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)

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 specialize.

What qualifications will I need?
Candidates will need to have a very good track record of academic achievement. The standard offer is A*AA at A2 level. For IB students we require 7,6,6 at Higher Level with an overall score of 36. For other qualifications please see www.psy.ox.ac.uk

What can I do after I finish my degree?
Many of our students go on to do a postgraduate masters or doctorate within or without Oxford, or other institutions within the United Kingdom or overseas. Our department also enables you to enter a wide range of careers including commerce, government, industry, media and other professions. Some students go on to medical qualifications from which they will be well placed to become neurologists or psychiatrists.

What is the role of the college?
All undergraduate students at Oxford become members of an Oxford college. Colleges all provide excellent academic teaching standards and each college has its own history, ethos and architecture. 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.

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.

Open Days
Every year the Department of Experimental Psychology opens its doors to anyone who is interested in studying Experimental Psychology as an undergraduate degree. Further details on the next open day can be found at www.psy.ox.ac.uk. We strongly encourage you to come along as it is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the courses we offer and meet current students and subject tutors.

Is my application under review?
Why not check? You can do this by logging into your UCAS application and checking the status of your application.

www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad
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, experimental, cognitive, social, developmental psychology and Neuroscience. (Psychopharmacology and related areas are not taught as part of this course.)

The course 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 maximising your full potential.

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"I'm a second-year undergraduate reading Experimental Psychology. I decided to come to Oxford because of its reputation as one of the leading psychology departments in the UK. The department is well-equipped and has a good staff/student ratio. The lecturers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic, and the department is well-organised. I have found the course to be challenging and rewarding, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with other students in a cooperative and collaborative environment. I have also had the opportunity to participate in research projects, which has been a valuable experience. The course is intellectually stimulating and I have enjoyed the opportunity to explore a wide range of psychological topics. I would recommend this course to anyone interested in psychology, as it provides a solid foundation for further study and a wide range of career opportunities." - Varun Lekhraj, Corpus Christi College, Year 2

How is the course structured?

Students will study three Introductory Courses from:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Developmental Psychology

Students will study five core modules.

- Biological Psychology: The study of the nervous system and the anatomy of the human body.
- Cognitive Psychology: The study of perception, attention, learning, memory, language and guided action.
- Social Psychology: The study of social cognitive and cultural factors that influence human social behavior.
- Personality Psychology: The study of individual differences, personality traits, and their relationship to human behavior.
- Developmental Psychology: The study of cognitive development in humans from infancy to adulthood.

Students will study one Research Project. This can be chosen from a list of options including:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Personality Psychology

Students will study six Advanced Options.

- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Personality Psychology
- Psychological Statistics

Core subjects in Experimental Psychology

- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Personality Psychology
- Developmental Psychology

Students will carry out practical work in the following areas:

- Complete a Practical Portfolio through lab-based practical work
- Complete a Research Project (maximum of 6000 words)
- Complete a Library Dissertation

Students will present either a final year practical report or a final year library dissertation.

FINALEXAMINATIONS

- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Personality Psychology
- Developmental Psychology

The study of personality and individual differences, including the role of genetic and environmental factors in determining personality traits.

"The Experimental Psychology BA was a great grounding for further study. It gave me a broad appreciation of Psychology and Neuroscience through the range of topics covered in the first and second years, whilst the ability to focus on a couple of chosen areas in the third year allowed me to develop my particular interests. In fact, it was during one of these advanced options that I decided to pursue further study. I'm really interested to study further and the knowledge to enable me to do it." - Georgie Aspell, St John's College, EPS Student, Associate Learning, Department of Experimental Psychology

Teaching at Oxford

Oxford's most distinctive asset is the "Tutor System." The tutor system means that you are likely to receive much more personal and greater psychological support than other universities can offer. The tutorial consists of a one-hour meeting, once a week, between the tutor and student. During this time, a piece of written work (on essay) is read 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 questionnaires, our lectures are designed to tell you about the important areas, themes and principles of psychology, and stimulate further thought and discussion about each research area with further discussion taking place in tutorials and practical classes.

Practical Learning

As this is an Experimental Psychology degree, in addition to attending lectures and tutorials you will have practical classes and will be required to perform experiments in psychology throughout your course. The practical classes are designed to give you an opportunity to carry out psychological experiments. You will be introduced to a variety of practical techniques, and will be expected to carry out a research project in your final year. This project is not usually for the results to be reported at a scientific conference or published in a scientific journal. Also, you may choose to carry out a degree 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 animal studies. However, the Department has a well-equipped computer room to support your practical work.