

# Study psychology in the UK

## Where can I study psychology?

The UK has three of the top five universities for psychology teaching in the world – University of Oxford (second), University of Cambridge (third) and University College London (fifth).<sup>1</sup> You can take your pick from over 1800 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.<sup>2</sup>

## 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 is the course structure?

In the UK, psychology degrees are typically offered as either a BA, which often emphasises social and applied psychology, or a BSc, which focuses more on experimental and biological aspects. These and postgraduate options typically include lectures, lab work, practical assignments and a research dissertation.

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<sup>1</sup> [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [UCAS, 2025](#)

## What will I study?

Core areas of study include cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, biological bases of behaviour, social psychology, and research methods. You'll also explore areas like mental health, perception, memory, and decision-making. Courses combine theory with hands-on work in labs and data analysis, preparing you for both applied and academic careers. Many programmes offer optional modules in areas like educational, clinical, or forensic psychology.

## Why is the UK a good choice to study 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, UK psychology courses offer rich academic and practical insights into the human mind.

## Are there any scholarships for psychology?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study psychology in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding) and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

## What are my work options after I graduate?

A UK psychology degree opens the door to roles in mental health, education, business, research, and more. Graduates may go on to become clinical or educational psychologists, while others work in marketing, human resources, or social services. Many roles require further postgraduate study. With strong analytical and research skills, psychology graduates are well equipped for a range of careers. Average starting salaries are around £25,000.<sup>3</sup>

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate, master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

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<sup>3</sup> [Save The Student, 2025](#)

# Study UK

To find out more about studying psychology in the UK and to find a course, visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org](https://www.study-uk.britishcouncil.org)

