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Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (BA) (three-year course); (MSci) (four-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

Entry requirements

Visit [Admission requirements for 2026 entry](#) to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our [English language requirements](#).

About the course

Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (PPL) are closely interrelated disciplines, so studying a combination of them allows students to explore different aspects of each subject, resulting in a very varied and dynamic course.

Psychology 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?

Philosophy is concerned with a wide range of questions including ethics, knowledge, and the nature of mind.

Linguistics is the study of language in all its aspects, including the structure of languages, meaning (semantics), pronunciation, and how people understand, mentally represent and generate language.

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. Data science and coding play an important role in how we train students.

The Oxford Experimental Psychology Department is widely regarded as one of the leading psychology departments in the UK. At present, there are particularly strong groups in the fields of human cognitive processes, neuroscience, language, developmental, social psychology and psychological disorders.

The Oxford Philosophy Faculty is one of the largest Philosophy departments in the world, and regularly tops international rankings. Philosophers at Oxford have active interests in the philosophy of language and of logic, philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of science, and maintain close links with those working in neuroscience and psychology.

The Faculty of Linguistics, Philology, and Phonetics brings together scholars working in:

- theoretical and descriptive linguistics (especially syntax, semantics and phonology)
- experimental phonetics
- psycholinguistics
- linguistics of the Romance languages
- historical linguistics and comparative philology.

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Unlike other subjects in the humanities, it includes two scientific research laboratories – the Language and Brain Laboratory and the Phonetics Laboratory.

Students taking Psychology as one of their subjects 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 in Experimental Psychology and allied disciplines. Students who complete the fourth year will graduate with a Master's degree in PPL.

A typical week

- Terms 1-3: about six lectures, two or three tutorials, or a practical class.
- Terms 4–9: about six lectures, one or two tutorials, and one practical class. You may also do independent research by carrying out your own research project, library dissertation, or thesis.
- Terms 10 – 12 (MSci in PPL only): almost exclusive focus on an extended research or translational project in Psychology, with complementary advanced and critical skills training.

Tutorials usually involve 2–4 students and a tutor. Class sizes for laboratory classes may vary depending on the options you choose. Psychology 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 Psychology specialist options. Lectures are normally attended by 30–50 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are studying at doctoral level.

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

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see [workload and independent study information](#). Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

TERMS 1-3 (Year 1)	
INDICATIVE COURSES	ASSESSMENT
Three introductory courses are taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology• Philosophy• Linguistics• Neurophysiology	First University examinations: four to six written papers, depending on the specific combination of courses taken. For those wishing to study Psychology in Year 2 and

TERMS 1-3 (Year 1)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probability theory and statistics 	beyond students must take the Probability theory and statistics paper.
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TERMS 4-9 (Years 2 and 3)

INDICATIVE COURSES

After the third term, students can continue to follow a bipartite degree (Psychology and Philosophy, Psychology and Linguistics, or Philosophy and Linguistics) or, subject to their college's approval, a tripartite degree (Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics).

Students choosing Psychology will study a choice of core subjects in Terms 4–6, plus a course in Experimental design and methods, and associated practical classes and data science training. These will be followed by one or two advanced Psychology options and a practical training portfolio in Terms 7–9. They will also engage in transferrable skills training.

Students choosing Philosophy take up to five courses in Philosophy from a wide range including Philosophy of mind and Philosophy of cognitive science.

Students choosing Linguistics take from three to five courses in Linguistics.

Students opting for a bipartite degree may take a single paper in the third subject. Students who are exceptionally permitted to take the tripartite degree must take at least two courses in each of the three subjects of Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics.

Available options will reflect the department's current research which

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: eight papers; two practical portfolios (for Psychology); a research project or thesis may also be taken (depending upon the combination of courses).

Students choosing Psychology take the equivalent of two written papers in Psychology in the second year based on the core subject areas (view [Experimental Psychology course page](#)).

TERMS 4-9 (Years 2 and 3)

means they may change each year. The options available include the core subjects listed in this section.

TERMS 10-12 (Year 4, MSci in PPL)

STRUCTURE

Please be aware that Year 4 is only available for Psychology.

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 in Psychology 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.

Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your course.

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](#) and information about [potential course changes](#).

You are also referred to the Student Handbook (which is updated every September).

Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the [University's Terms and Conditions](#).

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For details of annual increases, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees in 2026/27
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£54,990

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

[Further details about fee status eligibility](#) can be found on the fee status webpage.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our [world class resources](#) and [college provision](#), which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

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	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,405	£2,105	£12,645	£18,945

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 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 periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder 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 2026-27, 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.

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[Additional Fees and Charges Information for Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics](#)

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

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the [Office for Students](#) and subscribes to the [Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education](#) student complaints scheme.