

Program: Neuroscience & Psychology

1. Portfolio

Participation in the round involves the presentation of formal and informative documents confirming your intentions to continue education in the chosen field, your readiness to solve professional tasks that are relevant to this field and your ability to cope with the requirements of master degree programs successfully implemented by Russian universities.

The list of mandatory documents to be assessed during the first round includes the following:

- a document confirming your level of education (not lower than Bachelor's degree); the document must be translated into one of the official languages of the Olympiad and notarized; the maximum score for the submitted document is 5 points. Failure to submit the document or an inappropriate presentation of the document (poor resolution of the document, no confirmation of the education institution, no translation into the languages of the Olympiad or the translation is not certified by a notary) means exclusion from further participation in the Olympiad.
- motivation letter explaining your reasons for enrolling in a Master's degree program implemented by Russian universities. The maximum number of points for the motivation letter is 25. Failure to submit a motivation letter does not exclude the participant from further participation in the Olympiad, but significantly reduces chances of success.
- document confirming the level of language proficiency (Russian or English). It should also be presented in the portfolio. This document does not add any points to the score for the first round.

The list of additional portfolio items includes documents proving academic achievements in **Psychology and Neuroscience**:

- publications in journals indexed in Web of Science, Scopus;
- conference presentations;
- certificates of passing online courses on Psychology and Neuroscience;
- participating in the preparation of a monograph, a chapter of a monograph, a coursebook on Psychology and Neuroscience;
- other publications;
- awards or prizes;
- work experience;
- participation in projects;
- other certificates.

When uploading their portfolio, participants should pay attention to the following:

1. When the organizers of the Olympiad assess the motivation letter, they try to answer the following questions:

How realistic are your prospects of studying at one of the Russian universities in the chosen field? Why is it important to you to win the Olympiad and study at a Russian university? What benefits would you like to get from the knowledge that you will receive? How consistent are your efforts to get the knowledge you need? How much does the vector of these efforts correspond to the problems of people and society in which the knowledge obtained can be or already is in demand?

The portfolio is a reflection of your readiness to think critically, to work in different social environments, to set goals and achieve them.

Imagine what the jury members may think when they read in a motivation letter that a participant is inspired by biochemical processes or movements of the Earth's crust. It clearly shows that participation in the Olympiad in the "Neuroscience and Psychology" subject area is accidental. It is even possible that the choice is a mistake and the button "Submit" was pressed accidentally too. In this case, unfortunately, the jury members will give your motivation letter a very low score.

When you have finished writing your motivation letter and are ready to upload it to your portfolio, please CHECK, how the content of the motivation letter reflects your commitment to Neuroscience and Psychology. How much does the knowledge you can get at a particular department of a particular University meet your aspirations? If necessary, revise the content of the letter.

It is fine if you have been interested in other areas of knowledge throughout your life, have solved technical or managerial tasks, and recently discovered that psychology will significantly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of your work. Write how you intend to use psychology to develop your professional competencies and what educational resources of a particular Russian university you are going to use to achieve your goals.

2. When you are ready to upload the required documents to the portfolio, check the following:
 - a. Are the documents prepared correctly? Is there a translation of your documents? Is the translation notarized?
 - b. How correctly are they scanned? Are they readable? Can your photo be clearly seen? Does the translation have a stamp and a signature of the notary?
3. Each document has to be uploaded as a **separate** file.
4. Name of files should indicate their content, for instance, "motivation letter".
5. When filling out the "Publications" section, DO NOT upload the text of your publications.

Unfortunately, the jury will not have enough time to read them. It is enough to give a list of your publications, written in accordance with the standard requirements of Russian or foreign (APA) journals. Each item must contain the exact name of the publication, the title of the journal, the year of publication, the number of pages and the link to your publication in scientific databases.

Please attach a scanned copy of the contents of the journal where your article was published. The title of the publication and your name should be easy to read.

The jury evaluates ONLY articles or preprints published on platforms for scientific data or in the scientific journals. Please, do not upload essays, poems, short stories, etc. posted on your personal pages on social networks.

6. Only your achievements in **Neuroscience and Psychology** are evaluated.

Motivation letter assessment criteria

№	Criteria and indicators	Scores
1.	Demonstrated interest and knowledge of psychology and neuroscience <i>Participant's argumentation is evaluated:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ideas about the current development status of Psychology and Neuroscience;</i> • <i>application and relevance of these fields for modern society;</i> • <i>the logic and techniques of reasoning used by the participant for presenting a holistic picture of the field.</i> 	0 – 5 points
2.	Structure of the motivation letter, the logic of reasoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment of the structure of the motivation letter; • assessment of the language structures used for expressing logical connections, intentions, motives, etc. 	0 – 7 points
3.	Realism of the participant's education project described in the letter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment of the goal and objectives, which the participant would like to achieve participating in the Olympiad; • ways of achieving these goals. 	0 – 5 points
4.	Originality and logic	0 – 3 points
5.	General literacy, norms of written communication, spelling	0 – 5 points
Total score		0 – 25 points

2. Olympiad tasks

The second round of the Olympiad in "Neuroscience and Psychology" consists of three parts: a test and two open-ended tasks.

