Psychology

Chartered psychologists work within both the Public and private sectors of the economy. The largest number is to be found in the Health (within both the NHS and other private providers) and Education sectors. There are also opportunities within penal institutions and the sporting industry. However the majority work within commercial settings, for example, Retail, Advertising and Consultancy, but they are not likely to be called a ‘psychologist’.

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further pre-assessed useful information.

- Clinical Psychologist
- Counselling Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Occupational Psychologist
- Sport and Exercise Psychologist
- Health Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Wellbeing Practitioner (IAPT)
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Psychotherapist
- HR Officer
- Training and Development Officer
- Marketing Executive
- Social Worker
- Medicine
- Physicians Associate profession opportunity
- Secondary School Teacher
- Solicitor

Finding Opportunities

Most of the above roles require postgraduate study. Chartered Psychologists and other professional therapists will have a professional postgraduate training course, often a doctorate, in their desired specialism. The BPS website linked above describes these routes clearly. Competition is fierce and often requires work experience (either paid or frequently voluntary) to gain insights. Client facing experience is crucial whether as an Assistant Psychologist, or at a lower level as it helps you commit to the career route and demonstrates your commitment.

Networking with professional psychologists can help you to find opportunities, try the BPS LinkedIn groups. Using volunteering websites is helpful too. You can find contacts via Careers, via your tutors and course peers and could consider joining the Thrive mentoring scheme. Those interested in education could try tutoring via the University’s Students in Schools programme, or you could contact your old schools for work shadowing.

For those interested in teaching, being a solicitor or social work typically need specialist postgraduate training, although TeachFirst, Think Ahead and Frontline provide professional training on the job. Teacher training options can be looked into on the Department for Education website.

Access this page and more options at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources
For Higher Education Teaching and Research a higher degree, Masters and/or PhD, in the relevant subject would be required. Prospective solicitors typically seek to obtain a training position with the larger firms who sponsor you for legal professional training courses (GDL, and LPC). However the majority self-fund their studies. Most marketing trainees will gain a professional qualification part-time whilst working.

For opportunities, try My Jobs Online and these links:
- Psychologist Appointments
- Job vacancies in the NHS
- Jobs.ac.uk – Higher Education vacancies
- Civil Service recruitment website

Some websites for professional training.
- Clearing House for Postgraduate Training Courses in Clinical Psychology
- Educational Psychology funded courses
- Law Conversion courses (GDL)
- Teaching and Social Work courses

Useful websites for finding volunteer opportunities within the community.
- RVA (Local opportunities)
- Local opportunities organised by RUSU
- www.do-it.org.uk
- Turning Point
- VInspired

Further Reading
- Health Care Professions Council
- Association of Educational Psychologists
- The Higher Education Academy Psychology Network
- Information for aspiring Clinical Psychologists
- NHS Improving Access to Psychological Therapies and NHS Careers
- HM Prison Service
- Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
- For Solicitors: Solicitors Regulation Authority and Law Careers.Net