

Psychology (Experimental) Information Sheet for entry in 2021

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 colours? 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.

Fieldwork/international opportunities

A wide choice of research projects is available to students in their final year, including projects based in 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

- Terms 1 and 2: about six lectures and two-three tutorials
- Terms 3-8: usually six lectures, one-two tutorials and one practical class. You will also carry out your own research project and be given the opportunity to write a dissertation and undertake independent research.
- Term 9: typically two revision lectures or tutorials and final examinations

Tutorials are usually two-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 be in groups of 35-40 students. Multiple demonstrators will attend to assist the staff who are leading these classes. There would usually be no more than around 20 students for final-year specialist options.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. 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 doctorate 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

The structure of this course is currently under review. Up-to-date details on any course changes can be found on the [Psychology Department's](#) website.

TERMS 1 AND 2	
<p>COURSES Three introductory courses are taken out of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychology • Philosophy • Linguistics • Neurophysiology • Probability theory and statistics* <p><i>*Students must sit the examination in Probability theory and statistics either at Prelims (first University examinations) or as a qualifying examination.</i></p>	<p>ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers</p>
TERMS 3-5	
<p>COURSES Students will study core subjects in Psychology covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception • Cognition • Behavioural neuroscience • Developmental science • Social psychology • Individual differences and clinical psychology • Experimental design and methods 	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations, Part I: four written papers, covering all core subjects; practical portfolio</p>
TERMS 6-9	
<p>COURSES Students will choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Either</i> three advanced options • <i>Or</i> two advanced options and a dissertation <p>Students carry out practical work in Psychology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab-based 'block' practicals • Research project 	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations, Part II: research project; practical portfolio; three written papers (or two written papers and a library dissertation)</p>

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The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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](#).

Teaching delivery

At the time of writing course information sheets for 2021/22 entry, the COVID-19 pandemic was still impacting the University. A range of measures have been put in place to comply with Government legislation and guidance in response to the pandemic, and to help keep students, staff and the wider community safe.

Inevitably, some changes have been necessary to teaching and student services during the pandemic (for example, a greater amount of online teaching and examinations, and restrictions on numbers allowed to access facilities at one time).

Whatever the circumstances in the 2021/22 academic year, the University will deliver core services and learning outcomes for each course, even though the modes of delivery may change.

All course information sheets should be read in that context, and we will keep offer holders and students regularly informed if circumstances change. Further details are available on our [website](#) and within the [Student Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2021. 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](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students— see Note below)	£29,840

Note: Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2021/22 will no longer be eligible to pay fees at the 'Home' rate and will instead be charged the higher 'Overseas' rate. This change will not apply to Irish nationals living in the UK or

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Ireland, who will continue to be charged fees at the 'Home' rate for the duration of their course.

The government has issued guidance stating that EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme may be eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. However, until the government formally updates its fee status regulations the University is unable to confirm fee statuses for students who may qualify on this basis. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

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

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,175 and £1,710 per month in 2021-22. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide, you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600
Accommodation (including utilities)	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250
Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,175	£1,710	£10,575	£15,390

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources including the UK government's Student Income

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and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS). The likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email (uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask>).

Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, further details regarding the availability and eligibility of financial support for some EU students with settled or pre-settled status remained outstanding. Confirmation about funding arrangements for the year abroad were also outstanding. Any updates impacting students will be published on the Oxford and the EU webpage.