

Psychology @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Oxford	A*AA	11 Newcastle	AAA
2 Bath	A*AA	12 Durham	AAA
3 Cambridge	A*AA	13 York	AAA
4 St Andrews	AAB	14 Edinburgh	AAA
5 UCL	A*AA	15 Sussex	AAA
6 Bristol	A*AA	16 Cardiff	AAA
7 KCL	A*AA	17 Birmingham	AAA
8 Exeter	AAA	18 Loughborough	AAB
9 Lancaster	AAB	19 Nottingham	AAA/AAB
10 Glasgow	AAA	20 Warwick	AAB

* Complete University Guide April 2020

Must haves

You do not need to have studied psychology at A Level to apply for a psychology, but you will need at least one science A Level; maths and biology are often preferred. Some of the more competitive universities, like UCL, ask for 2 science A Levels.

Other degrees to consider

Biological sciences, physiology, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, criminology, forensic science, law, history or a joint honours degree in the social sciences.

Example course modules

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and the thoughts and emotions that influence that behaviour. Courses can focus on scientific research and/or applied psychology and many universities will have research facilities for studying perception, cognition, behavioural neuroscience, developmental psychology and, on the applied side, neurorehabilitation, education and health. You might choose to specialise in one of many areas of psychology – child, clinical, educational, experimental, forensic, social, sports. You might also study mind and behaviour; cell biology; effective learning; experimental methods and statistical analysis; evolution and behaviour.

Contact hours per week: 7 to 14, 10 on average. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Psychology is the 4th most popular degree course, which can make jobs in psychology very competitive. You can help your chances by taking one of the many psychology degrees which are accredited and follow guidelines set out by the British Psychological Society – this is important if you want to pursue a career as a practising chartered psychologist. There is a lower unemployment rate than average amongst psychology graduates, who are well-regarded by a range of business sectors. Through your degree you'll gain a mix of good people skills and excellent number and data handling skills, which will make you attractive to employers. You could work in finance, investment, marketing, as an analyst, a careers adviser, counsellor, researcher, detective or police officer.

Average starting salary: £17,500