



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Careers Service

Your Path to... Psychology

You're studying for a **BA Psychology** and would like to become a qualified Psychologist.

How do I become a Psychologist?

There are two types of membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI). The first stage is Graduate Membership, which is based on having completed an accredited undergraduate degree (e.g., BA Psychology from NUIG) and having gained at least a Second Class Honours.

The second stage is Registered Membership – based on having **at least 4 years** postgraduate study, training or work experience. A 2-year accredited postgraduate course can count for up to 2 years of the required experience. *If the course is not accredited it can only count for up to 9 nine months experience.*

The PSI's list of accredited courses is updated online as accreditation is awarded. In September 2006, the list includes: Clinical Psychology –TCD, UCD, Counselling Psychology – UCC, TCD, and Educational Psychology –UCD. See http://www.psihq.ie/accred_PostGradList.asp for updates.

Courses in Ireland include (see www.psihq.ie/training_careerGuide.asp for updates):

- Clinical Psychology –TCD, UCD, NUIG, UL, QUB
- Counselling Psychology – UCC, TCD, UU
- Educational Psychology –UCD, QUB
- Forensic Psychology – UCC
- Health Psychology – no course in Ireland but can do research in area to help career.
- Neuropsychology – no course in Ireland but can do research in area to help career.
- Organisational Psychology – DCU, UCD, QUB
- Sports (and Exercise) Psychology – no course in Ireland but can do research in area to help career.
- Psychological Research – NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, UCD, UCC, TCD, QUB, UU, OU

The Careers Service has information files and books that give some indication of the differences between these areas of psychology. Check our Occupations Section (file B3) in the information room or go to our website at www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/occupations_b.html

Will non-Irish qualifications be recognised?

Applicants with non-national qualifications should apply to the Department of Health and Children for validation of the qualification at 01-635 4580 or validation_unit@health.irg.gov.ie Applications for Graduate Membership from those educated outside Ireland will be considered by the PSI on an individual basis.

If you wish to take a course in the UK, ensure that it is accredited by the British Psychological Society (**BPS**). There are 156 postgraduate courses accredited by the BPS including:

- 4 Neuropsychology course providers
- 1 Sport & Exercise Psychology course provider (University of Wales Bangor)
- 13 Forensic Psychology course providers
- 34 Clinical Psychology course providers
- 10 Counselling Psychology course providers
- 19 Occupational Health Psychology course providers
- 23 Health Psychology course providers
- 16 Educational Psychology course providers

Requirements for Psychology specialisms:*

Child Psychologist - There is no direct qualification leading to “child psychologist”. You either need to train as a Clinical psychologist then specialise in children, or train in Educational psychology to work with children in education.

Clinical Psychology - Ireland: you can enhance your chances of a place with a minimum 2.1 grade degree and obtaining further research or academic experience relevant to the field of clinical psychology. This can be by way of voluntary or paid work. UK: 3 years full time. Gaining a place on a training course means you become an employee of the NHS as a trainee Clinical psychologist. This is very competitive and the universities that offer these courses look for students with some relevant experience as well as an accredited degree. Examples of experience are that of 'assistant psychologist' or 'research assistant'. More information on courses from Clearing House for Postgraduate Courses in Clinical Psychology <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp/applyhowform.htm>

Counselling Psychology – Ireland: enhance chances of a place by achieving a high grade at undergraduate level and demonstrating an interest in the area through research relevant to counselling psychology. It is also useful to gain experience working with people in a therapeutic setting and to engage in personal development work. UK: 3 years. Some courses may require a basic counselling skills course.

Educational Psychology in Ireland: a primary degree in psychology, and commonly a teacher training qualification is required. Enhance chances of a place by gaining teaching experience or experience working with young people in an educational setting. Working with students with disabilities would also be helpful.

In England/Wales: from 2006 all post-graduate training programmes in Educational Psychology are 3-year professional doctorates. Apply directly to universities offering courses. Relevant experience required. NI: QUB 3-year doctorate
Scotland: 2 year MSc plus 1 year supervised practice.

Forensic Psychology – Ireland: only available in UCC. UK: 1-year MSc plus stage 2 BPS Diploma Forensic Psychology. Contact individual universities to find out about relevant work experience.

Health Psychology – Ireland: There are currently no courses in Ireland. UK: 1 year MSc plus Stage 2 BPS qualification in Health Psychology.

Organisational / Occupational Psychology – Ireland: enhance your chances by obtaining at least a 2.1 in your degree and gaining work experience in a company’s HR dept. Training in communication skills or psychometrics with research experience in a relevant area can also be beneficial. UK: MSc and 2 years supervised work experience.

Sport Psychology – Ireland: There are currently no accredited courses in Ireland, but it is possible to complete a postgraduate degree by research in an area of sports psychology and this can help you to develop a career in the area. UK: 1-year MSc plus 2 years supervised work experience. Contact course tutors for a profile of the type of experience a successful applicant will have gained. You should find that coaching; fitness and exercise instruction and PE teaching would be beneficial. See The British Association for Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES).

Research Psychology / Lecturer – Ireland & UK: research experience or qualifications will be necessary, for example a MA or Ph.D. Enhance chances of a place on a programme by getting experience teaching psychology (e.g., a tutor during the course of postgraduate study).

* based on tips from PSI and BPS websites.

I need help with applying

The Careers Service runs a series of seminars and workshops during term. Some that may interest include ‘Careers in Psychology’ and ‘Options with Psychological Studies’, or our CV/Interview Techniques workshops. A full list of events can be viewed online at www.nuigalway.ie/careers/events.html or pick up a brochure from the Careers Service.

Useful Contacts

PSI - Psychological Society of Ireland	www.psihq.ie
NUI Galway - Psychology Dept	www.nuigalway.ie/psy/
BPS - British Psychological Society	www.bps.org.uk/careers
Clearing House for Postgrad Courses in Clinical Psychology	www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp/index.htm
Psychclick	www.psychclick.org.uk

The Careers Service offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Service does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information.