



An infant participates in a language study where Event Related Potentials (ERPs) of the brain are compared in different auditory conditions

Is this course for me?

If you are a highly motivated student who is passionate about studying psychology, the University of Oxford offers an outstanding environment in which to study. The course will introduce topics that may be completely new to you but is sufficiently flexible so that you do not need to decide immediately the areas in which you will ultimately specialise.

◆ We strongly recommend that you study one or more Science or Mathematics subjects to full A-level or equivalent, as you will need to be analytical and have good numerical skills.

What qualifications will I need?

Candidates will need to have a very good track record of academic achievement, excellent A-level grade predictions (or equivalent) and a very strong UCAS reference. For example, we normally expect students who have taken GCSEs to have at least 4 A* grades, including at least an A grade at GCSE Mathematics.

Our standard offer is 3 A grades at A2-level. For other qualificatons see: www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad



What is the role of the college?

All students who come to Oxford University become a member of an Oxford College. Each college has its own particular history, ethos and architecture but the quality of teaching you receive is identical. Oxford colleges also provide students with affordable accommodation for at least two (and often for all three) years of the course and act as social hubs. The extracurricular opportunities to be found within colleges are almost limitless and whatever your interests – music, drama, sports, politics – there will be a society for you in Oxford.

You can name a college at the application stage, but it is not necessary to do this. A third of our students happily end up at a college different to the one they originally applied to!

Please be sure to check which colleges offer the Experimental Psychology and Psychology & Philosophy courses by checking our website www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad



What are the tutors looking for?

In addition to looking for a very good track record of academic achievement, tutors are keen to see whether you appreciate the scope of scientific psychology, can evaluate evidence, are able to consider issues from different perspectives, have a capacity for logical and creative thinking, appreciate the importance of empirical evidence in supporting arguments, and could cope with the quantitative demands of the course.

It is not possible to invite all applicants for an interview. The decision to invite an applicant takes into account all aspects of their application.

The Pre-Admissions Test

Given the very strong competition for places, ALL applicants who apply for Experimental Psychology (C830) and Psychology & Philosophy (CV85) must register for and sit the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA).

Further details about the test can be found at: www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad



What can I do after I finish my degree?

Many of our students go on to do a postgraduate masters or doctorate either here, at Oxford, or at other institutions within the United Kingdom or overseas. Our degree will also enable you to enter a wide range of careers from commerce, government, industry, media and the professions. Some students go on to medical qualifications from which they will be well placed to become neurologists or psychiatrists.

Open Days

Every year the Department of Experimental Psychology opens its doors to anyone who is interested in studying Experimental Psychology or Psychology & Philosophy as an undergraduate degree. Further details can be found on our website www.psy.ox.ac.uk.

We strongly encourage you to come along as it is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the course, meet current students and attend a series of interesting lectures related to the research done in the department.



Get in touch...

Our website www.psy.ox.ac.uk provides more information on the course, advice on applying and suggested reading, as well as information about the Department and its excellent and award winning research.

If you have any further questions regarding studying Psychology at Oxford, please do email: admissions@psy.ox.ac.uk

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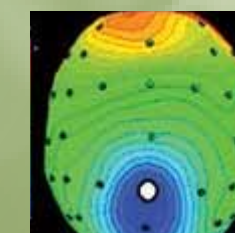
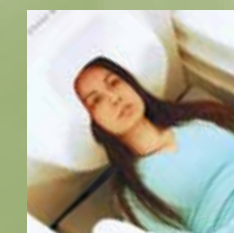


www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad



The Department of Experimental Psychology is widely regarded as one of the leading psychology departments in the United Kingdom with strong research in fields of human cognitive processes, neuroscience, language, developmental and social psychology

BA in Experimental Psychology (C830)



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A skull cap with electrodes, used as a part of an EEG Experiment which involves measuring the electrical activity in the brain whilst a participant takes part in a task.

Psychology has been defined as the science of mental life. It looks at perception, memory, emotion and so forth in adults and children and is a science in the sense that it seeks to understand the mind and behaviour through experimentation and observation. Its scope includes questions as diverse as: How do we perceive colours? How do children acquire language? What causes schizophrenia? What is unique about the human brain?

The **BA in Experimental Psychology** degree is accredited by the BPS (British Psychological Society). Such recognition is necessary for most postgraduate courses leading to professional practice in psychology.

Why Study Psychology at Oxford?



Undergraduate Psychology at Oxford is taught as a scientific discipline, involving substantial amounts of practical work and experimentation. The course concentrates on biological, human experimental, cognitive, social and developmental psychology. (Psychoanalysis and related areas are not taught as part of this course).

