

**The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology
An Overview of Independent Study in Psychology (PSYC4007)**

(For psychology major) Students will each conduct an independent empirical research project. Regular attendance for research supervision is required. The project write-up should be about 8,000 to 10,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices) and should follow the practice of communication in top psychology journals. Approval by Departmental Head is required for admissions into this course. Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060.

Objective

The course aims at preparing students to plan, conduct an independent empirical research project in Psychology. A thesis writing or an independent research project is usually required by postgraduate programme(s).

Supervision

You will do an individual research project under the supervision of an advanced research postgraduate student or a demonstrator.

The Project

This will be a good learning opportunity to aim at writing up a high standard and a publishable article. Your project should be written like a journal article including:

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Abstract
- Acknowledgement (if needed)
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Reference

The grading criteria will be based on:

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| ● Knowledge of the research topic | 10% |
| ● Critical analysis | 20% |
| ● Novelty and significance of the research question | 10% |
| ● Design of study | 20% |
| ● Data analysis and presentation | 10% |
| ● Writing and organization | 30% |

Application

A student, who wants to take this course in the final year, will need to submit a [Research Area Ranking Form](#) to the General Office (Rm 6.27, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus) before the end of enrollment period in August. Please rank the order of research areas to indicate your preferences for supervision assignment on the form. The results of supervisor assignment will be announced before the end of add/drop period. Late application will not be considered.

If you will participate in an exchange program and want to take PSYC4007 in the same year, you have to seek prior approval by completing a [“Special Approval Form”](#) for the special arrangement before the end of enrollment period in August. Late application will not be considered.

Ethics Application

All undergraduate research is required to undergo ethics review by the Departmental Research Ethics Committee. Applications should be submitted on or before **15th November**.

Students on exchange to overseas and have applied to start doing their project in the 2nd semester, have to submit their application on or before **1st March**.

Late submission will be penalized. Failure to submit an ethics application will lead to a failure in the course. Please see more details of ethics application in the psychology web-page: (https://www.psychology.hku.hk/?page_id=1814).

Presentation of Research Project Proposal

Around the end of November or early December, each student has to present his/her research project proposal to a small group of fellow students and one member of the departmental teaching staff. Each presentation and discussion will last about 20 minutes. This offers each student an opportunity to get more input before finalizing the research design for data collection.

Submission of IS report

1. The deadline of submission is **4:00p.m. 15th April.**
If the submission day is a holiday, it will be postponed to the following working day.
2. All borrowed past theses or ARM/IS projects must be returned to the General Office on or before the deadline.
3. Please submit two hard copies (with cover page) of your IS report by the deadline to the General Office at Room 627, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus. Hard copies will not be returned to students. No specific format is required for binding a IS report.
4. The IS report must be uploaded to the Moodle on or before the deadline.
 - a) Please submit in one single file in PDF format including all the chapters.
 - b) All covering pages, pictures, tables and charts must be included in appropriate position of the file.
 - c) Please do not submit data files, e.g. SPSS or Excel files.
5. The penalty for late submission is one mark for each calendar day, including Saturday, Sunday and public holiday.
6. Extension of submission deadline can only be granted on health ground and all the followings are necessary: a letter from a health professional; prior approval from the supervisor's consent and the Chief Examiner.
7. Make sure that due acknowledgement is given when referring or quoting from literature, books, webpages, essays or any other information sources.
8. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given if the work contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied, including a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action. Please be sure to read the website to know more about how to avoid plagiarism: <https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/how-to-avoid-plagiarism/>
9. All raw data and research materials must be retained. The department may invite you for an oral examination in addition to the submission of thesis.

Standard Timeline for PSYC4007

Before the end of enrollment period in August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students to submit <u>Research Area Form</u> to the General Office. ● Late application will not be considered.
Before the end of add/drop period in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department to announce the results of supervisor assignment to students via email.
Before 15 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students to submit <u>ethics application form</u> to the General Office.
Late November or early December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students to present his/her research project proposal.
After presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students to work on his/her research project and write up the IS report.
4:00p.m. 15 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>IS report submission deadline</u>