

## Is this course for me?

If you are a highly motivated student who is passionate about studying any pairing of psychology, philosophy and linguistics (or, exceptionally, all three), 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.

- For Psychology students we strongly recommend that you study one or more Science or Mathematics subjects to a full A-Level or equivalent.
- For Linguistics it would be helpful to have English Language, Mathematics, a Science or any other language to a higher level.

### 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 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 Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics 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 for Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics must register for and sit the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA).

For students who are applying to take Linguistics as part of their degree, they must also register for and sit the Linguistics Test part of the Modern Language Admissions Test (MLAT).

Registration for all tests is separate to the UCAS application.

Please see [www.psy.ox.ac.uk](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk) for more information on each test.



## 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.

Students who take Psychology as part of their degree, and have covered all the core areas of Psychology as defined by the British Psychological Society (BPS), will be eligible for Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership. 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, specimen admissions tests and suggested reading.

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



## Open Days

Every year the Department of Experimental Psychology opens its doors to anyone who is interested in studying Psychology, Philosophy & Linguistics 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.



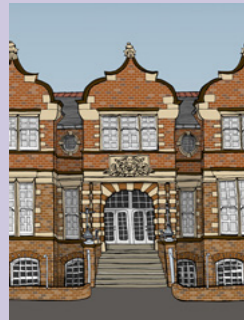
Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics at Oxford are widely regarded as internationally-leading Faculties and Departments in these fields. Here at Oxford we give students an opportunity to study a combination of these subjects in a single undergraduate degree.

## BA in Psychology, Philosophy & Linguistics



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





Centre for Linguistics and Philology

**Psychology** has been defined as the science of mental life. It looks at perception, memory, emotion and so forth in adults and children.

The study of **Philosophy** develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically.

**Linguistics** is the study of language in all its aspects – the nature of language, that is, not simply learning foreign languages.

The **BA in Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics** degree combines all three of these disciplines in a diverse and inter-connected nature where students can explore different aspects of each subject.

## Why study PPL at Oxford?



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.

The Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics is the newest Faculty in Oxford. It brings together internationally-renowned scholars working in descriptive linguistics and linguistic theory, experimental phonetics, psycholinguistics, historical linguistics and comparative philology.

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.

The PPL degree is accredited as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis of Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society (BPS) for students who have covered all the core areas of Psychology as defined in the BPS Qualifying Examination, please see: [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk) for more information.

### UCAS Course Codes:

*Psychology & Philosophy (CV85)*  
*Psychology & Linguistics (CQ81)*  
*Philosophy & Linguistics (VQ51)*

*“PPL is a very varied and dynamic course. I have found a perfect match for my interests. I love that our work challenges us in a number of disciplines; in a given week I may be completing a statistics problem sheet, an essay for psychology, and a data analysis worksheet for grammar or phonology. I feel I have learned to debate and communicate in different ways as a result of this. We study the human mind, a fascinating and elusive subject, and employing a variety of approaches to do this leads to a highly engaging course.”*

Zoe Firth,  
Year 1, BA PPL (Psychology & Linguistics),  
St Hilda's College



*‘Since studying at University College (2009-2012), I have been training as a Chartered Accountant in London and I am due to qualify in September 2015. The numerical, analytical and logical reasoning skills that I developed through my degree are invaluable to me, working in such a fast-paced environment, and the strong work discipline and time management skills that come hand in hand with studying in Oxford help me to stay afloat.’*

Hannah Gimblett, University College,  
Senior Associate in Assurance, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP,  
Accounting Industry

## How is the course structured?

FIRST YEAR	TERM 1	INTRODUCTORY COURSES (PRELIMS)	Students will study three Introductory Courses from:		
	TERM 2		<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 3		PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS		
SECOND YEAR	TERM 4	CORE MODULE COURSES	Psychology students will:	PPL students taking psychology will study 4 out of 8 core modules in psychology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive Neuroscience</li> <li>Behavioural Neuroscience</li> <li>Perception</li> <li>Memory, Attention and Information Processing</li> <li>Language &amp; Cognition</li> <li>Developmental Psychology</li> <li>Social Psychology</li> <li>Personality, Individual Differences and Psychological Disorders</li> </ul>	
	TERM 5		Study Experimental Design & Statistics		
	TERM 6		Carry out lab-based practical work.		
	PART 1 EXAMINATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY (Counts toward final degree)				
THIRD YEAR	TERM 7	ADVANCED OPTIONS	PPL students taking psychology will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out practical work in Psychology:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two lab-based 'block' practicals</li> </ul> </li> <li>Choose either:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1, 2 or 3 advanced options depending on subject split</li> <li>E.g. A Psychology and Philosophy student with a 5:3 split would take 3 Psychology Advanced Options and 3 papers in Philosophy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Students choosing <b>Philosophy</b> will study from 3 to 5 special subjects in Terms 3-8. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophy of Cognitive Science</li> <li>Philosophy of Mind</li> <li>Philosophy of Science</li> <li>Knowledge and Reality</li> <li>Early Modern Philosophy</li> <li>Philosophical Logic</li> </ul>	
	TERM 8				Students choosing <b>Linguistics</b> will study from 3 to 5 special subjects in Terms 3-8. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syntax</li> <li>Semantics</li> <li>Phonetics and Phonology</li> <li>Sociolinguistics</li> <li>Psycholinguistics</li> <li>Language Change</li> <li>Historical Linguistics</li> </ul>
	TERM 9				

