

MSc Psychology – Important information for students with accepted offers for 2024

Congratulations on your offer of a place to study on the MSc Psychology at Oxford Brookes this year! We very much look forward to welcoming you in September. This document contains important information about preparatory reading for your course and also your course induction on Friday 20th September 2024.

Preparatory Reading

We often receive queries from incoming students about how they can best prepare themselves for our Master's course. Lecture content/topics vary from year to year and at Master's level, you can expect most reading you do during the course to be of published papers suggested in association with individual lectures, rather than textbooks. However, the books suggested below might be helpful as an orientation, to familiarise you with some basic principles in Psychology, statistics and research methods. Because textbooks are often expensive and provide a very broad overview (and you should only expect to use these as course preparation) we would suggest that you do not need to buy these books. It would be better to borrow them from libraries or pick up earlier editions of these books (which are often available online at considerably reduced prices compared to the latest editions).

Obviously, we work on the assumption that students have not studied Psychology before and might be tied up with other commitments before they start the course so it is certainly not a requirement to engage with extensive pre-reading. However, if you have time and would like to, then below are suggestions of books from which you can select.

Examples of textbooks for background reading:

- Forsythe, A. (2022). *Fifty Key Thinkers in Psychology*. Routledge.
- Hogg, M.A. & Vaughan, G.M. (2021). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Pearson.
- Goldstein, E. & van Hooff, J. (2020). *Cognitive Psychology*. Cengage.
- Kalat, J.W. (2023). *Biological Psychology* (14th ed.). Cengage Learning.

- Maltby, J., Day, L. & Macaskill, A (2022). Personality, Individual Differences and Intelligence (5th Edition). Pearson.
- Martin, G.N. & Carlson, N.R. (2020). Psychology (6th ed.). Pearson
- Slater, A. & Bremner, G. (2017). An Introduction to Developmental Psychology (3rd ed.). Wiley.

Books to guide your thinking and writing in psychology during the course:

- Parson, V. (2018). Study and communication skills for psychology. Oxford University Press.
- Forshaw, M. (2012) Critical thinking for Psychology: a student guide. BPS Blackwell.
- Leggett, R., Waldeck, D., Burrell, A. (2022). How to Make the Most of your Psychology Degree: Study Skills, Employability and Professional Development. Open University Press.

You might also find it helpful to look at the [online study skills resources](#).

Statistics and research methods

The course statistics textbook is: Navarro DJ and Foxcroft DR (2022). learning statistics with jamovi: a tutorial for psychology students and other beginners. (Version 0.75). DOI: 10.24384/hgc3-7p15

Feedback from previous students suggests that pre-reading of early chapters is very useful preparation. The recommendation is to read chapters 1-5 before the course starts and see if you can also stretch to chapter 6 as well. You can [access the textbook for free online](#).

We understand that for students who are not familiar with statistics some of the material in the statistics textbook may appear complex or confusing just because it is novel. Do not worry – you will not be alone in feeling like that! Remember that we will be going over this material as part of the course and even if it is challenging to make sense of some concepts, any degree of familiarity with even a few of the elements will be useful.

The following books might also be useful:

- Bourne, V. (2017). Starting out in methods and statistics for psychology. Oxford University Press.
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2021). Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide. Sage
- Price, P.C., Jhangiani, R.S., Chiang, I.A., Leighton, D.C, & Cuttler, C. (2017). *Research Methods in Psychology (3rd American Edition)* is available for free online.
- Salsburg, D. (2002). The Lady Tasting Tea: How Statistics Revolutionized Science in the Twentieth Century. Holt.

Course Induction

As part of your Induction to the University we would like to invite you to join our IT orientation workshop on Friday 20th September 2024. This will be an opportunity to check that you can access and engage with the online platforms that will be essential for your teaching and learning once the course starts.

It will also be an opportunity for you to meet your fellow students and some of the staff. Laptops are available on site, but you may find it easier to work on your own devices. If you bring your own devices, you can also bookmark any relevant sites, which might be helpful for you.

We recommend that you install the current version of jamovi on your laptop if you have one – try and do this before the course begins. Guidance is available in the jamovi textbook reading mentioned above (learning statistics with jamovi: a tutorial for psychology students and other beginner), which is available online for free.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Best wishes,

Luci

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