Chair in Mental Health
Department of Psychology

Closing date: 18 August 2021
Interview date: 20 September 2021
Vacancy reference: 9544
INTRODUCTION

The Department of Psychology is seeking to appoint an outstanding research-driven scientist at Chair level, with a high quality publication and grant capture record. Recruitment will be focused on individuals who carry out research relevant to mental health, particularly in areas that complement and extend our current research strengths in the Department.

This appointment aligns closely with the University’s strategy to expand mental health research and the launch of the York Interdisciplinary Institute of Mental Health. The successful candidates should also be dedicated teachers of higher education and would be expected to contribute to our undergraduate and/or Masters programmes.

Candidates should have a PhD in Psychology (or a relevant discipline) and/or a relevant professional doctorate. This position is being advertised in parallel with a Lecturer position also in mental health.

Professor Tim Andrews
Head of Department, Psychology
Main purpose of role

Chairs at York are expected to advance their subject nationally and internationally and to contribute to maintaining the University as an international centre of excellence for the relevant subject area through research and publication, teaching, networking and consultancy.

Chairs are required to undertake the duties outlined below:

Key Responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

To support the research activities of the Department

- To carry out internationally outstanding research and scholarship within the area of mental health
- To disseminate this research through monographs, articles in journals of international standing, and other appropriate forms of dissemination, including national and international conference presentations
- To play a leading role in the Department in identifying and securing external funding through research grants and contracts, and in developing collaborative research income-generating activities
- To attract and supervise research students, and, as appropriate, post-doctoral researchers and other support staff
- To support, comply with, and contribute fully to research plans and policies of the Department and the University

To support the teaching objectives of the Department

- To design and be responsible for delivery of modules and teaching programmes for undergraduate and graduate students
- To play a leading role in departmental and interdepartmental curriculum development and quality enhancement
- To coordinate team teaching, as required, including liaison with other staff and with postgraduates who teach
- To design and mark assessments, and give feedback
- To supervise undergraduate and graduate projects and dissertations
- To carry out teaching in Continuing Professional Development
- To undertake pastoral support of students, as a personal supervisor or in another designated role
- To support and promote fully the University and Department teaching quality assurance standards and procedures

To contribute to the efficient management and administration of the Department

- To make an important contribution to the leadership and management of the Department, including supporting early career staff and developing new collaborative initiatives
- To attend Departmental meetings, meetings of the Board of Studies, and other committees and working groups within the Department and University
- To carry out relevant professional duties, commensurate with the Professorial grade
- To undertake specific departmental roles and management functions as may be reasonably required by the Head of Department
# PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in Psychology (and/or relevant discipline) or relevant professional doctorate (e.g. in Clinical Psychology)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Membership of professional societies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding and internationally recognised knowledge of field/s of psychology relevant to mental health</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Skills, Abilities and Competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to define, lead, manage and attract funds for internationally excellent research, operating across disciplinary boundaries</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Proven leadership and managerial skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to manage and interact with staff and students at all levels and to contribute to broadening the strategic development of the Department</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of international collaboration</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Evidence of peer review activities</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>International leader in a mental health research field, leadership of research group/theme</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Substantial publication record in leading peer-reviewed journals related to mental health</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Attraction and effective supervision of postgraduate students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Significant and sustained success in accessing research grants and other external funding on topics and calls related to mental health</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Exceptional achievement in curriculum development, course design and teaching, learning and assessment methods at UG and PG levels and in encouraging student access and engagement</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invited presentations at major international conferences</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective and sustained involvement in major administrative tasks or positions of responsibility within a department or research unit</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Authorship of books</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Experience (continued)</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial duties with journals</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity as an invited examiner at other institutions</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in national teaching initiatives or international equivalents</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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### Personal Attributes

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<th>Demonstrable capacity for strategic thinking and planning</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>Ability to take a lead in key administration functions within the department</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Self-motivated, pro-active and innovative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology at York, founded in 1974, is one of the UK’s leading departments of psychology (https://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/). The Department has been placed among the World’s top 100 departments of psychology in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings every year since 2013. In the most recent nationwide assessment of research quality (REF 2014) Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of York was ranked fourth for overall performance and second for the quality of our research papers, with 95% being classified as world-leading or internationally excellent.

