

Study psychology in the UK

Where can I study psychology?

The UK has three of the top ranked universities for psychology teaching – the University of Cambridge (third), the University of Oxford (fourth) and University College London (seventh). You can take your pick from almost a thousand courses across the country, ranging from BAs with more of a focus on liberal arts and education, to BSc qualifications, with a greater emphasis on science and mathematics.

What is the application process?

Most psychology degrees in the UK will require at least two A-levels or equivalent, with many of the most popular courses expecting ABB or higher.

Typical requirements for International Baccalaureate will be 34 points, with an IELTS of 6.5 overall, and no lower than 6.0 in any one component.

How long does it take to graduate?

Psychology undergraduate degrees usually take around three years to complete in the UK. Many offer opportunities to extend your studies with a year's work experience placement or studying abroad.

Postgraduate degrees are usually between one and two years, with many universities offering integrated master's courses which allow you to complete both elements in just four years of full time study.

What will the course cover?

The exact content of your psychology degree will usually vary depending on whether you choose a BA or a BSc.

A BA is likely to emphasise the social aspects of psychology, with a bias towards modules in areas such as applied psychology, child psychology, developmental psychology, educational psychology and social psychology. A BSc might place slightly greater emphasis on the scientific aspects of the field, such as experimental psychology, neuroscience and forensic psychology with course work focusing on lab time and statistics.

However, you will always leave with a knowledge of all key areas of the subject, such as criminal psychology and brain behaviour to evolutionary psychology and the statistical methods required to interpret your data accurately.

And the flexible nature of UK degrees also means you can tailor a lot of your learning towards the areas that interest you most, no matter which qualification you choose.

Why is the UK a good choice for psychology?

The UK has been at the forefront of modern psychology for hundreds of years. The first psychological society was established here in 1875, followed by the world-famous British Psychological Society in 1901.

Over the years our knowledge and research have helped to broaden every aspect of the field, as well as applying it in all areas of everyday life, from medical and therapeutic applications to industrial and sporting sectors.

Whether you want to understand how we develop as children, or the secrets of motivating the world's best athletes, you'll find the best possible insights into the human mind in the UK.

Are there any scholarships for psychology?

There are hundreds of psychology scholarships open to international students travelling to the UK, both undergraduate and postgraduate – including several from the best ranked universities in the UK. Some of these are limited to applicants from specific countries or regions, while others are open to all nationalities to apply.

You can also choose to apply for one of the more high profile opportunities such as Chevening Scholarships or Commonwealth Scholarships, which are both open to residents of any country.

What are my work options after I graduate?

Psychology is one of the broadest degrees available in terms of career scope and transferable skills. A range of specific career paths in psychology exist – such as clinical psychologist, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist and sport and exercise psychologist though many of them require postgraduate qualifications.

However, many UK psychology graduates choose to pursue public and private sector roles in more loosely related fields, such as marketing, business, education, human resources and social work. The flexible academic skills offered across these courses, and the research, analytical thinking and problem solving that are essential to these courses, mean that you will leave with an extremely versatile qualification that you can take anywhere.

Starting salaries for psychology graduates tend to be in the region of £19,000, but with such a wide range of career options, there are no limits to what you can achieve.

International students who have completed an undergraduate or master's degree can apply to stay and work in the UK for two years upon graduation, through the Graduate Route.

To find out more about studying psychology in the UK and to find a course, visit Study UK study-uk.britishcouncil.org/

