

At the Craigie Partnership, we often get requests for advice and information about careers in psychology. We have put together a list of websites and further information that we hope will be helpful.

Careers in Psychology

What type of psychology should I go for?

- There are nine areas you can specialise in: Clinical, Counselling, Educational, Forensic, Health, Neuropsychology, Occupational Psychology, Sport & Exercise, and Teachers & Researchers.
- For more information on each one visit: <http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/how-become-psychologist/types-psychologists/types-psychologists>

How long will it take me to train as a psychologist?

- On average, it takes about 7 years. If you need to take a conversion course it will probably take longer than this. However, most training routes involve working as you progress.

What Undergraduate degree should I go for?

- There are many undergraduate Psychology degrees in Britain, some of which are joint honours, others single honours. To become any kind of chartered Psychologist, it is best that your undergraduate degree be accredited by the British Psychological Society. You can check which courses are accredited here: <http://www.bps.org.uk/bpslegacy/ac>. Note that even if a course is accredited it may have further conditions, like taking certain modules. You will need to have passed an accredited course to go straight on to do a Postgraduate Psychology course. There are conversion courses available if you have not done an accredited undergraduate degree.

What do I need to get onto a Postgraduate course?

- Normally a 2.1 or higher grade from an accredited undergraduate course is required. Most postgraduate courses will also want you to have had some relevant working experience, whether voluntary or paid.
- If your undergraduate degree was not accredited, or you want to change from a different career into Psychology, you will need to take a conversion course before doing a postgraduate course. A list of these can be found here:
http://www.bps.org.uk/bpslegacy/ac?frmAction=results&CourseType=CONV&Search_Type=NC

How does the funding work for a postgraduate degree?

- Some courses are funded by the National Health Service, and others you will need to secure funding for through other organisations, possibly a loan that you will have to pay back. Most postgraduate students also work part-time to help with living costs.

What will the working hours and pay be like?

- This depends on who you work for. This could be the NHS, a private practice or you could be self-employed. Private practice is sometimes (but not always) paid more, and being self-employed can mean you will need to find clients yourself which can be challenging.
- The salaries of psychologists vary greatly. Overall though, the more hours you work, the more you will earn.

Do I have to be a chartered psychologist before I get my first job?

- During your postgraduate degree you will get placements in an environment similar to the one you will later be working in. You will be supervised during these placements.
- You will not be allowed to work on your own and refer to yourself as a registered/chartered psychologist before you are fully qualified. However, there are many volunteering and paid jobs around that will help you gain some experience with working with people and boosting your CV, and shadowing opportunities are sometimes available which will allow you to see a psychologist at work. Be aware however that shadowing opportunities are quite rare due to confidentiality.

For more information, visit the following sites:

www.bps.org.uk

www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/careers-education-and-training

www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/professions/practitionerpsychologists

www.careersinpsychology.co.uk

For more information about the work of the Craigie Partnership, visit:

www.craigiepartnership.co.uk

www.edinburghpsychologyservices.co.uk

www.edinburghcoachingservices.co.uk

We would like to acknowledge the work of Ellen Carracher for helping compile this information for the Craigie Partnership.

Please note, all references to third party sites are not the responsibility of the Craigie Partnership and we cannot guarantee that the information is current and accurate. This information is a guide only.