



Oxford Neuroscience Experience Application 2026

Guidance Notes for Teachers

The University of Oxford Neuroscience Experience Programme is for Year 12 students at Oxfordshire schools who are interested in brain research and are planning to go to university.

Applicants must fill in the application form at www.neuroscience.ox.ac.uk/oxford-neuroscience-experience and then ask their teacher to send a reference to barbara.robinson@ndcn.ox.ac.uk.

1. Teacher Reference

For each application, we require a short reference written by a teacher, ideally a person involved in writing the student's UCAS reference. Please use this reference to indicate those students who would benefit most from such an opportunity and may not otherwise have access to this type of experience.

2. Selection Criteria

Applications will be judged on the extent to which students will benefit from the programme, and how it relates to their current course of study.

Successful applicants do not necessarily need the highest GCSE grades. They do need to be interested in the brain, and they must be studying at least one of the following subjects at A-level: maths, biology, chemistry, physics, or psychology.

3. Number of Places

There are 24 places available on the five-day programme. The first day of the programme will be an introduction to neuroscience and psychiatry. After this, the programme will split into two streams: (1) Investigating the brain in health and disease and (2) The science of mental health. Students will be asked to mark their preference on their application form.

Of the 24 places, one will be provisionally reserved for a student from each of the state secondary schools in the Oxford area (Greyfriars, Oxford Spires Academy, The Oxford Academy, Cheney, Cherwell, Swan, Matthew Arnold, Gosford Hill, Wheatley Park).

If no suitable candidate is put forward for any one of these places, we will open them out to the general pool, along with the remaining places.

4. Leave of Absence

Please indicate in the reference that, if successful, the student will be allowed out of school to attend the programme.

If you have any questions, please contact barbara.robinson@ndcn.ox.ac.uk.