### Core Options in Experimental Psychology

PPL students studying Psychology will be required to take core option examinations in their second year.

Students studying Psychology must sit the examination in Probability Theory and Statistics either at Prelims or as a qualifying examination.

### Options in Philosophy

Unlike Experimental Psychology, students who are taking Philosophy as part of their degree are not required to take 'core' options. The examples given above form the recommended foundational papers within Philosophy that many of our students choose to take.

### Options in Linguistics

Students studying Linguistics as part of their degree choose from 2 to 5 special subjects from: *Phonetics and Phonology, Syntax, Semantics, Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, Historical Linguistics, a project, a thesis, or a paper on the linguistics of a specific language.*

Unlike Psychology, there are no second year examinations in Philosophy or Linguistics. Advanced options and special subjects are examined at the end of the third year.

For a full list please visit: <http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/> and [http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/fhs\\_ppl](http://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/fhs_ppl)



### Teaching at Oxford

Oxford's most distinctive asset is the 'Tutorial System'. This means 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. Apart from tutorials, our lectures are designed to tell you about the important issues, theories and empirical research in your subject.

### Practical Classes

Those taking Psychology as part of their degree, will take practical classes in the Department of Experimental Psychology, meaning not all your teaching will be through lectures and tutorials. Students will perform experiments in psychology throughout their course in the practical classes.

### Research Project and Library Dissertation

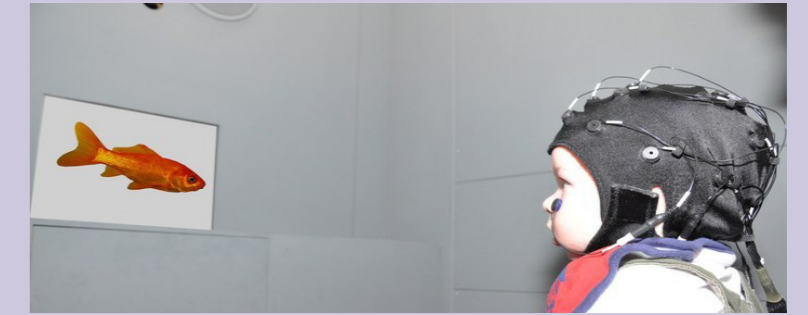
You will have the option of completing a Research Project or Library Dissertation, supervised by a senior member of staff. This provides you with an exciting opportunity to carry out a piece of original research. Alternatively, students studying Philosophy or Linguistics can opt to undertake a thesis in one of these subjects.

### Working with Animals

Students will not normally take part in Psychology experiments involving animals; however, results from animal studies will be discussed in lectures, tutorials and

*“At Oxford I was able to take advantage of world-class researchers and facilities to begin my own academic journey. After taking the BA, I took the MSc in Psychological Research, and am now completing my D.Phil. The interdisciplinary foundation from my BA is now used through my work with both psychologists and philosophers at Oxford. I am convinced that no other course or university could have prepared me with the skills necessary for a career in academic research.”*

Jim Everett, Corpus Christi,  
DPhil Student, Moral Psychology, Department of Experimental Psychology



recommended reading. We welcome open and balanced discussion on the value and problems of animal research.

### Philosophy at Oxford

The study of philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to many contemporary and historical schools of thought and individual thinkers, and to questions on such subjects as the fundamental nature of reality.

The 'Introduction to Philosophy' course consists of three areas: General Philosophy, Moral Philosophy and Logic.

### Linguistics at Oxford

Linguistics is the study of language in all its aspects – the nature of language, that is, not simply learning foreign languages. Unlike other subjects in the Humanities Division, Linguistics includes two scientific research and teaching laboratories – the Language and Brain Laboratory, and the Phonetics Laboratory.

The 'Introduction to Linguistics' course provides a foundation in the basic components of phonetics and phonology (speech and sound patterns), morphology and syntax (word structure and grammar), and semantics (meaning), along with an introduction to linguistic theory and the connections between linguistics and other subjects such as sociology and psychology.