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Psychology (Experimental) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Psychology has been defined as the science of mental life and its scope includes a wide variety of issues. It addresses such questions as: how do we perceive and understand the world around us? How do children acquire language? What predisposes two people to get on with each other? What causes schizophrenia?

Psychology at Oxford is a scientific discipline, involving the rigorous formulation and testing of ideas. It works through experiments and systematic observation rather than introspection.

The Oxford Experimental Psychology Department is widely regarded as one of the leading psychology departments in the UK. The department's size and its commitment to excellence in teaching and research means there are typically four or five research seminars each week, in addition to undergraduate lectures and classes.

At present, there are particularly strong research groups in the fields of human cognitive processes, neuroscience, language, developmental psychology, social psychology and psychological disorders.

Students can elect to graduate after three years with a BA degree. Alternatively, they can decide to remain for an optional fourth year composed of a research-intensive, clinically-focused or translation-focused extended project.

Students who complete the fourth year will graduate with a Master's degree in Experimental Psychology.

Fieldwork/international opportunities

A wide choice of research projects is available to students in their third and fourth years, including experimental, clinical or translational projects involving collaborations with other departments and outside the University.

Experimental Psychology has excellent facilities and very close links with neuroscience, including neurophysiology and neurology, as well as the Philosophy and Linguistics Departments.

Students benefit from the department being one of Britain's most active centres for psychological research, with an outstanding international reputation.

A typical week (Years 1-3)

- Terms 1-3: about six lectures, two or three tutorials or one practical class.
- Terms 4-9: usually six lectures, one or two tutorials and one practical class. You will also undertake independent research and be given the opportunity to write a dissertation.
- Terms 10-12 (MSci): almost exclusive focus on an extended research or translational project with complementary advanced and critical skills training.

Tutorials usually involve two to four students and a tutor. Class sizes for laboratory classes may vary depending on the options you choose. Core lab classes which are attended by most students will usually be in groups of 35-40 students. Multiple demonstrators will usually attend to assist the staff

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who are leading these classes. There are usually no more than around 20 students for final-year specialist options.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are experts in the subject they tutor. The majority of staff are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctoral level, and are specialists in those topics.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

TERMS 1-3 (YEAR 1)	
COURSES Three introductory courses are taken out of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology• Philosophy• Linguistics• Neurophysiology• Probability theory and statistics	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: papers in each of the three introductory courses taken, one of which is Probability theory and statistics
TERMS 4-6 (YEAR 2)	
COURSES Students will study core subjects in Psychology covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perception• Cognition• Behavioural neuroscience• Developmental science• Social psychology• Individual differences and clinical psychology• Experimental design and methods	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations, Part A: written and short answer papers, covering all core subjects; practical portfolio.
TERMS 7-9 (YEAR 3)	
COURSES Students will choose:	ASSESSMENT

TERMS 7-9 (YEAR 3)

- Either three advanced options
- Or two advanced options and a dissertation
- Or two advanced options and a research project.

Students carry out practical work relevant to Psychology and career development skills:

- Lab-based 'Group projects' training in independent data analysis
- Formative skills training (e.g., science communication skills)

Final University examinations, Part B: practical portfolio or communication skills portfolio; three written papers (or two written papers and a library dissertation; or two written papers and a research project).

TERMS 10-12 (YEAR 4, MSci in Experimental Psychology)

STRUCTURE

In terms 10 and 11, students receive skills based training relevant to their extended project.

Over terms 10-12, students work on their extended project and on advanced research evaluation by writing an independent current opinion review.

ASSESSMENT

Students submit an extended project report.

Students also submit their current opinion review.

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2025.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

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Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,535
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£51,880

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2025 are estimated to be between £1,425 and £2,035 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£330	£515	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation	£790	£955	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£200	£335	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£45	£100	£405	£900
Study costs	£40	£90	£360	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,425	£2,035	£12,825	£18,315

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2025-26, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Psychology (Experimental)

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.