Studying Psychology at City

This Online Chat session is for anyone who is interesting in studying Psychology at City. The session will be run by academic staff and current students giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your subject of interest and find out what life is like as a university student. There will be a presentation to start and at the end of the session you can type questions for the students to answer and there will be interactive quizzes on student life and your subject.

Welcome to this Psychology Taster session at City, University of London. Unfortunately, we cannot have you on campus but hope that our online session will still give you a good idea of what it is like to study Psychology at City University. To give you an idea of what to expect, our session will follow this format: 1) Our BSc Psychology academic staff have recorded a course introduction video. We’ll begin by watching this. 2) We then have a short mock lecture to give you an idea of the topics and ideas covered at university level Psychology study. 3) Next, you’ll be able to ask questions and have them answered by our Psychology academics. 4) If we have time there will be a university life quiz and Q&A with our Student Ambassadors. We also have campus tour videos to give you an idea of what our university campus is like. We are also running sessions on personal statements, the UCAS process, researching Universities and more: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/city-at-higher-education-exhibitions

Recruitment Events 2019/20

We regularly visit other parts of the country as part of UCAS and Higher Education fairs. Find out when we’re near you.

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Psychology taster day 1

What’s it like to study Psychology?

- What can you do with a Psychology degree?
- You can get some interesting information from the British Psychological Society website.
- https://www.bps.org.uk/

https://youtu.be/13n-F4SfmyY

What could I do with a psychology degree?

Hi [redacted] this is one of the things touched upon in the Video Danisha just mentioned. You might want to have a listen to that and then we can cover more here

Advises for a psychology personal statement
Hello [unnamed] the most important part of your application is your grades; the personal statement is also important but doesn’t weigh as heavily. What we look for in the statement is a clear indication that the applicant understands what a Psychology degree actually is, so that they are happy and perform well. Prior activities, hobbies, achievements that indicate resilience, academic interests, and of course an interest in psychology don’t hurt.

Here is a link to the course introduction video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3n-F45fmyY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3n-F45fmyY&feature=youtu.be), so you can refer to this after the event.

**Psychology taster day 1**

Chargement…

*What’s it like to study Psychology?*
- What can you do with a Psychology degree?
- You can get some interesting information from the British Psychological Society website:
  - [https://www.bps.org.uk/](https://www.bps.org.uk/)

We will now start the Mock Lecture we have set, to give you an idea of the topics and ideas covered at university level Psychology study.

**Psychology taster**

**SOME COMMON ERRORS**

[https://youtu.be/VSiFLDYH4rA](https://youtu.be/VSiFLDYH4rA)

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**How long is the psychology course?**

The Psychology Course is 3 years typically; however, if you do a year abroad or a placement year, it would be 4 years.

**Hi, I’m currently doing psychology at A-level do you require applicants to be studying another science at A-level when applying?**

Hi [unnamed] We don’t require that you study a science at A-level, however it does look good on your application. It’s most important to study something you enjoy and will do well at.
Hello, is okay if I ask you what plan to do after uni?

Sure! I plan to gain experience in the field, in an assistant role, before moving on to studying a Masters and eventually a PhD.

What are the GCSE requirements for this course, is there the choice of dual courses and is there placement?

Hello, Our entry requirements are: 'A' Level: Grades AAB or ABB with relevant EPQ or 136 UCAS tariff points IB: 30 points, 5,5,5 from three Higher Level subjects BTEC: DDD GCSE: a minimum of grade 4 (C) in GCSE English and Mathematics. At City you can do Psychology, Criminology and Psychology or Sociology with Psychologywork placements are optional but you can do a placement year and apply to the microplacement scheme.

Can you explain a bit more about the research project in the 3rd year?

Hi. In your third year you undertake an individual research project supervised by one of the members of the department (that's true for almost all degrees.) The topic can be lost any are of psychology you are interested in. It takes a year, and at the end you write up a big report about what you did.

What would a placement year typically include?

At City, the placement year is something you source and apply for yourself, with the assistance of our amazing careers team. So the answer is, it can be whatever you would like to apply for! In Psychology, a lot of my peers took internships in HR, consultancy or assistant roles in the NHS.

What topics are included if you want to do a Psychology BSc degree

Hi there - that video that we posted a link to at the start covers this question quite well. The short answer is that we cover all the big fields required by a quality degree approved by the British Psychological Society as well as many specialised areas (mainly in the 3rd year) - the core areas are: Biological Basis of Behaviour, Cognitive Basis of Behaviour, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Personality and Individual Differences, Research Methods and Statistics -- I would encourage you to watch the first video offered.

Is it better to focus on specific areas of psychology in your personal statement or several aspects?

Hi. It's good to let us know if you have done some wider reading and have an interest in a particular area of psychology. It's also good that we can see you understand what psychology at University is about - it's a science, so it's good if you can demonstrate you know what that means for your studies.

