PSYCHOLOGY CAREERS

ESSEX PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES GO ON TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN A VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONS.

Check on Prospects for more ideas of where your psychology degree could take you:

www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology

BECOMING A PSYCHOLOGIST

A BPS accredited Psychology degree (which the Psychology degrees at Essex are) is just the first step in qualifying as a Psychologist. To practise as a Psychologist in the UK, you must also have completed an approved postgraduate training programme (usually a doctorate) to enable you to register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

If you are doing a degree in something else but would like to become a Psychologist, there are 1 year MSc conversion courses, including the MSc Psychology at Essex. Essex also has accredited programmes for Clinical Psychology and Sport & Exercise Psychology.

There are 8 areas in which you can become a Chartered Psychologist:

- Clinical Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Occupational Psychology
- Neuropsychology (through Clinical or Educational)

Pursue a career in Academic Research and Teaching in Psychology

Find out more about the professional Psychology routes on the British Psychological Society (BPS) website at careers.bps.org.uk.

Educational Psychology also has a professional Body, the Association of Educational Psychologists, who provide careers and training information www.aep.org

www.essex.ac.uk/see/careerhub
WORK EXPERIENCE

It is unusual to progress straight from a BPS accredited degree or Master’s to professional training as a Psychologist. Relevant work experience is usually required, both during your studies and often for a minimum of 1 year full time afterwards. All of the areas of Psychology have their own requirements, as do different institutions, which you can check through the careers resources on the BPS website.

It’s not an expectation that you get direct experience as a Psychologist as without professional qualifications, this isn’t possible. While a few candidates will manage to get an Assistant Psychologist role, this isn’t achievable for everyone. Any experience where you are learning about the issues people bring, how to communicate and support them effectively and becoming familiar with how to work as part of a team to help people will be valuable.

When deciding what type of experience to get, think about the client group you would like to support in your career, the environment you would like to work in and the issues you would like to be dealing with. You can then research organisations you could apply to.

Examples of organisations include (but are not limited to):

- Mental Health charities such as MIND www.mind.org.uk or the Samaritans www.samaritans.org/volunteer-us
- Care facilities for specific client groups (search www.yell.com in your local area)
- Social justice organisations such as NACRO www.nacro.org.uk or organisations helping ex-offenders such as St Gile’s Trust www.stgilestrust.org.uk
- ChildLine www.nspcc.org.uk
- University of Essex Nightline www.essex.ac.uk/students/health-and-wellbeing/nightline.aspx
- Support roles in schools (often advertised by local authorities), educational charities or other organisations supporting children www.charityjob.co.uk
- Sport coaching, training or experience with sport clubs careers-in-sport.co.uk
- Volunteering Matters www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk
- Do-IT www.do-it.org.uk volunteer database

CAREERS WITH PSYCHOLOGY

- Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP) www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/psychological-wellbeing-practitioner
- Counselling Prospects job profile www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/counsellor
- Psychotherapy Prospects job profile www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/psychotherapist
- Human Resources Prospects job profile www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/human-resources-officer
- Assistant Psychologist Posts www.jobs.nhs.uk NHS Jobs
- The British Psychological Society www.jobsinpsychology.co.uk
  The British Psychological Society careers page has graduate opportunities (you need to be a member of the BPS to view the vacancies in full)
- HM Prison and Probation Service www.prisonandprobationjobs.gov.uk
  Vacancy search page
- Ergonomics and Human Factors Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors careers advice www.ergonomics.org.uk
- Marketing There are a broad range of careers for Psychology graduates in traditional and digital marketing. Explore the sector using www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/marketing-advertising-and-p

All our handouts and information leaflets are available in other formats on request. The Employability and Careers Centre makes this information available in order to help students and graduates make well informed choices regarding employment opportunities, postgraduate study options and career paths. We make every effort to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date but can accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

2018/19