

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

At the Department of Psychology, we conduct experiments and observations with the aim of scientifically elucidating the functions of the mind as well as the operations of the brain underlying those functions. As mental operations cannot be viewed directly, behavioral outputs are analyzed. Three fields comprise our research and educational pursuits. Basic Psychology aims to elucidate the functions of the intellect and emotions, and their evolution and development in adults, infants and various other animals. Experimental Psychology analyzes functions such as the perception of the environment, cognition and memory, their development over the lifespan and their bases in the brain, using precise experimental methods and brain imaging techniques. Basic Behavioral Science aims to discern the mechanisms underlying behaviors with a bottom-up approach by investigating neural functions and constructing models. These fields, however, may be considered different shades of a single color, rather than three distinctive colors: in fact, both

undergraduate and graduate programs involve the whole faculty as a group with a common curriculum across these fields. In other words, we offer programs for undergraduate and graduate students not only so they may deepen their specialization but also acquire a broad background.

Aside from careers in research and education, after completing our programs students have taken up professional careers in many different sectors including broadcasting, newspapers, publishing, finance, and manufacturing

The Department of Psychology and other departments concerned with psychology, such as those from the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Integrated Human Studies, together make up the “Kyoto University Psychology Union,” which offers cross-departmental introductory courses and a broad-ranging credit transfer system. The department also participates in Kyoto University’s “Advanced Research Unit on the Human Mind”.



- ① A macaque monkey explores its reflection
- ② An infant cognition experiment
- ③ A face perception experiment
- ④ The MRI scanner for brain imaging at Kokoro Research Center
- ⑤ A companion animal experiment