Part 1 Test

The test consists of 35 questions aimed to assess the theoretical knowledge of the following areas:

- Cognitive psychology and Neuroscience;
- Social psychology and Ethnopsychology;
- Personality psychology;
- Developmental psychology;
- Methodology and research ethics.

For each of these subject areas, there are 7 test tasks: 4 tasks having one correct answer, 1 multiple choice task (there are 2 correct answers out of five proposed), 2 matching tasks (4 pairs).

Test tasks are aimed at assessing:

- the knowledge of the concepts of the corresponding field of Psychology;
- the knowledge of the structure of the field;
- awareness of the key stages, events and people in the history of this science;
- the definitions of the most fundamental phenomena, processes, conditions and patterns of a particular field of psychology;
- the knowledge of the most widely used diagnostic and research methods and approaches in the subject field.

Test questions cover three blocks of theoretical material:

- a) the most fundamental concepts of Russian and foreign psychology;
- b) fundamental concepts and approaches developed by famous Soviet and Russian scientists;
- c) the most famous concepts and methodological approaches of psychology, reflecting the current state and trends in its development.

The maximum score for completing this task is 70 points.

Part 2. An open-ended task - research plan development

Participants should choose one of the topics and present their own research plan, justifying the relevance and practical significance of their research and describing the key methodological, organizational and ethical aspects of its implementation.

The maximum score for completing this task is 18 points.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
Criterion content and assessment basis:	Maximum score
1. Justification of the relevance of research	
<p>The research problem is clearly stated (there is no solution to the problem yet, there are many contradictory ideas, or other researchers have not offered any ideas, which could potentially solve the chosen problem) - 2 points</p> <p>The text describes the relevance of the research problem, but does not indicate contradictions/lack of ideas, which could potentially solve the chosen problem) - 1 point</p> <p>The research plan lacks the justification of the relevance of the study - 0 points</p>	2 points

2. Research design		
	<p>The text has all basic elements of research design (aims and goals, research problem, verified hypothesis) - 3 points</p> <p>The text describes only two elements of research design - 2 points</p> <p>The text reflects only one research design element - 1 point</p> <p>The text does not describe any element is given) - 0 points</p>	3 points
3. Methodological design		
	<p>The text reflects (directly or indirectly) at least 3 of the following research design elements: research type (theoretical, empirical, applied, experimental, etc.), research strategy (qualitative, quantitative), the amount of data (small or big data), research paradigm (classical, non-classical, post-non-classical), conceptual basis, organizational decisions, empirical methods, methods of primary data systematization - 2 points</p> <p>The text has 1 or 2 of the listed elements - 1 point</p> <p>The text has none of the elements of the methodological design - 0 points</p>	2 points
4. EXPECTED RESULTS		
	<p>The text clearly states the main results to be achieved in the research project - 1 point</p> <p>Expected results of the study are not stated - 0 points.</p>	1 point
5. Scientific outlook and the understanding of the current state of knowledge in the chosen subject area		
<i>The ability to assess the proposed research contribution to the development of modern scientific ideas</i>		
	<p>The text reflects the novelty and theoretical relevance of the results to be obtained by the participant. The participant relies on extensive body of literature on the current state of knowledge in Psychology and Neuroscience. There are references to modern works related to the research - 2 points;</p> <p>The participant reflects the novelty and theoretical significance of the expected results. However, there are no references to any recent fundamental works and most citations are not recent - 1 point;</p>	2 points

	The participant fails to relate the expected results of the study to any characteristics relevant to the chosen topic - 0 points	
6. Practical application of knowledge <i>The ability to evaluate the practical and applied significance of research outcomes, their contribution to managing the key global risks</i>		
	<p>The text reflects the practical and applied value of the results obtained by the participant – 1 point</p> <p>The text does not reflect the practical and applied value of the results obtained or indicates the contexts where their application is incorrect from an ethical or legal point of view – 0 points</p>	1 point
7. Sensitivity to the social and cultural context <i>The awareness of ethical, legal, cultural and socio-political factors of psychological knowledge required by the current stage of society development</i>		
	<p>The text provides a proper (from the ethical or legal point of view) focus on the possibilities or limitations of applicability of the study results presented in the article in specific socio-cultural contexts – 1 point</p> <p>The abstract does not provide a proper focus on the possibilities or limitations of applicability of the study results presented in the article in specific socio-cultural contexts or the focus is not proper from the ethical or legal point of view – 0 points</p>	1 point
8. Logic and consistency of the basic research design elements (points are awarded only if the scores for the Research Design and the Methodological Design (Sections 2 and 3) are "a≥1")		
	<p>All research design elements presented in the text are logical and consistent - 2 points (maximum points are given ONLY if the scores for "Research Design" and "Methodological design" sections are "a≥2")</p> <p>All research design elements presented in the text are logical and consistent - 1 point (points are given ONLY if the scores for the "Research Design" and "Methodological design" sections are "a = 1",)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Minor inconsistencies were found in the basic elements of the research design - 1 point (points are given ONLY if the scores for</p>	2 points

