



An infant participants 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 a full A-Level or equivalent.

### 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. We normally expect students who have taken GCSEs to have at least 4 A\* grades, including at least an A grade in GCSE Mathematics.

Our standard offer is A\*AA at A2 level. For IB students we require 7,6,6 at Higher Level with an overall score of 39. For other qualifications please see [www.psy.ox.ac.uk](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk)

## What is the role of the college?

All undergraduate students at Oxford become members of a 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.

You can name a college at the application stage, but it is not necessary to do so. 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 BA Experimental Psychology course by checking [www.psy.ox.ac.uk](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk)

## 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 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 can cope with the 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 the application.

### The Pre-Admissions Test

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

Registration for all tests is separate to the UCAS application.

More information on the admissions tests please see: [www.psy.ox.ac.uk](http://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 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 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.



Students will automatically be eligible for Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership from the British Psychological Society (BPS). This is the first step towards becoming a chartered Psychologist. Please see the BPS website for more information: [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)

## Get in touch...

Our website [www.psy.ox.ac.uk](http://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 queries please do email: [admissions@psy.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@psy.ox.ac.uk)

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IMAGES: Department of Experimental Psychology and Oxford University Images/PS: Unlimited



[www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad)



## 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](http://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.



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)



[www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergrad)



Psychology has been defined as the science of mental life. It looks at perception, memory, emotion and so forth in adults and children and 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 British Psychological Society (BPS). 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, developmental psychology and Neuroscience. (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 maximise your full potential.

Experimental Psychology has excellent facilities and has very close links with neuroscience, including neurophysiology and neurology. 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.

The degree is accredited as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society. For further information please see: [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)

Psychology at Oxford can be studied either on its own as a BA in Experimental Psychology (C830) or as a combination with Philosophy (CV85) or Linguistics (CQ81) as part of the BA in Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. For further information on this please see: [www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad)

*"I'm a second-year undergraduate reading Experimental Psychology. Despite Experimental Psychology being a BA for historical reasons, the course is heavily focused on the scientific aspect of Psychology (hence Experimental). This attracted me to studying at Oxford, as I believe the application of experimentation to be key to psychological study."*

Yanakan Logeswaran,  
Corpus Christi College, Year 2  
BA Experimental Psychology



*'Studying EP gave me the opportunity to conduct my own research project from its inception, to recruiting participants, collecting and analysing data, and writing it up in a report. These skills have been invaluable to me in my job as a research assistant, as it involves co-ordinating a large number of participants taking part in a randomised control trial, and handling large amounts of data.'*

Lauren Canvin, St Anne's,  
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Experimental Psychology,  
University of Oxford.

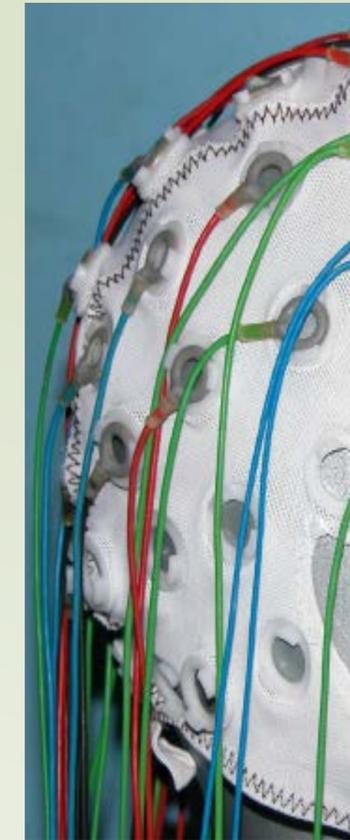


## How is the course structured?

FIRST YEAR	TERM 1	INTRODUCTORY COURSES (PRELIMS)	Students will study three Introductory Courses from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychology</li> <li>Neurophysiology</li> <li>Philosophy</li> <li>Linguistics</li> <li>Probability Theory and Statistics</li> </ul>
	TERM 2		
	TERM 3	PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS	
SECOND YEAR	TERM 4	CORE MODULE COURSES	Students will study core subjects in Psychology covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive Psychology</li> <li>Biological Psychology</li> <li>Developmental Psychology</li> <li>Social Psychology</li> <li>Individual Differences</li> </ul>
	TERM 5		
	TERM 6	Complete a Practical Portfolio through lab-based work	
THIRD YEAR	TERM 7	ADVANCED OPTIONS	Carry out practical work in Psychology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a Practical Portfolio through lab-based practical work</li> <li>One Research Project (maximum 6000 words)</li> </ul>
	TERM 8		
	TERM 9	Students will choose either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Advanced Options OR</li> <li>Two Advanced Options and a Library Dissertation</li> </ul>	
			FINAL EXAMINATIONS

### Core subjects in Experimental Psychology

- Cognitive Psychology:** The study of perception, attention, learning, memory, language and guided action.
- Biological Psychology:** The physiology of the senses and the study of molecular, cellular and systems level processing underlying behaviour.
- 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:** 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.



### Teaching at Oxford

Oxford's most distinctive asset is the 'Tutorial System'. The tutorial system means that you are likely to receive much more personal tuition and greater pastoral support than 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 written work (an 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 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 Learning

As this is an Experimental Psychology degree, in addition to attending lectures and tutorials you will attend practical classes and will be required to perform experiments in psychology throughout your course. Additionally, all students gain experience in experimental psychology throughout their course by participating in experiments from their first year. These practical classes and experiments 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 the University's IT Services. The Department has a well-equipped computing room to support your practical work.

### Research Project and Library Dissertation

Students are required to carry out a research project, supervised by a senior member of staff in their final year. 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 the recommended reading.

*"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. It gave me the interest to study further and the knowledge to enable me to do it."*

Georgina Aisbitt, Brasenose College,  
DPhil Student, Associative Learning, Department of Experimental Psychology

