

LINKING PSYCHOLOGY WITH CAREERS

2019/20

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and its causes in biological, behavioural, social and cognitive terms. There are many specialisms within psychology, which offer diverse career options for psychologists. As well as specialising in areas such as health and forensics, a psychology background is useful in PR and marketing, sales, design, policy research and even finance.

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What workplace skills does psychology develop?



Reasoning: There are many jobs where you'll need to look at the reasons behind people's behaviour, from customer service, marketing, retail and sales.

Research: Journalists, engineers, teachers, archaeologists, librarians, museum staff and cyber security specialists all rely on their research skills.

Data analysis: Data analysis is key to careers in software engineering, sound production, medicine and marketing.

And one you might not have thought of...

Adaptability: Being adaptable is an asset to many employers, who value staff who can switch from tasks quickly and adapt to changing circumstances. Particularly valuable for teachers, medics and social workers.



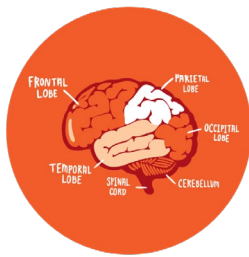
What jobs can you get with psychology?

Educational psychologist: Study psychology up to degree level, making sure your course is registered with the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC).

Counsellor: Study psychology A-level then a degree in psychology, counselling or psychotherapy. You can also take a separate certificate and then a diploma in counselling later on.

UX researcher: A-level psychology will help you in this careers, but you can take a wide range of degree subject such as psychology, computer science, human-centred interaction, design or web design and development.

Apply for an apprenticeship... or go to university?



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships for students who want to pursue a psychology career

include: playworker, healthcare science assistant, paralegal, teaching assistant, community health and sport assistant, social media and marketing apprentice, press office assistant, project management apprentice

University

About 15% of 2017 graduates went into jobs as legal, social or welfare professionals such as drug support worker and youth recruitment welfare officer. Just under 15% of psychology graduates went into work in childcare, health or education.

About a quarter go into further study, specialising in master's courses like mental health nursing, language and the brain, and occupational psychology.

What did psychology do for them?

"As a consultant, you're constantly working on new projects, having to integrate into new teams fast, picking up new skills and delivering value immediately to justify the high rates you are being billed out at. This can be very difficult, but after operating outside of my comfort zone constantly for over two years, I am now very happy working [in this way]."



—Lori, software development consultant at IBM. [Read full interview here.](#)

"At work I use my knowledge of psychology during the data collection stages. I retrieve data from computerised systems, service users' written records, pathology labs, consultants, service users and carers. Having studied psychology, I understand clinical terms / references, annotations, any therapies that are mentioned, diagnoses, and the different services."

—Sophie, clinical audit / quality improvement advisor at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



"When I studied psychology, we did a module on research methods, which included a chapter on data handling and analysis. This has helped me a lot in my current role. For example, we have to be audited, and I used the analysis skills I gained through learning the differences between quantitative and qualitative data."

—Millie, audit technician trainee at National Audit Office. [Read full interview here.](#)


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