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Psychology (Experimental) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022

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.

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 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 1-3: about six lectures, two or three tutorials or one practical class.
- Terms 4-9: usually six lectures, one-two tutorials and one practical class. You will also undertake independent research and be given the opportunity to write a dissertation.
- Term 9: typically two revision lectures or tutorials and final examinations
- 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

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 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

TERMS 1-3 (YEAR 1)	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>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. This course will include a strong element of data handling and coding.</i></p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: three written papers</p>
TERMS 4-6 (YEAR 2)	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Students will study core subjects in Psychology covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception • Cognition • Behavioural neuroscience 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations, Part I: four written papers, covering all core subjects; practical portfolio</p>

TERMS 4-6 (YEAR 2)

- Developmental science
- Social psychology
- Individual differences and clinical psychology
- Experimental design and methods

TERMS 7-9 (YEAR 3)

COURSES

Students will choose:

- *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)

ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

Students submit an extended project report.

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

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

Students also submit their current opinion review.

Available options will reflect the department's current research which means they may change each year. The options available will cover the core subjects listed above.

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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#). For the latest information on the University's Covid-19 response and how it affects students please go to the [Oxford University Covid-19 Response](#) site.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2022.

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)	£31,030

Note: Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2022/23 will pay fees at the 'Overseas' rate. 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 will be 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](#) and the [Oxford and the EU](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2022 are estimated to be between £1,215 and £1,755 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.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£290	£410	£2,610	£3,690
Accommodation (including utilities)	£680	£810	£6,120	£7,290
Personal items	£135	£260	£1,215	£2,340
Social activities	£45	£120	£405	£1,080
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,215	£1,755	£10,935	£15,795

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 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. In addition to reviewing the information above, you should fully consider and research your personal likely living costs.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2022-23, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

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.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH
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