discrimination. We will also try to understand the ways in which we can challenge stereotypes and reduce discrimination, as well as the obstacles we may face in doing this. This session will introduce participants to questionnaires and their value to psychologists. We will consider the different ways that we can analyse the data received from a questionnaire. We will consider how they can be used by psychologists to understand illnesses such as schizophrenia. We will also ask the question: Is intelligence heritable?





Behavioural Psychology: How We Learn and Adapt

Discover the principles of behavioural psychology, studying how individuals respond to their environment and adapt to different stimuli. This session examines key theories such as conditioning and reinforcement, providing insights into how behaviours are learned and modified. You'll explore real-world applications, such as how behavioural psychology is used in therapy, education, and workplace dynamics.

Family Psychology

The definition of 'family' varies person to person and with increasing developments in technology, our definition of a modern family may be significantly influenced by those whom we encounter online, rather than exclusively in person. In this session we will consider the environment required for a child to develop healthy relationships with both themselves as the world around them. We will also consider how families function before turning to academic papers to understand how the family dynamic is affecting today's children, and whether this has changed.





Cognitive Psychology

It has been raining for three days and on each of the past three days, the cat has climbed the curtains though it has never done so before. Based on this information, you may assume that there is a direct link between the rain and the cat's behaviour. As psychologists, we study data to look for patterns and often get very excited when we think we have spotted something. We do not have enough data to know that the rain is related to the cat's behaviour and any other number of factors could be at play here. In this session, we explore best academic research practice in both interpreting and presenting research.

Social Psychology and Group Dynamics

Uncover how social interactions influence individual behaviour in this exploration of social psychology. You'll study concepts like peer pressure, leadership, and group influence to understand the dynamics of group behaviour. By examining real-world scenarios and experiments, this session highlights how social environments shape decision-making and interpersonal relationships.

Interpreting Behaviour: Avoiding Cognitive Bias in Research

It has been raining for three days, and during this time, the cat has started climbing the curtains—a behaviour it has never exhibited before. While it might seem logical to link the rain to the cat's actions, a psychologist knows there isn't enough data to confirm this connection. In this session, we delve into how to avoid cognitive biases and premature conclusions when analysing patterns. By exploring best practices in academic research, you'll learn how to interpret and present data rigorously, ensuring your findings are both accurate and reliable.



Experiments

Conducting experiments is the key means by which psychologists are able to observe phenomena and gather data that is measurable and that can be analysed. However, what we do with all this data is an important consideration. In this session, we will discuss the importance of protecting personal data and how to present experimental findings in an academic paper. We will discuss the process required to produce a paper and the importance of evaluation both of our own work, and that of fellow academics.

Personal Project

Apply your knowledge by designing and conducting your own psychology research project. Focus on a topic within cognitive or behavioural psychology, analyse your findings, and present them to your peers for feedback. This hands-on experience helps you develop essential research and analytical skills while gaining insights into how psychological studies contribute to real-world applications.





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