

# PSYCHOLOGY: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (PH.D.)

**Offered by:** Psychology (Faculty of Science)

**Degree:** Doctor of Philosophy

## Program Description

Students must satisfy all program requirements for the Ph.D. in Psychology. The Ph.D. thesis must be on a topic relating to language acquisition.

**Note:** For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

## Thesis

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

## Required Courses (6 credits)

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| Course   | Title                               | Credits |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| LING 710 | Language Acquisition Issues 2.      | 2       |
| PSYC 701 | Doctoral Comprehensive Examination. | 0       |
| PSYC 709 | Language Acquisition Issues 1.      | 2       |
| SCSD 712 | Language Acquisition Issues 4.      | 2       |

## Complementary Courses (15-32 credits)

12 credits (one course per term in Year 2 and Year 3) chosen from the following list:

Expand allContract all

| Course   | Title                                       | Credits |
|----------|---|---------|
| PSYC 712 | Comparative and Physiological Psychology 3. | 3       |
| PSYC 715 | Comparative and Physiological Psychology 6. | 3       |
| PSYC 722 | Personality and Social Psychology.          | 3       |
| PSYC 723 | Personality and Social Psychology.          | 3       |
| PSYC 724 | Personality and Social Psychology.          | 3       |
| PSYC 725 | Personality and Social Psychology.          | 3       |
| PSYC 727 | Personality and Social Psychology.          | 3       |
| PSYC 728 | Ethics and Professional Issues.             | 3       |

|            |  |     |
|------------|--|-----|
| PSYC 729   | Theory of Assessment.                    | 3   |
| PSYC 730   | Clinical Neuroscience Methods.           | 3   |
| PSYC 732D1 | Clinical Psychology 1.                   | 1.5 |
| PSYC 732D2 | Clinical Psychology 1.                   | 1.5 |
| PSYC 733D1 | Clinical Psychology 2.                   | 1.5 |
| PSYC 733D2 | Clinical Psychology 2.                   | 1.5 |
| PSYC 734   | Developmental Psychology and Language.   | 3   |
| PSYC 735   | Developmental Psychology and Language.   | 3   |
| PSYC 736   | Developmental Psychology and Language.   | 3   |
| PSYC 740   | Perception and Cognition.                | 3   |
| PSYC 741   | Perception and Cognition.                | 3   |
| PSYC 742   | Perception and Cognition.                | 3   |
| PSYC 743   | Perception and Cognition.                | 3   |
| PSYC 744   | Perception and Cognition.                | 3   |
| PSYC 746   | Quantitative and Individual Differences. | 3   |
| PSYC 747   | Quantitative and Individual Differences. | 3   |
| PSYC 748   | Quantitative and Individual Differences. | 3   |
| PSYC 749   | Quantitative and Individual Differences. | 3   |
| PSYC 750   | Applied Bayesian Statistics.             | 3   |
| PSYC 752D1 | Psychotherapy and Behaviour Change.      | 3   |
| PSYC 752D2 | Psychotherapy and Behaviour Change.      | 3   |
| PSYC 753   | Health Psychology Seminar 1.             | 3   |

At least 3 credits selected from the following list:

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| Course   | Title   | Credits |
|----------|---|---------|
| EDSL 620 | Social Justice Issues in Second Language Education. | 3       |
| EDSL 623 | Second Language Learning.                           | 3       |
| EDSL 624 | Educational Sociolinguistics.                       | 3       |
| EDSL 627 | Instructed Second Language Acquisition Research.    | 3       |
| EDSL 632 | Second Language Literacy Development.               | 3       |
| LING 651 | Topics in Acquisition of Phonology.                 | 3       |
| LING 655 | Theory of L2 Acquisition.                           | 3       |
| LING 751 | Advanced Seminar: Experimental 1.                   | 3       |
| LING 752 | Advanced Seminar: Experimental 2.                   | 3       |
| PSYC 545 | Topics in Language Acquisition.                     | 3       |
| PSYC 735 | Developmental Psychology and Language.              | 3       |
| SCSD 619 | Phonological Development.                           | 3       |
| SCSD 632 | Phonological Disorders: Children.                   | 3       |
| SCSD 637 | Developmental Language Disorders 1.                 | 3       |
| SCSD 643 | Developmental Language Disorders 2.                 | 3       |
| SCSD 652 | Advanced Research Seminar 1.                        | 3       |
| SCSD 653 | Advanced Research Seminar 2.                        | 3       |
| SCSD 654 | Advanced Research Seminar 3.                        | 3       |

0-2 from the following:

Expand allContract all

| Course   | Title                          | Credits |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| EDPE 713 | Language Acquisition Issues 5. | 2       |
| EDSL 711 | Language Acquisition Issues 3. | 2       |

0-3 credits of statistics from the following list:

Expand allContract all

| Course   | Title                              | Credits |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------|
| EDPE 676 | Intermediate Statistics.           | 3       |
| EDPE 682 | Univariate/Multivariate Analysis.  | 3       |
| LING 620 | Experimental Linguistics: Methods. | 3       |
| PSYC 650 | Advanced Statistics 1.             | 3       |
| PSYC 651 | Advanced Statistics 2.             | 3       |

Students who have taken an equivalent course in statistics will be deemed to have satisfied this requirement for the Language Acquisition Option.

These 3 credits are only required for students who have not previously taken an equivalent course in statistics.

0-12 credits from the following (students without a McGill master's degree need to take all 12 credits):

Expand allContract all

| Course     | Title                  | Credits |
|------------|------------------------|---------|
| PSYC 650   | Advanced Statistics 1. | 3       |
| PSYC 651   | Advanced Statistics 2. | 3       |
| PSYC 660D1 | Psychology Theory.     | 3       |
| PSYC 660D2 | Psychology Theory.     | 3       |

Note: The Department of Psychology does not ordinarily require an examination in a foreign language however, all students planning on practicing clinical psychology in the province of Quebec will be examined based on their proficiency in French before being admitted to the professional association.