COURSE OVERVIEW
The Qualifying Certificate in Psychology is designed to enable students with no previous experience of psychology in higher education to acquire sufficient knowledge and skills to study at FHEQ level 5/6 (second or third year of full-time study) in a UK university. Specifically, the certificate is offered as an entry qualification for the Oxford Brookes University MSc in Psychology, but it also meets the entry requirements for other universities’ psychology conversion courses (60 credit and accumulation transfer scheme (CATS) credits of undergraduate psychology modules).

Students who successfully complete the Qualifying Certificate in Psychology, achieving average marks of 60% or above, will be given priority for places on the MSc in Psychology at Oxford Brookes.

COURSE CONTENT
The course provides the opportunity to study some of the core areas in Psychology:

- Biological Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology

There is some flexibility, subject to course requirements and the mode of study (part-time vs. full time) and start date (September vs. January), to choose the modules you wish to study and at which level (Level 4 vs. Level 5). Level 4 modules in the above areas introduce you to current theories, methodology and findings, whilst the Level 5 modules cover specific topics within the above areas in more depth which reflect our lecturer’s research expertise. The following additional modules are also available to study: Personality and Individual Differences, Learning from Influential Papers and Psychology and Contemporary Issues.

Please note: as courses are reviewed regularly, the choice of modules and timetabling may vary from that shown here.

To pass with the Qualifying Certificate in Psychology you must pass four modules with at least one module from Level 5. Please refer to website for further details.

SEMESTER 1 (SEPT TO DEC)

Level 4
- Foundations of Biological Psychology
- Foundations of Social Psychology
- Psychology and Contemporary Issues

Level 5
- Cognitive Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology

SEMESTER 2 (JAN TO MAY)

Level 4
- Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
- Foundations of Developmental Psychology
- Learning from Influential Papers

Level 5
- Biological Psychology
- Personality and Individual Differences

The SQC in Psychology is a fast-paced and exciting venture, with excellent scope for growth and development. The department is fantastic, research groups are diverse, and there are opportunities to get involved in ongoing projects, even as an SQC student.

I graduated with a BA in Popular Music in 2012 and had since been working in banking. I was apprehensive as to whether my background in a non-science related field was going to be too much of a challenge, however the course is designed perfectly so as to offer a quick integration and exposure to a wide variety of topics, without overloading.

The academic and personal support I have received has been fantastic. The faculty are very approachable and friendly, and it is evident they are passionate about what they do. The promotion of critical and independent thinking is enforced throughout, something that is vital to establish quickly within the SQC.

Alongside my studies I volunteered to work as a research assistant within the department throughout the semester on my free days. I learnt how to prepare an EEG cap and collect and analyze EEG data. This has provided me with the opportunity to potentially publish once the research is complete, whilst also strengthening my post-graduate applications.

I would recommend the course to anyone contemplating whether to apply, it has been one of the best decisions I have made.

Rebecca Atherton
SQC (2016-17)
START DATES
• September and January

COURSE DURATION
• Full-time: 1 semester (4 months)
• Part-time: 2 semesters (8 months)

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE OFFER YOU?
• An introduction to the key areas of Psychology – whether you wish to pursue your studies in psychology or are just interested in finding out more.
• You will be taught using a variety of different teaching methods: lectures, seminars, small group work and group presentations.
• You will develop key academic skills such as reading and reviewing published papers, essay writing, critical analysis and thinking.
• A variety of different assessment methods are used depending upon the module choices made

WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?
• Oxford Brookes offers excellence in teaching and research. The results of the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 showed that 94% of Oxford Brookes research is internationally recognised and in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2017 Oxford Brookes received a Silver award.
• There are opportunities for students to work alongside members of the psychology team as research assistants, gaining invaluable experience in the skills required for effective research.
• The recent and ongoing investment in the Headington Hill campus has resulted in modern learning and teaching spaces for students.
• Students will also benefit from the opportunities the historic city of Oxford has to offer including the libraries, museums, galleries, and lively social and cultural scene.

I worked in industry for 30 years managing teams of people and IT projects and then, aged 50, took the decision to have a complete change of direction! I have always been interested in what makes people “tick” and I initially considered a mentoring qualification, and this brought me to an Oxford Brookes open day. However, once I looked at the MSc Psychology I knew this was what I wanted to do. At that time doing the SQC was a prerequisite for me so I duly applied.

The SQC has provided me with many skills that have supported my MSc study. At the time, I was slightly frustrated by the need to “jump through this hoop”. However, in hindsight I had totally underestimated the transition required from senior manager to post graduate student and the SQC provided an excellent foundation of knowledge and skills. From basics like how to find, read and critically analyse research papers to learning how to write and develop a compelling argument supported by empirical evidence, the SQC has proved to be time and money well spent. In all honesty, I think I would have really struggled on the MSc without this prior experience.

I would highly recommend the SQC to anyone who is considering the MSc Psychology with no previous psychology qualifications, or for those whose academic experiences are in the dim and distant past. Throughout, I have thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience at Oxford Brookes with approachable and professional lecturers and a great environment and facilities, and I will miss being part of this vibrant community.

Fiona Langlands
SQC (2014-15) and MSc Psychology (2015-17)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants are welcome from any academic discipline. The admission requirement is a university degree.
Please also see the university's general entry requirements.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
You should have English as your first language, or GCSE or O-level English Language, or an IELTS score of 7.0, or equivalent evidence of proficiency in English. Please also see the university's standard English language requirements.

HOW TO APPLY
Applications for the Short Qualifying Course in Psychology should be made to the University Admissions Office.

Your completed application should consist of:
- Application form, fully completed and signed
- Personal statement (section 10 of application form)
- One recent academic reference
- Second reference (academic, employer or character reference)
- Copy of degree certificate(s) and/or course transcripts
- English Language Certificate (if appropriate)

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICE
Oxford Brookes University
Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1865 483040
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 483983
Email: admissions@brookes.ac.uk

All information is correct at the time of going to press. Please refer to the University’s website for the most up-to-date details. Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.