If I remember correctly, the grade boundaries can be lowered if you did an EPQ on a related subject, right?
Dear [Name],

The headline entry grades are AAB or ABB if you’ve done an EPQ.

Would you recommend any options in year 3 of the course which would be best suited towards becoming a neuropsychologist?

At City, we offer specialist Psychology pathways in: BSc Psychology with Counselling and Health Psychology, BSc Psychology with Organisational Psychology and Behavioural Economics, BSc Psychology with Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, BSc Psychology with Child Development. In addition to the BSc Psychology degree we provide the opportunity for you to graduate with a BPS accredited BSc Psychology degree in one of the specialist areas of Psychology above. All students that enter our BSc Psychology route can apply to specialise in one of these areas, or continue with their BSc Psychology degree, thus offering great flexibility in shaping CVs for future career aspirations. You can make this choice at the end of your 2nd year. Our staff have research interests that translate into student module choice in: Cognitive Neuroscience, Forensic Psychology, Autism, Memory, Decision making and Behavioural Economics, Coaching Psychology, Child Development, Counselling and Health Psychology, Organisational Psychology and more.

Can you take Psychology and Criminology at University without doing Criminology at A-Level?

Absolutely! I am doing the course and did not take a Criminology A level ;)

How big are the classes?

Hi [Name], it varies. There will be around 200 students in each year. Some classes are in lecture halls with all students, but some labs/workshops might involve groups of 40-50, and we also have smaller seminars in groups of ~10.

Thank you [Name], what is the microplacement scheme?

I hope I can provide some help as someone who has taken part in the scheme. It is a short placement that takes place over the summer, in which you are placed in a business to explore the working world and build your core skills. The options for placements are varied but I managed to get a Psychology placement in a housing association for vulnerable adults.

If I was to take psychology and do one of the 4 pathways rather than just stay on doing psychology as a whole, would it still be credited? I know the BPS accredit courses but only if you pick to take specific modules.

Yes absolutely! The course covers all the content to acquire the accreditation either way.

Hi, do you recommend any books related to psychology that would be good to mention on a personal statement?
Our pre-course recommended reading is:
NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism
The Future of Neurodiversity
Thinking fast and Slow

How will you be assessed?

Hi. We use a mixture of assessments types, including class tests, coursework, exams, presentations... The first year is typically shorter assessments, the second and third years use more essays. But there is always a mix so you have an opportunity to shine no matter what!

Would you say it is difficult to find a job after doing psychology at university?

Psychology is a degree subject that is vast and prepares you for work in a variety of sectors. For example, you are not limited to becoming a psychologist, you can work as a statistician or consultant. The careers team also can assist you in preparing your CV and for job interviews in order to maximise your chance of achieving your goal.

is there a course which has marketing/business studies and psychology

We don’t offer joint honours degrees with the Business School but we do have a pathway you can select at the end of your second year that is a specialisation in Organisational Psychology & Behavioural Economics - you might want to look into the courses offered at the Cass Business School though.

What support systems are there for if you start taking a course and find yourself struggling?

Hi. Good question. The university has support systems, but the key thing is that as a student in the psychology department you will be assigned a ‘personal tutor’ who you can talk to about any issues. They are there not to help with any specific module, but just to check you’re doing ok and help with any problems. I really enjoy being a personal tutor for my students - its very rewarding!

Can anyone give a general outline of what a typical day taking the psychology course would look like?
Here is a blog post about a typical week in a life of a second year 'week in the life':
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student?unibuddy=blog/post/5e7b5439c11ba1f63e42639

Ask our students and staff
Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.

If I want to be a therapist, is it better to do a degree more specific (e.g. psychology with counselling) or just Psychology on its own?

It is always great to specialise if you are 100% sure of the career you want to achieve. However, at City, you would be doing the BSc Psychology course and then you would choose a pathway towards the end of your second year, so you have plenty of time to think about that.

Does city have a range of societies?

A full list of our societies can be found: https://www.citystudents.co.uk/getinvolved/societies/

How much time will I spend in lectures as opposed to self-directed study?

Year 1
Scheduled learning: 18%  Independent learning: 82%
Year 2
Scheduled learning: 18%  Independent learning: 82%
Year 3
Scheduled learning: 11%  Independent learning: 89%
These are some statistics regarding that!

Do you struggle financially living in London?
Hi, Living in London is more expensive than much of the rest of the UK! However it is actually very well set up for students, and there are lots of ways to live cheaply. Many of our students also study in London so that they can live at home. The student union has lots of information on living costs in London and how to manage your money.

How many hours of lectures are there a week?

It will vary depending on what modules you take but an average break down of lectures to independent learning is: Year 1 Scheduled learning: 18% Independent learning: 82% Year 2 Scheduled learning: 18% Independent learning: 82% Year 3 Scheduled learning: 11% Independent learning: 89%

do you recommend taking a placement year to study psychology at masters and then phd

You may apply for the work placement year during your second year which would take place before your third year, where you will receive a lot of help to find a placement which you will complete that year. You could also take part in the Micro-Placement Programme which offers competitive summer placements in various disciplines. This would increase your experience in the field, however, it is not compulsory for you to take placements in order to apply for a masters. However, I do highly recommend this as it will provide you with lots of experience and knowledge into the field prior to your further studies.