	<p>the "Research Design" and "Methodological design" sections are "a≥2"</p> <p>Significant logical inconsistencies were found in the research design elements, or these elements were not fully described in the text - 0 points</p>	
7. Originality		
	<p>The text is completely novel and original – 1 point</p> <p>The text is a summary of someone else's ideas or contains elements of plagiarism – 0 points</p>	1 point
8. Style characteristics of the text		
	<p>The text is written in a clear and easy-to-read language; it contains unambiguous concepts – 1 point</p> <p>The text is written in an unclear and difficult-to-read language; it contains multiple compound constructions, ambiguous concepts, highly specific terms and abbreviations – 0 points</p> <p>or</p> <p>The text contains grammar or syntactic errors, which significantly complicate the understanding of the text - 0 points</p>	1 point
9. Literacy		
	<p>The text is written in the academic style and does not contain or contains no more than two grammar or syntactic errors – 1 point</p> <p>The abstract contains multiple grammar and /or syntactic errors – 0 points</p>	1 point
THE TASK MAXIMUM SCORE		18 points

Part 3. Open-ended task: the assessment of an approach/method presented in an excerpt of a scholarly article for studying other psychological phenomena of a similar nature.

The participant should select one subject area and, on the basis of the proposed material, give a reasoned assessment of the applicability of the approach/method described in the article.

The maximum score for this task is 12 points.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA PART 3	
Criteria	Criterion maximum score
1. Awareness of the problem and justification of its relevance	
<p>The text reflects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the problem that the participant wants to solve - 1 point <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the research question that the participant wants to solve -1 point <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the goal that the participant would like to achieve during the proposed project - 1 point <p>If the text contains two or three of these elements, points are given for each element presented in the text.</p> <p>If the difference in the description of these elements is insignificant, only one point is given for all similarly formulated elements.</p> <p>If the text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not reflect the problems that the study presented in the article is aimed to solve, <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distorts the meaning of the author's vision of the problem and the research question <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not reflect the problem, the solution of which could be found using the approach proposed in the article <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not describe the limitations of the proposed approach/method, then the participant gets 0 points 	2 points
2. Empirical foundations of research	
<p>The text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicates a specific empirical method and the empirical material obtained through this method - 2 points <p>or</p>	2 points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicates only a specific empirical method - 1 point or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicates only a specific empirical material that the participant is planning to get - 1 point 	
	The text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not reflect the empirical material and methods used by the author of the article, or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distorts the information presented by the author, or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not reflect the specific empirical material that can be obtained on the basis of the presented methodological approach – 0 points 	
3. Ability to critically evaluate the logic of the research design elements in the article		
	The correlation and logic of the following research design elements is evaluated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>research problem - research question – research goal and objectives</i> (0-2 points) + • <i>methods - empirical results</i> (0-1 point) 	3 points
4. Scientific outlook and the understanding of the current state of knowledge in the subject area and its practical significance <i>The ability to evaluate the contribution of research results to the development of modern scientific ideas about the state of the study area presented in the text</i>		
	The text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflects the novelty (+1 point), theoretical and/or practical significance (+1 point) of the results, which the participant declares as potentially achievable on the basis of the proposed design; • contains references to the relevant works of contemporary scholars who contributed to the solution of the problem stated by the participant or to the development of the methodology proposed by the participant (1 point) • if the text / conclusion is copied from the article, no points are given 	3 points
5. Originality of the text		
	The text is completely original – 1 point The text contains fragments of the article – 0 points	1 point

6. Literacy	
<p>The text is written in the academic style, does not contain or contains no more than 2 grammar or syntactic errors – 1 point</p> <p>The text contains multiple grammar errors and / or contains multiple stylistic and syntactic errors that make reading it difficult - 0 points</p>	1 point
The maximum score	12 points

Open-ended assignments are aimed at assessing the following:

- skills of academic reading and writing;
- knowledge and ideas about the current state of research in the chosen field of science;
- development of ideas about social practices, contexts and challenges of modern society;
- knowledge of modern research methods and concepts used in the field of psychology, conditions of their application, given modern trends in social development.

Competencies participants should possess to successfully cope with open - ended tasks:

- the ability to identify the essence of problems in the chosen professional field;
- the ability to assess the need for resources and plan their use in solving professional problems;
- the ability to integrate heterogeneous information for the solution of research and professional problems;
- the ability to independently identify and solve research problems in modern psychology;
- the ability to analyze the problem, set goals and objectives, choose research methods, and plan research in the selected subject area;
- the ability to critically evaluate scientific approaches used in Psychology and Neuroscience, to interpret the results of research, and assess their applicability.

The tasks are developed taking into account the MSc programs in Neuroscience and Psychology, implemented by the universities participating in the Olympiad. The level of the complexity of the tasks corresponds to the competencies of the graduate or undergraduate programs in Neuroscience and Psychology and determined by the requirements for the level of competencies of students applying for MSc programs.