We are a large and vibrant Department with a strong community atmosphere and a nurturing learning environment. There are currently 45 members of academic staff, backed up by excellent technical and administrative support staff. The Department supports approximately 750 undergraduates, 100 MSc students, 40 PhD students, and 25 postdoctoral fellows. We offer two undergraduate programmes: a 3-year BSc and a 4-year MSci (with pathways in clinical psychology, developmental disorders, and neuroscience). We offer three taught MSc programmes: Cognitive Neuroscience, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, and Development, Disorders, and Clinical Practice.

Research & Teaching

We are an Experimental Psychology department and our research and taught courses reflect this. We have a broad range of interests spanning high-level cognitive acts such as communication, language and memory to low level visual and auditory perception, with understanding of basic mechanisms, changes over the lifespan, cross-cultural and individual differences as key cross-cutting themes. Many of our staff carry out important interdisciplinary research (e.g. with Health Sciences, medical and educational professionals, Computer Science, Environmental Scientists, Biologists, Electronics and Engineering, Mathematics and Archaeologists, to name a few). Our belief is that when different disciplines interact and views are allowed to conflict, that this can promote highly original and creative output. Thus, we welcome candidates who share these values and have strong potential for interdisciplinary collaboration. Our research is internationally recognized and has been judged to be among the strongest in experimental psychology in the UK. For more information on particular research areas, facilities and grant activities please refer to our research webpages. (https://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/research/).

Continued over page
ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The high quality of our teaching and support for students has been endorsed by the British Psychological Society and is reflected in positive ratings from students. In 2020, the department was 1st in the Russell Group for overall satisfaction on the NSS. Students in the department benefit from research-led teaching that is coherently organized around the core curriculum set out by the BPS. Students benefit from the department’s excellent research facilities and expertise: our main building houses specialised laboratories for research on sleep, vision, speech and hearing, memory, language processing, virtual reality, infant and child development, and experimental social psychology using state-of-the-art behavioural, electrophysiological and neuroimaging techniques. Neighbouring satellite buildings on campus house the Wolfson Centre for Child Development and Family Research as well as the York Neuroimaging Centre. Access to these facilities and the researchers who work here are an integral part of the student experience. The department sits within the Faculty of Sciences, and actively aids in the development of Learning and Teaching strategies both within the faculty and the greater university.

As committed providers of higher education, we strive to develop and deliver interesting and effective programmes at all levels of the curriculum. In addition, we place a heavy focus on ensuring that our students leave York with excellent employability skills for a range of different careers. In a rapidly changing global workplace, we work hard to provide consistent and useful supervision to promote personal development and career planning throughout all degree programmes.

Our ethos

Psychology at York is strongly committed to ensuring that all members of staff achieve their full potential in a supportive, friendly and responsive work environment. In 2007, we received the first Athena SWAN Silver Award for a psychology department in recognition of our commitment to supporting women in science. The award was renewed in 2011 and 2016 and in 2019 this was upgraded to Gold. Working patterns in the Department are flexible. We provide support for staff taking maternity, paternity, adoption, and parental leave, and the University has a nursery and a child-care voucher scheme. The Department strives to address gender inequalities in both the staff and student bodies. Our success is founded on an inclusive culture wherein women and men seek excellence and support each other in attaining it.
Research across the University of York explores the causes of the growing epidemic of mental health and casts new light on the links between mental and physical health. Working across disciplines and with clinicians and those who live with mental health problems, York's research addresses all age groups - from designing more effective interventions in childhood, to identifying and alleviating the causes of depression in older adults and finding ways to build resilience in individuals and communities.

In 2021, the University is launching the York Interdisciplinary Institute of Mental Health, with the mission to establish the institution as a globally recognised centre of excellence for mental health research. This will be achieved through innovative interdisciplinary research that addresses the most important challenges in policy and practice, and that helps to inform and develop ways of promoting good mental health, understand basic mechanisms to inform prevention and treatment of mental ill-health, and support people living with mental health problems to live well.

