

# PSYCHOLOGY

## **Overview**

There is a wide range of careers for psychology students to explore, while the obvious option might appear to be a psychologist, only around 15% of psychology students’ progress onto the training to become a chartered psychologist. There is more detailed information on the SPCLS Blackboard in PCLS UG Careers section.

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information. All will require relevant work experience and some, further study.

* [Assistant Psychologist](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/assistant-clinical-psychologist)
* [Psychological wellbeing practitioner](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/psychological-wellbeing-practitioner)
* [Counsellor](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/counsellor)
* [Further education teacher](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/further-education-teacher)
* [Higher education Lecturer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/higher-education-lecturer)
* [Higher Education Careers Adviser](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/higher-education-careers-adviser)
* [Careers adviser](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/careers-adviser)
* [Speech and language therapist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/speech-and-language-therapist%22%20%5Co%20%22speech%20and%20language%20therapist)
* [Special educational needs teacher](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/special-educational-needs-teacher)
* [Teacher (primary)](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/primary-school-teacher)
* [Health Promotion Specialist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/health-promotion-specialist)
* [Social Worker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/social-worker)
* [Mental Health Social Worker](https://thinkahead.org/)
* [Probation Officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/probation-officer)
* [Intelligence analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/intelligence-analyst)
* [User Experience Researcher (UX Research)](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/ux-researcher)
* [Public Relations](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/marketing-advertising-and-pr)
* [Charity Officer/Fundraiser](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/charity-and-voluntary-work)
* [Marketing](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/marketing-advertising-and-pr)
* [Events Manager](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/hospitality-and-events-management)
* [Social Researcher](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/social-researcher)
* [Government social research officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/government-social-research-officer)
* [Management Consultant](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/management-consultant)
* [Human resources and recruitment](https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/hr-and-recruitment/advice)
* [Market researcher](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/market-researcher)
* Creative Therapies e.g. [Art](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/art-therapist) / [Drama](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/dramatherapist) / [Music](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/music-therapist)

You can view additional job roles by using the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology) and [Indeed.com](https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/what-you-can-do-with-a-psychology-degree) websites.

### **Psychologist Careers**

Your psychology degree, in combination with relevant work experience, offers you the foundation to progress onto the masters and/or doctoral level study required to become a psychologist:

* [Clinical psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/clinical-psychologist)
* [Educational psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/educational-psychologist)
* [Counselling psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/counselling-psychologist)
* [Occupational psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/occupational-psychologist)
* [Forensic psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/forensic-psychologist)
* [Health psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/health-psychologist)
* [Sport and exercise psychologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/sport-and-exercise-psychologist)

All psychologist routes will require doctoral level study and a requirement to get onto these courses will be relevant work experience, some may also require a Masters. If you are interested in becoming a psychologist, it is vital to start gaining relevant work experience as an undergraduate.

## **Building Experience**

* Build work experience for example through [Campus Jobs](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Campus-Jobs) or [securing an internship](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/)
* Find volunteering opportunities such as [Reading Voluntary Action](http://rva.org.uk/) and [Reading Students' Union](https://readingsu.co.uk/student-opportunities/volunteering-and-fundraising)
* Apply for a paid research internship [UROP](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/UROP) (penultimate year students only)
* Apply for the [Reading Internship Scheme](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/RIS) – these are paid summer opportunities with local employers which are exclusive to UoR students. These opportunities, and many others are advertised on [My Jobs Online](https://reading.targetconnect.net/home.html)
* Get a [Thrive mentor](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/Mentoring/THRIVE) and build a relationship with a professional (penultimate year students only)
* Get involved in a society: look at the full list of [societies](https://readingsu.co.uk/student-opportunities/societies) for one aligned to your interests
* If you are thinking about teaching as a possible career, you could consider volunteering for the University’s [Students in Schools](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Opportunities/Volunteering/Students-in-Schools) scheme.

## **Finding Opportunities**

**Education**

[Get Into Teaching](https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/) | [Department for Education](https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses) | [Routes into Teaching](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education/routes-into-teaching) | [PGCE](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education/pgce)

**Charity**

[Charity Choice](https://www.charitychoice.co.uk/) | [Charity Job](https://www.charityjob.co.uk/) | [Third Sector Jobs](https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/)

**Public Sector**

[Civil Service Jobs](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi) | [Local Government Jobs](https://www.lgjobs.com/) | [Intelligence Services](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-enforcement-and-security/intelligence-services-careers-for-graduates)

**Further Study/Research**

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [Find a Masters](https://www.findamasters.com/) | [Find a PhD](https://www.findaphd.com/)

**Graduate Jobs**

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-jobs).com

## **Exploring Further**

There are many professional bodies associated with these areas which can provide useful information for example, [The British Psychological Society](https://www.bps.org.uk/) and the [UK Council for Psychotherapy](https://www.psychotherapy.org.uk/).

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!