

Differential Psychology (H000428)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

De Fruyt, Filip

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

Franssens, Raissa

PP07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Education)	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology)	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Joint Section)	4	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

differential psychology, individual differences, group differences

Position of the course

The course Differential Psychology is a key component in the bachelor and is part of Block 2: Models in Psychology. In Block 2, the understanding, explanation and prediction of the human being are central. This course discusses main theories about differences among individuals and groups.

Contents

Interests:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Models and theories
- Assessment
- Applications

Personality:

- Historical and contemporary theories and models
- Assessment of personality

Intelligence:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Models and theories
- Assessment

- Applications
- Social debate

Social-emotional skills:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Assessment and applications

Differences between groups: sex differences, national and cultural differences

Nature of differences: Genetic, cultural-situational and evolutionary explanatory models

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 Being able to situate and compare psychological theories on differences between individuals.
- 2 Being able to situate and compare psychological theories on differences between groups.
- 3 Being able to explain and discuss the empirical construction and validation of models to describe individual differences.
- 4 Being able to explain and discuss the basis of individual and group differences.
- 5 Being able to scientifically evaluate, label and appreciate differences between individuals and groups.
- 6 Being sensitive to strengths and flaws of the different methods to assess individual differences
- 7 Have insight in the genetic and environmental effects on the development of individual differences

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with demonstrations.

Guided self-instruction for handbook chapters that are not covered in the lectures.

This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Individual Differences

Indicative price: € 40

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : De Fruyt, F. (Compilation)

ISBN : 978-0-85776-492-8

Number of Pages : 234

Alternative : none

Oldest Usable Edition : 2011

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: is a compilatie of chapters from Maltby, Day en Macaskill (2007)

Type: Handbook

Name: Personality Psychology

Indicative price: € 40

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Larsen, Buss, Wismeijer, Song en S. van den Berg

ISBN : 1-526-84787-6

Number of Pages : 694
Alternative : none
Oldest Usable Edition : 3rd
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Syllabus

Name: Differentiele Psychologie
Indicative price: € 25
Optional: yes
Language : English
Number of Pages : 337
Oldest Usable Edition : 2023
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : Yes

References

See Learning Material

Course content-related study coaching

Support via Ufora
By appointment and office hours: Wednesday afternoon
By e-mail

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

multiple choice

Calculation of the examination mark

Score on exam on 20.