

Psychology (Experimental) Information Sheet for entry in 2020

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/work placements/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 2-4 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

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"> • Cognitive psychology • Biological psychology • Developmental psychology • Social psychology • Individual differences • Experimental design and statistics 	<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 library 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>
<p><i>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.</i></p>	

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.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2020.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£28,330

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

Please note that the course fees you pay include your fees for both University and college services and are divided between the University (including your department or faculty) and your college on a formula basis. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

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.

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,135 and £1,650 per month in 2020-2021. 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	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465
Accommodation (including utilities)	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850

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.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.