



Careers in Psychology

For general information on what you can do with a Psychology visit the [targetjobs](#) and [Prospects](#) websites.

You can also find further information on the [BPS Careers webpage](#).

Clinical Psychology

Clinical psychologists deal with a wide range of mental and physical health problems including addiction, anxiety, depression, learning difficulties and relationship issues. They may undertake a clinical assessment to investigate a client's situation. There are a variety of methods available including psychometric tests, interviews and direct observation of behaviour. Assessment may lead to advice, counselling or therapy.

Places of Work

Public health and social care settings are the most common places of work e.g. the NHS. However, there are a selection of private organisations you could also work for. Examples of settings include hospitals, health centres, community mental health teams, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and social services.

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- Complete a 3-year postgraduate course to get a Doctorate in the area of Clinical Psychology.
- For Clinical Psychology you will need to apply through Clearing House for Postgraduate Courses in Clinical Psychology www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp/.
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) to be able to use your title and the Doctorate you complete must be approved by the HCPC.

Further Information about Clinical Psychology

- BPS YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDyQd1zUsdA
- NHS Careers Website: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/psychological-therapies/ - select "Careers in psychological therapies".
- Prospects.ac.uk: www.prospects.ac.uk/clinical_psychologist_job_description.htm
- National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/Pages/default.aspx> - search for Clinical Psychology.
- ICould Career Videos: icould.com/videos/claire-c/

Educational Psychology

Educational psychology is concerned with children and young people in educational and early years settings. Educational psychologists tackle challenges such as learning difficulties, social and emotional problems, issues around disability as well as more complex developmental disorders. They work in a variety of ways including observations, interviews and assessments and offer consultation, advice and support to teachers, parents, the wider community as well as the young people concerned. They research innovative ways of helping vulnerable young people and often train teachers, learning support assistants and others working with children.

Places of Work

Educational psychologists mainly work within the public sector but some do work for private companies. Most common areas include:

- Local Education Authorities - schools, colleges, nurseries etc.
- Special units.
- Community environments.

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree Psychology or complete a psychology conversion course.
- Complete a 3-year postgraduate course to get a Doctorate in the area of Educational Psychology.
- For Educational Psychology you will need to apply through the Association of Educational Psychologists: <http://www.aep.org.uk/training/>
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](http://www.hcpc.org.uk/) to be able to use your title.

Further Information about Educational Psychology

- Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/educational_psychologist_job_description.htm
- British Psychological Society: careers.bps.org.uk/area/educational
- Association of Educational Psychologists: www.aep.org.uk/careers/

Occupational Psychology

Occupational psychologists work in the world of work and aim to increase the effectiveness of organisations and improve the job satisfaction of employees. Occupational Psychologists apply their broad spectrum of knowledge and cover diverse fields, including ergonomics, personnel management, time management, personal development and training. Work can be in advisory, teaching and research roles and collaborating with other departments such as HR, training, careers, management etc. is common.

Places of Work

The Civil Service is one of the largest employers of Occupational Psychologists. However, many public and private sector organisations also employ Occupational Psychologists including the Royal Mail, Universities, banks and psychometric test publishers.

Civil Service organisations include:

- Department of Work and Pensions
- Ministry of Defence
- Civil Service
- Home Office
- HM Prison Service
- Consultancy firms

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- BPS accredited Master's in Occupational Psychology.
- Complete a 3-year postgraduate course to get a Doctorate in the area of psychology you are interested in. You can look for accredited courses on the BPS website here: <https://www.bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist/accredited-courses?type=CONV>
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) to be able to use your title.

Further Information about Occupational Psychology

- Prospects.ac.uk: www.prospects.ac.uk/occupational_psychologist_job_description.htm
- British Psychological Society: careers.bps.org.uk/area/occupational
- Brunel University: www.brunel.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/161932/Occupational-Psychology-Careers.pdf
- Civil Service: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/civil-service-government-occupational-psychology-profession/about
- Targetjobs: targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/hr-and-recruitment/284847-occupational-psychology-area-of-work
- Gradireland: gradireland.com/careers-advice/job-descriptions/occupational-psychologist
- Plotr: <https://guest.startprofile.com/role/2182>

Counselling Psychology

Counselling psychologists deal with a wide range of mental health problems concerning life issues including bereavement, domestic violence, sexual abuse, traumas and relationship issues. They understand diagnosis and the medical context to mental health problems and work with the individual's unique subjective psychological experience to empower their recovery and alleviate distress.

Counselling psychologists are a relatively new type of applied psychologists concerned with the integration of psychological theory and research with therapeutic practice. The practice of counselling psychology requires a high level of self-awareness and competence in relating the skills and knowledge of personal and interpersonal dynamics to the therapeutic context.

Places of Work

Counselling Psychologists work in:

- Hospitals
- Health Centres
- Community Mental Health Teams
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Private hospitals, practices and companies
- Forensic settings
- Education

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- Complete a 3-year postgraduate course to get a Doctorate in the area of Counselling Psychology. You can look for accredited courses on the BPS website here: <https://www.bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist/accredited-courses?type=CONV>
- OR the BPS' Qualification in Counselling Psychology (QCoP) which can be found on their website: <https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/society-qualifications/qualification-counselling-psychology>
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](http://www.hpc-uk.org) <http://www.hpc-uk.org> to be able to use your title.

