



Psychology & Neuroscience Reading List

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the Psychology & Neuroscience course, and we hope you're looking forward to joining us too!

If you'd like to start exploring the subject ahead of the start of your course, here's a list of resources that will help you engage with some of the ideas you'll be exploring in more depth across the one or two weeks. These are by no means in order of importance and you don't have to look at all of them – let your instinct choose what sounds more interesting to you.

Whether you're doing the one or two week course, the reading list below is applicable!

Psychology is a very broad and varied field, so these will get you thinking about some of the topics we'll be covering in our sessions together.

- **Podcast: Interpersonal Attraction by N of Us** – We'll be looking at the psychology of interpersonal relationships and this podcast will set you up excellently for our discussion on the topic. Covering some major studies, the episode tries to answer the question "why do we fall in love?"

Link: Listen [here](#)

- **Article: The Stanford Prison Experiment by Saul McLeod, PhD** – Perhaps one of the most controversial experiments to take place in the last 50 years or so, the Stanford Prison Experiment raised a range of ethical concerns. As you read through this summary, see if you can identify each of the ethical breaches that took place. Do you think the findings justified the actions of Zimbardo when he was running the experiment?

Link: Read [here](#)

Neuroscience is a fascinating discipline, and I hope these resources will give you a good grounding in the topic before we consider it in more detail in the sessions. If any of the subjects raised in these resources pique your interest, please do conduct your own research into them, and let us know what you've learnt in our classes!

- **Book: The Private Life of the Brain by Susan Greenfield** – How do we become who we are? And what happens when we “lose our minds”? This fascinating book is by no means compulsory to read before our course, but you might like to explore it if you're interested in neuropsychology.
- **Podcast: Brain Science by Ginger Campbell, MD** – As you might expect from a project that's been running since 2006, Brain Science has podcast episodes on just about every aspect of neuroscience. Whether you're looking to learn more about the structure of the brain, the role of surgery in neuroscience or even abstract ideas like consciousness, you'll find an episode to walk you through it.

Link: Listen [here](#)

If you're joining us for two weeks here are some more exciting resources that will push you even further!

- **Book: Elephants on Acid and Other Bizarre Experiments by Alex Boese** – The title says it all on this one, doesn't it? If you're looking for a humorous and readable overview of some of the weirdest experiments in the history of psychology, look no further than this book! You could flick through and pick out the ones that interest you most to read first.
- **Video: Psychotherapy: Sigmund Freud, The School of Life** – If you're interested in studying psychology, the chances are you'll have at least heard of Sigmund Freud already. A unique and, at times, troubling figure, he was arguably instrumental in the development of the modern discipline of psychology. This short video will give you a succinct overview of his psychotherapy approach, putting you in a good position should you want to research his work further.

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **Article: Jean Piaget, *Britannica*** – Jean Piaget's work arguably set the foundations for many fields of psychology, most notably, developmental and cognitive, which we'll be looking at in more detail throughout our sessions together. This article serves as an excellent introduction to the man and his work. Enjoy!

Link: Read [here](#)

Next Steps:

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to our Psychology & Neuroscience course! If you'd like to take your learning to the next level, you're welcome to join one of our other related programmes too – many of our students sign up to multiple programmes as they prepare for their futures. Your options include:

- Our month-long [Psychology & Neuroscience Internships](#) are a great option – you'll gain hands-on experience, co-authoring a paper with an academic researcher on a niche topic or working on a real-life topic with a psychology expert (particularly helpful as work experience can be hard to find!)
- At Oxford Scholastica, we run a residential Oxford Summer School every summer - you might be interested in the [Experience Psychology & Neuroscience Academy](#). This is an immersive, two-week residential experience which takes place on the Oxford University campus – you'll take your understanding of Psychology to the next level while meeting an international community of like-minded students

Other Resources:

Clarity about your future career direction will help you in your academic studies and in your university applications. We've created a quick Careers Test to help you to know what careers might suit you best. You'll then receive a personalised Careers Report, with recommended careers and resources to explore. We hope you'll find it useful!

Try the Test [here](#)

If you know you're applying to university soon, and are keen to stand out from the crowd, we've created a short (free) **University Preparation Report** for you – simply fill in the quick form on this page, and we'll send you subject-specific reading and podcast recommendations, tailored to your interests, to help guide your university preparation.

Take the University Preparation Report [here](#)