

# Physical, Cognitive and Linguistic Developmental Psychology

## Brief description of course content (According to the programme's verification report)

Descriptors: Development stages, contexts and mechanisms. Physical, motor, cognitive and linguistic changes in the life cycle.

Contents:

- Theories and models of physical, cognitive and linguistic development.
- Methods and research techniques in physical, cognitive and linguistic development.
- Physical and motor development throughout life. Sensorimotor development.
- Origins of communication and the relationships between thought and language.
- Language development.
- The development of attention, perception and memory. The organisation of knowledge.
- The development of higher psychological processes.

## Learning outcomes

A. Basic knowledge of Developmental Psychology and its applications.

- To understand the characteristics of the different explanatory theoretical models of physical, cognitive and linguistic development.
- To understand the research, observation and recording methods adapted to the different contexts of physical, cognitive and linguistic development.
- To understand the physical, motor, cognitive and linguistic changes in the life cycle

B. Evaluate and describe evolutionary changes as of the main evolutionary theories.

- To identify and predict behavioural, cognitive and linguistic changes in people.

## Planned learning activities

### Theory Syllabus

The contents are organised in four blocks. An introductory block will address the main theories and models of cognitive and linguistic development and the most common methods and techniques. The second block is about motor development throughout life and its relations with Piagetian sensorimotor intelligence. The third block is dedicated to communication and language development. The last block includes intellectual development, the development of basic and higher psychological processes and the characteristics of these changes at critical moments of the life cycle.

## **Introduction: Research theories and methods in physical and cognitive development.**

Topic 1. Theories of motor, cognitive and linguistic development.

- General approaches.
- Theories and models of motor, cognitive and linguistic development.

Topic 2. Methods and research techniques in cognitive and motor development.

- General methods.
- Specific development methods.

### **Sensory and motor development**

Topic 3. Physical and motor development throughout life. Sensorimotor development.

- Reflexes and initial development.
- Physical development.
- Motor development.

### **Communication and language development**

Topic 4. Origins of communication and the relationships between thought and language.

- Communication and its development.
- Relationship between thought and language.

Topic 5. Language development.

- Language acquisition.
- Development of the components of language.

### **Cognitive development**

Topic 6. The development of attention, perception and memory. Knowledge organisation.

- General approaches and models.
- Development of attention and perception.
- Memory and other processing abilities.
- Evolutionary changes in cognitive processes.

Topic 7. The development of higher psychological processes.

- The development of thinking and metacognition.
- Post-formal thinking.

## **Practical Syllabus**

The final design of the specific contents of practical exercises and/or seminars will be based on the contents undertaken in the theoretical programme.