

# 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:

Expand allContract all

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.