



Nº1

The UK's Number One
Summer School

COURSE OVERVIEW

Faculty of Psychology

14-17yrs

📍 Dukes Cambridge Summer School



At a glance

Introduction to Faculty of Psychology

The Faculty of Psychology at Cambridge introduces you to the study of the mind and behaviour, from memory and perception to social influence and mental health. This programme is designed for students curious about why people think, feel, and act as they do. Through theory, experiments, and applied case studies, you'll build a foundation in psychology and develop the skills to analyse human behaviour in both individual and group settings.

Academic Content

20 hours of subject-specific academic content per week with an experienced subject tutor, delivered through interactive seminars and hands-on practical workshops.

English Language Level

Students require a minimum English level of B1+ to enrol onto this programme.





About the programme

The Faculty of Psychology gives you two weeks to investigate how the human mind works and how behaviour is shaped. You'll study key areas such as cognitive psychology, developmental psychology and social psychology, exploring how people think, learn and interact.

The course encourages you to question assumptions about behaviour and mental processes. You'll examine theories, analyse case studies and look at the factors that influence personality, decision-making and relationships.

Learning is hands-on as well as theoretical. You'll take part in experiments, group tasks and research exercises that bring psychological concepts to life. These activities build your ability to observe, test and evaluate human behaviour in different contexts.

Collaboration is central to the programme. You'll share ideas with classmates, work in groups to test hypotheses, and receive guidance from tutors who bring academic knowledge and real examples into the classroom.

Studying psychology at Cambridge equips you with insight into the forces that shape human thought and behaviour. The programme strengthens skills that are valuable across many areas, from health and education to business and research.





Key Learning Outcomes

1.

Understand Core Psychological Principles

Gain knowledge of major areas of psychology, including cognition, development and social behaviour, and understand how these fields contribute to the study of the human mind.

2.

Apply Psychological Theories to Real-World Contexts

Use case studies, experiments and observations to connect theory with practical examples, developing the ability to see how psychological concepts operate in everyday life.

3.

Strengthen Research and Analytical Skills

Learn how to design and evaluate psychological investigations, handle data and interpret findings with accuracy and critical judgement.

4.

Develop Communication and Collaboration Skills

Work in groups to test ideas, present findings and debate psychological perspectives, improving both academic communication and teamwork.





Subject Theme

The Challenge Lab

The Cambridge Challenge Lab gives students the chance to turn ideas into action. Over the course of the challenge, you'll take what you've learned in class – concepts, theories, and creative approaches – and put them to the test. Each subject sets its own challenge: scientists run live demos, medics work through clinic simulations, psychologists design social experiments, business students act as consultants, and artists create large-scale installations. English students launch a full publication, taking on the roles of writers, editors, and designers. The Lab becomes a space where experimentation meets presentation, where you'll learn how to move from planning to execution, and from individual thinking to group collaboration. The week culminates in a showcase where projects are demonstrated, performed, or displayed in real time, allowing the audience to see the full journey from theory to practice.





Fundamental concepts

Students are introduced to the central ideas of psychology as a science of behaviour and thought. They learn how hypotheses are formed, how data is collected, and how evidence is analysed to reach conclusions. Ethical awareness is emphasised, showing how psychology balances curiosity with responsibility.

Faculty of Psychology Frameworks

The structure mirrors undergraduate research: pose a research question, design an experiment, gather data, and interpret results. Students work in small groups, with each member responsible for part of the process – whether designing the task, running the experiment, or explaining the findings. The project ends with a live presentation, echoing the way psychological studies are shared at conferences.

Foundational Vocabulary

Hypothesis, variable, control, participant, data, observation, cognition, behaviour, ethics, analysis, conclusion.





Time to Shine

Time to Shine gives every student the chance to practise public speaking in a structured setting. By researching, preparing and delivering a project to an audience, you build confidence in expressing ideas clearly and develop the ability to present with authority. It's an opportunity to refine communication skills that are valuable for academic study, professional life and beyond.

The week culminates in a live social experiment carried out in front of the audience. Students introduce the research question, run the task with volunteers, and then present the results immediately. The format mirrors a research seminar, where findings are shared as soon as they are gathered. It's fast-paced, slightly unpredictable, and gives students the chance to demonstrate how psychological methods work in practice.





Time to Shine Project: Week One

Design an experiment on memory and recall. Students might test how well participants remember a short list of words under different conditions – with music, without music, or after a distraction task. The aim is to illustrate how small changes can influence the way we store and retrieve information.

Time to Shine Project: Week Two

Develop an experiment exploring social influence. For example, students could test how peer responses shape individual decisions, or how group settings affect risk-taking. The findings are then presented to show how everyday behaviour is shaped by subtle pressures.





Case Study

Bridging Theory and Real World Application

Psychological research underpins a wide range of professional fields. In education, studies on memory and attention shape how lessons are structured and how students are assessed. In business, understanding motivation and influence helps companies design marketing strategies and manage teams effectively. In healthcare, psychological theory guides therapies, supports mental health initiatives, and improves patient care. Even in technology, user-experience design relies on cognitive psychology to predict how people interact with apps or websites. By designing and presenting their own experiments, students experience how the methods of psychology are applied in settings as varied as classrooms, clinics, and boardrooms.





Fieldwork Research

Students trial their experiments informally around campus before the showcase, using peers as participants. These trial runs allow them to refine their instructions, spot flaws in design, and adapt methods – an echo of the pilot testing used in academic research. Groups may choose to collect observations in communal spaces, for example noting patterns of group interaction, decision-making, or attention. These observations can guide the design of their formal experiment, linking theory to everyday behaviour.





Academic Difficulty

No prior experience is needed to take part in this subject. Every student is welcome, whether or not they've studied the subject before. Key ideas and terms are introduced step by step, and all materials are provided during the course. The emphasis is on participation, teamwork, and curiosity, so students can contribute fully and grow in confidence as they prepare for the final showcase.





In-Person Programme Benefits

Academic Coaching

Throughout the course, you will receive personalised academic coaching to support your intellectual growth. Our experienced tutors will offer feedback on your research projects, help you refine your analytical skills, and guide you in developing a deeper understanding of social sciences and their applications.

Certificate of Achievement & Reference Letter

On completion of your programme, you will receive a Certificate of Achievement from Dukes Cambridge, recognising the knowledge and skills developed during your studies. A personalised Letter of Reference is also available on request, providing an account of your progress and commitment. Both serve as valuable additions to your academic portfolio.





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