Ψ Fast-Track Master of Psychology Programme
School of Social Sciences, SMU

What is it?

The Fast-Track Master of Psychology (FTMP) is a two-year programme for SMU undergraduate students entering their Year-4 (final year prior to graduating). Upon completion of the programme (which involves coursework and conducting master's thesis research), successful students are awarded a master's degree in psychology. The programme is called 'fast-track' because students would earn a master's degree <u>one</u> year after graduating from SMU (rather than two years post-graduation).

How is the programme structured?

<u>First year</u>. FTMP students take 4 graduate-level psychology courses in their Year-4 (two per term), concurrently with undergraduate-level courses required for their bachelor in social science (BSocSc) degree.

<u>Second year</u>. After graduating with a BSocSc, FTMP students continue as master's students. They take another 4 graduate psychology courses (two per term). They also develop a master's thesis proposal and conduct original research in social-personality, industrial-organisational, or cognitive psychology. The research culminates in a master's thesis that is defended to a committee of psychology faculty. After successfully defending and submitting the thesis, FTMP students are awarded a master's degree in psychology. FTMP students will be financially supported in their second year of the programme (see below 'How much are the programme fees?').

Who is eligible for the FTMP?

Applicants to the FTMP must be SMU students who have declared a psychology major. In addition, they must have: (i) both a cumulative and psychology GPA of 3.4 or higher; (ii) earned a B or higher in <u>both</u> Research Methods I (PSYC110) and Research Methods II (PSYC208); and (iii) have taken at least <u>3</u> psychology electives *other than* RM1, RM2, and Intro to Psychology.

Who should apply and when?

Students who want to deepen their knowledge of psychological theory and research and strengthen their skills in research design and data analysis should apply. The programme is ideal preparation for students who are keen to apply for PhD programmes in psychology or who desire more research experience before deciding whether to pursue further studies in psychology or other behavioral sciences. Interested students should apply in Term 2 of their Year-3. Applications for each intake are open from Feb 1 to May 15.

How should I prepare?

To be eligible, students must complete **Intro to Psychology**, **RM1**, **RM2**, and three psychology electives **<u>NO LATER THAN</u> the end of Term 2 of their Year-3**.
Students who postpone these courses until their fourth year may not be eligible.

Interested applicants should also consult with potential faculty members who may supervise their master's thesis research.

Can the FTMP courses be double-counted toward my BSocSc?

Yes. Up to 3 of the 4 FTMP (graduate psychology) courses required in the first year of the programme can be transferred and double-counted to fulfil either the Psychology Major Electives requirement (5 CUs) or the Social Science Major Related (SSMR) Options (8 CUs). Students should take note that the Credit Transfer Policy (OASIS > Academic > Advisement & Curriculum > Credit Transfer Policy) apply to the cumulative credits transferred as exchange courses and/or graduate courses. This means that no more than 2 CUs of the FTMP courses can be transferred to the Psychology major electives requirement, and no more than 2 CUs of the FTMP courses can be transferred to the SSMR requirements.

For example, an FTMP student who needs 2 Psychology major electives and 3 SSMR courses to complete their BSocSc degree may transfer and double-count up to 3 of the FTMP courses to reduce their undergraduate course load from 5 to 2 courses. The student may choose either option below:
- (A) Double-count 2 FTMP courses as Psychology major electives + 1 FTMP course as an SSMR option,
- (B) Double-count 1 FTMP course as a Psychology major elective + 2 FTMP courses as SSMR options

A student may not double-count all 3 FTMP courses as Psychology major electives or as SSMR options because this would exceed the maximum limits as stipulated in the Credit Transfer Policy.

Students must take into account any previous transfers of exchange courses when planning to transfer and double-count their FTMP courses. If in doubt, students may send their enquiries and degree progress report to undergrad_socsc@smu.edu.sg for review.

How much are the programme fees?

There is no cost to the student!! FTMP students receive a waiver of tuition fees in both years of the programme. In the second year of the programme (after earning their BSocSc degree), FTMP students also receive a monthly stipend of $2500 + 17% CPF (Singapore citizens; or $1500 per month for PRs and international students). Students are eligible for a maximum of 12 months of stipends after earning their BSocSc. However, only a limited number of students can be supported by stipends. Therefore, the application process will be competitive.

What if I have more questions?

Please contact the Programme Administrator, Serena Wong (serenawong@smu.edu.sg) or Programme Director, Will Tov (williamtov@smu.edu.sg).

More information can also be found here: https://smu.sg/ftmp

Thanks!!