The degree is intellectually stimulating and you will be encouraged to take a critical and enquiring approach to your studies. Our teaching style is aimed at supporting and developing you as an individual, so that you can maximize your full potential.

Experimental Psychology has excellent facilities and has very close links with

neuroscience, including neurophysiology and neurology, and philosophy. Students benefit directly from the fact that the Department is one of Britain's most active centres for psychological research, with an outstanding international reputation.

Psychology at Oxford can be studied either on its own as a BA in Experimental Psychology (C830) or as a combination with Philosophy (CV85). Please also see: www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad

Both degrees are accredited as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society. See: www.bps.org.uk

“I chose the EP course at Oxford for its strong experimental grounding, and for the opportunities and excellent facilities the department offers”.

Katrina Quinn
Experimental Psychology Student
New College



“For me, the best thing about studying EP was the satisfaction of developing new theories and ideas through debate and discussion with my tutors and colleagues. It's put me in good stead for a career in the civil service where making a persuasive argument and helping Ministers to defend ideas in Parliament are key skills I brought straight from the tutorial!”

Lucy Holdstock
Policy Manager, Public Health Development Unit
Department of Health

How is the course structured?

FIRST YEAR	TERM 1	INTRODUCTORY COURSES (PRELIMS)	Students study three Introductory Courses from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Psychology◆ Neurophysiology◆ Philosophy◆ Statistics and Probability Theory
	TERM 2		
	TERM 3		
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS			
SECOND YEAR	TERM 4	CORE COURSES Study Statistics & Experimental Design Carry out lab-based practical work	Students study eight Core Courses in Psychology: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Cognitive Neuroscience◆ Behavioural Neuroscience◆ Perception◆ Memory, Attention and Information Processing◆ Language and Cognition◆ Developmental Psychology◆ Social Psychology◆ Individual Differences and Psychological Disorders
	TERM 5		
	TERM 6		
	PART 1 EXAMINATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY (Counts towards final degree)		
	THIRD YEAR	TERM 7	ADVANCED OPTIONS
TERM 8			
TERM 9			
FINAL EXAMINATIONS			

Core courses in Experimental Psychology

Cognitive Neuroscience: The relations between the activity of the brain and the mind e.g. working memory, selective attention, guided action.
Behavioural Neuroscience: The study of the molecular, cellular, and systems level processes underlying behaviour.
Perception: The physiology of the senses and how information about the external world is represented and interpreted by the brain.
Memory, Attention and Information Processing: The study of adult memory capacities and characteristics, and how skills and representations of the world are learned. How information is represented and used in mental life.

Language and Cognition: The psychology of language processes: how is language perceived, understood and produced? How is language acquired and why?
Developmental Psychology: Psychological development in humans, from infancy to adulthood.
Social Psychology: The biological and cultural background to human social behaviour. Social psychology aims to account for how people interact with and influence each other.
Individual Differences and Psychological Disorders: The study of psychological functions across the entire population and specific forms of psychological processing that appear to be dysfunctional in particular groups of people.



A social psychology tutorial on prejudice and discrimination with Professor Miles Hewstone

Teaching at Oxford University

Oxford University's greatest asset is the 'Tutorial System'. The tutorial system means that you are likely to receive much more personal tuition and greater pastoral support than many other universities can offer. The tutorial consists of a one hour meeting, once a week, between the tutor and students. During this time, a piece of work (typically an essay) is considered and commented upon, with discussion frequently branching out beyond the original topic. At the end of the tutorial, the tutor assigns a topic of study for the following week and suggests readings. Apart from tutorials, our lectures are designed to tell you about the important issues, theories and empirical research in psychology, and stimulate further thought and discussion about each research area, with further discussion taking place in tutorials and practical classes.

Practical Classes

As this is a department of experimental psychology, you will not learn all your psychology through tutorials and lectures. You will perform experiments in psychology throughout your course. These practical classes prepare you to perform your own piece of research in your final year. Computer based material plays an important part in many of the practicals. You will have the opportunity to learn and use software



used in psychological research, as well as taking optional courses provided by Oxford University Computing Services. The department has a well-equipped computing room to support your practical work.

Research Project and Library Dissertation

You will also be required to carry out a research project, supervised by a senior member of staff. This provides you with an exciting opportunity to carry out a piece of original research and it is not unusual for the results to be reported at a scientific conference or published in a scientific journal. Also, you may choose to carry out a library dissertation on a specific topic of psychology.

Working with Animals

The Department of Experimental Psychology's undergraduate students do not normally take part in experiments involving animals. However, results from animal studies within the department and elsewhere, will be discussed in lectures, tutorials and in recommended reading. The department welcomes open and balanced discussions of the value and problems of animal research.