Further Information about Counselling Psychology

- Prospects.ac.uk: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/counselling_psychologist_job_description.htm
- British Psychological Society: careers.bps.org.uk/area/counselling
- NHS Careers: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/psychological-therapies/careers-in-psychological-therapies/psychologist/counselling-psychologist/
- National Career Service: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/counsellor.aspx

Forensic Psychology

Forensic psychologists play a key role in the investigation, assessment and treatment of criminal behaviour and those who commit crime. The word forensic is defined as "the scientific method for investigation of crime". Forensic Psychology is often described as a mix of law and psychology.

The daily key tasks for forensic psychologists may include; piloting and implementing treatment programmes, modifying offender behaviour, responding to the changing needs of staff and prisoners as well as reducing stress for staff and prisoners. Forensic psychologists also provide hard research evidence to support practice, including undertaking statistical analysis for prisoner profiling, giving evidence in court plus advising parole boards and mental health tribunals.

Places of Work

HM Prison Service is the main place of work for forensic psychologists. However other places could be:

- Probation services
- NHS and private hospitals
- Police services
- Social services
- Higher education institutions

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- A BPS accredited Master's in Forensic Psychology.
- 2 year's supervised practice to complete Stage 2 of the BPS' Qualification in Forensic Psychology. OR you can complete a Doctorate in Forensic Psychology instead of doing the Master's and Stage 2.
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) to be able to use your title.

Further Information about Forensic Psychology

- Prospects.ac.uk: www.prospects.ac.uk/forensic_psychologist.htm
- National Careers Service: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/forensicpsychologist.aspx
- Open University: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsXGwSZazwA
- British Psychological Society: careers.bps.org.uk/area/forensic

Neuro Psychology

Neuropsychologists work with people of all ages dealing with patients who have had traumatic brain injury, strokes, toxic and metabolic disorders, tumours and neurodegenerative diseases. Neuropsychologists require not only general clinical skills and knowledge of the broad range of mental health problems, but also a substantial degree of specialist knowledge in the neurosciences. Neuropsychology is a post qualification discipline, in which you first need to be a Chartered Psychologist within the field of clinical or educational psychology. The clinical side of neuropsychology overlaps with academic neuropsychology, which provides a scientific understanding of the relationship between brain and neuropsychological function.

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- Complete a postgraduate course that will give you eligibility for membership as a Chartered Psychologist through the Clinical or Educational training route mentioned above. You can look for accredited courses on the BPS [website](#).
- Complete the BPS' Qualification in Clinical Neuropsychology.
- You will then be eligible to register onto the BPS' Specialist Register of Clinical Neuropsychologists.

Sport and Exercise Psychology

Examples of the work sport psychologists carry out include counselling referees to deal with the stressful and demanding aspects of their role, advising coaches on how to build cohesion within their squad of athletes, and helping athletes with personal development and the psychological consequences of sustaining an injury.

Examples of the work that exercise psychologists do include optimising the benefits that can be derived from exercise participation and helping individual clients with the implementation of goal setting strategies.

Practitioners typically specialise in either the sport or exercise branches, though some work equally in both fields.

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- A BPS accredited Master's in Sport and Exercise Psychology.
- 2 year's supervised practice to complete Stage 2 of the BPS' Qualification in Sport and Exercise Psychology.
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) to be able to use your title.

Further Information about Sport and Exercise Psychology

- BASES: <https://www.bases.org.uk/spage-divisions-psychology.html>
- Prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/leisure-sport-and-tourism/how-to-become-a-sport-psychologist>
- BPS: <http://careers.bps.org.uk/area/sport-exercise>

Health Psychology

Health psychologists use their psychology and health knowledge to promote general well-being and understand physical illness. They are specially trained to help people deal with the psychological and emotional aspects of health and illness as well as supporting people who are chronically ill.

Health psychologists promote healthier lifestyles and try to find ways to encourage people to improve their health. For example, they may help people to lose weight or stop smoking. Health psychologist also uses their skills to try to improve the healthcare system. For example, they may advise doctors about better ways to communicate with their patients.

Places of Work

- Hospitals and community health settings
- Health research units
- Local authorities
- Public health departments
- University departments
- Consultancy companies may also employ health psychologists to provide expertise such as training, research or intervention skills

Entry Requirements:

- 2:1 or above in a BPS accredited undergraduate degree or complete a psychology conversion course.
- Complete a Master's degree in Health Psychology and then one of the following "Stage 2" doctoral-level qualifications:
 - The Society's Qualification in Health Psychology Stage 2 (QHP Stage 2)
 - A Society accredited Doctorate in Health Psychology
- You must register for the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) to be able to use your title and the Doctorate you complete must be approved by the HCPC.

Further Information about Health Psychology

- British Psychological Society: careers.bps.org.uk/area/health
- NHS Careers: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/psychological-therapies/careers-in-psychological-therapies/psychologist/health-psychologist/

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