The Institute will build on the successful interdisciplinary collaborations between mental health academics, methodologists and senior colleagues across the institution:

- Mental Health and Addiction Research Group
  [www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/mental-health/](http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/mental-health/)

- York Trials Unit and Statistics
  [www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/trials/](http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/trials/)

- Mental Health (Centre for Health Economics)
  [www.york.ac.uk/che/research/health-policy/mental-health/](http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/health-policy/mental-health/)

- Mental Health (Centre for Reviews and Dissemination)
  [www.york.ac.uk/crd/research/mental-health/](http://www.york.ac.uk/crd/research/mental-health/)

- International Centre for Mental Health Social Research
  [www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/icmhsr/](http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/icmhsr/)
OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Founded on the principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University is proud to create an environment that attracts staff and students from all over the world. What we gain from diversity is immeasurable.

Our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#), which was developed in partnership with our staff and student communities, describes our commitment to create a culture where everyone can contribute to university life, knowledge and growth.

We want to create a working, learning, social and living environment that will enable all staff and students to achieve their full potential. Our strategy sets out an ambitious set of objectives to succeed in our commitment, but we have a challenging journey ahead. We recognise that we are not truly representative of our communities locally, nationally and internationally. We would like to pay particular focus to gender parity across all levels, particularly in senior roles; the recruitment, retention and success of a more ethnically diverse staff and student community; an accessible and inclusive campus and ensuring that the values and behaviours we expect from everyone embrace inclusive responsibility and leadership.

**Opportunity for all**

Our outreach programmes and widening participation work have made us one of the most socially diverse universities among our peers. The York Students in Schools (YSIS) programme has been providing a helping hand in the city's classrooms for 25 years, placing around 700 students with local schools every year. It recently introduced a new English and Mathematics tutoring scheme.

A report by The Reform Research Trust in September 2017 ranked York second out of 29 high-tariff institutions for our track record in increasing access for disadvantaged students from 2011/12 to 2015/16.

**Wellbeing and support**

Students are encouraged to balance their studies with activities and interests to give them a healthier and more rounded student experience. We have invested heavily in support of physical health with new and improved sports facilities, and in mental health through our Open Door counselling and crisis team which now opens in the evenings during term time. We have also developed a support network of staff trained in Mental Health First Aid. University staff have access to wellbeing help and support, and can access advice through our site. We have launched a [new health and wellbeing plan](#) with actions informed by our latest staff survey.
We are a world-class institution, focused on creating an environment of excellence in which all our students, staff and researchers can thrive. Our Research Strategy encompasses our vision that York should provide a home for some of the best research in the world. (https://www.york.ac.uk/research/)

We are a high-performing member of the Russell Group, ranked 16th in the Guardian’s Best University UK Universities 2021 League Table, and 30th in the Complete University Guide 2020. We have been awarded TEF Gold for our research-led teaching which provides "consistently outstanding outcomes for students from all backgrounds". Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy speaks to the core of our values. We hold 16 awards from Athena SWAN, recognising the advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

Our vision is to be a university for public good, supported by five key strategic themes:

- Internationalism
- Sustainability
- Civic responsibility
- Research
- Student experience and teaching

At the heart of the region

The University is deeply embedded in the local community of North Yorkshire. Our values and commitment to the public good have never been more important. We are a hub for sharing knowledge, inspiring collaboration and enriching lives.

Across the University, we are mobilising our knowledge, our people and our resources to tackle the immediate and long-term challenges created by the coronavirus crisis.

https://features.york.ac.uk/who-we-are/
Our campus community

Located within walking distance of York city centre, our safe and beautiful campus is home to our ten colleges and most departments. We also have departments located in the city centre at the historic King’s Manor, and we are investing in the sustainable development of our whole campus.

All York students become members of our college system, which provides an inclusive and a valuable sense of community on campus alongside the cultural offerings of the thriving city of York.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages

https://www.york.ac.uk/admin/hr/employee-benefits/selection/introduction/
The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn’t just a great place to visit - it’s also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visityork.org for more information on the city of York

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain’s best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King’s Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
HOW TO APPLY

Apply online

- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 9544
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 18 August 2021.

What will I need?

We will ask you for details of:

- Your CV
- A letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job (1 page)
- A statement of your research and teaching intentions (2 pages)

You will also need details of three academic referees (one International) and one Employment referee.

Help and assistance

Please direct informal enquiries to Professor Tim Andrews (timothy.andrews@york.ac.uk) or Dr Lisa Henderson (Deputy Head of Department, lisa-marie.henderson@york.ac.uk).

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835