Would studying psychology then help you to go on to study cognitive neuroscience?

Hi, Yes! We do some neuroscience modules as part of the degree, but you could also go on to do an MSc or even PhD in neuroscience afterwards if that is your passion.

Which courses are accredited by the BPS?

At City the BSc Psychology and BSc Criminology and Psychology are BPS accredited. It’s something to look out for when looking at unis because not all Psychology degrees are accredited.

Hi how long is the full course?

3 years but 4 if you do a placement or study abroad.

If I want to be a therapist and I task Psychology BSc degree...towards the end of the second year, how would I change pathways if I decided to?

You would choose the option at the end of your second year, before that you would take the same core modules as other students (other than a few electives).
If psychology is your only level subject related to psychology would you still be considered at university's to study it?

Yes of course! The course is taught in such a way that even people with no prior knowledge to psychology can do just as well as those that do. There have been plenty of people who have studied Psychology at Degree level even without having any prior Psychology qualifications.

Hi, are there any career advisors that could help decide what field we want to go into after university?

The university has a careers department which offers plenty of guidance on applying to part-time jobs whilst studying, searching for placements, applying for graduate jobs, interview help. The careers team offers one to one meetings to discuss any career-related matters for more information please visit us at https://www.city.ac.uk/careers

Careers Service

Information for students and recruiters about City's Careers, Student Development & Outreach service.

Do you think A-Level Psychology would give an understanding of what it might be like at GCSE or are the two very different?

Hi A-level psychology will give you a good taste for university level psychology, but there are some big differences. We cover a lot more topics, and in a lot more depth. There's also more of a focus on the scientific nature of psychology, with lab classes and research methods courses. Many of our students haven't taken A-level psychology though and it doesn't seem to affect how well they enjoy the course!

If one takes the abroad placement, does the university cover all costs or does it come out of ones personal income?

The university would not cover your costs but in some circumstances you can get an extended student loan for the additional year's living costs: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/international/exchange-and-study-abroad/study-abroad-programme

City Study Abroad Programme

Find out everything you need to know about studying as an International student at City, University of London with our Study Abroad Programme.
Where is the psychology department based in terms of campus?

Dear [Name],

We are based in the main Northampton square campus. I think the postcode is EC1V 0HB.

Are there any current students that can tell me how they're finding the course? And the jump from a level and sixth form to this degree. Thank you.

Current student here! I love the course and everything it has taught me about the field, but also about myself. I have developed key skills that I can apply to numerous fields. The jump can seem daunting, but here at City we have a welcome week where you are encouraged to meet new people and join in new activities. Study wise, as long as you are prepared to work hard it was fine! If you find anything challenging we have clinic hours after lectures where you can chat one on one with your lecturer!

How does the timetable look for the first year?

Typically the breakdown of teaching and independent learning is: Year 1 Scheduled learning: 18% Independent learning: 82% Year 2 Scheduled learning: 18% Independent learning: 82% Year 3 Scheduled learning: 11% Independent learning: 89%.

Are there any specific sites or podcasts for example that you think would be helpful looking at before starting a degree in psychology or just any advice you'd give?

Hi [Name]! I’d recommend looking at the BPS website for ideas about careers and topics. bps.org.uk

How much biology is typically involved in psychology courses?

Biology is an important part of the degree, you have modules in your first and second year that cover these. You can choose to study them further in year three too. However, it is not as scary as you may think, due to the excellent support our lecturers provide.

do you do a lot of practicals?

Practical’s in Psychology tend to be conducting actual research, and yes you will be doing these throughout all three years of your degree!

What is the maths like included in the psychology courses?

Statistics is a rather large part of the degree. As someone who was a bit daunted by this, I can ensure you that the support here is fantastic!
Is the maths part hard? As I don't do maths at a level

It's totally the best bit :) I teach statistics in the first year. If you are a bit anxious we have extra optional classes to help give you confidence if you're not really touched maths since GCSE. But all the lecturers are friendly, and we have regular office hours and drop in clinics so you can get help quickly if you need it.

Thank you everyone for all your questions and we hope today's session was useful. If you do have any further questions then please do contact us using either our contacts page on our website: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact or through our Unibuddy page where you can contact staff and students: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student.

Ask our students and staff

Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.

Moreover, for anyone who would like to refer to the videos featured in this session
Course Introduction: https://youtu.be/I3n-F45fmyY
Mock Lecture: https://youtu.be/7SHDv6YH4rA

We hope you enjoyed today's event. Good luck with your studies, and all the best :) City, University of London.

Psychology taster
Chargement…

SOME COMMON ERRORS