

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 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Fruyt, Filip

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

Franssens, Raissa

PP07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	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
- Between and within personality differences

Intelligence:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Models and theories

- Assessment
- Applications

Social-emotional skills:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Assessment and applications

Individual differences applied

Differences between groups: sex differences, national and cultural differences

Nature of differences: 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.

Recordings will be made available at least one week after the lecture, and will remain online until the end of the resit examination period.

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: Personality in context and development

Indicative price: € 85

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : De Clercq, B.

Number of Pages : 800

Alternative : no

Oldest Usable Edition : in press

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : intensive

Additional information: This book includes also the material for the course Personality Psychology in the 2nd bachelor of psychology. Certain chapters of the book also form the learning material for other courses in the program taught from an individual differences perspective.

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)

References

See Learning Material

Course content-related study coaching

Support via Ufora

By appointment

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.