



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Your Path to... Psychology - 2

You're studying for a **BA in Psychological Studies** or another course but would like to become a qualified Psychologist.

How do I become a Psychologist?

To be eligible for membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) you must take an undergraduate course accredited by them. Certain courses run by Irish universities / institutions are also recognised as bringing your existing degree up to the same standards as a recognised Degree in Psychology. *Check with individual Admissions Offices to confirm closing dates for all courses listed and to get application forms. Some forms may be available on the University's websites.*

National University of Ireland, Galway: Higher Diploma in Psychology for BA Psychological Studies graduates only (1 year). Also 2-year HDip for graduates with other degrees. 8 places on each. Closing date for both programmes: 4th May 2007. Apply through www.pac.ie information@:www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad/

University College Cork: Higher Diploma in Psychology full-time - 1 year. 2.1 honours degree, which includes at least half an academic year of psychology. Closing date: **usually February**. Application will be online. www.ucc.ie/en/CKA01/ Apply through www.pac.ie

University College Dublin: Higher Diploma in Psychology two-year full-time diploma. For graduates in non-psychology with honours degree and who have appropriate experience. The course is normally advertised in January with a closing date in the first or second week in March – dates have not yet been decided. Must have degree at time of application. www.ucd.ie

Trinity College Dublin: Higher Diploma in Psychology. 2-years full-time open to applicants who are graduates of a recognized university who have obtained at least second class honours. Applications by **30th of March** of the year in which admission is sought. www.tcd.ie/Psychology/HDipPsych.html

Once you have completed the accredited conversion course, you can then become a graduate member of the PSI.

What other options are there?

If you wish to take a conversion course in the UK, ensure that it is accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). 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.gov.ie Applications for Graduate Membership from those educated outside Ireland will be considered by the PSI on an individual basis.

There is a BPS accredited course available by distance learning:

Open University: Diploma in Psychology (Conversion for Postgraduates) for people who already have an honours degree but have not yet studied enough psychology to entitle them to the British Psychological Society's Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR). Apply between 1st April and 30th September of the year in question. Supplementary courses available if you don't have psychology in degree. www.open.ac.uk/programmes/psychology/

Other conversion courses are detailed on www.bps.org.uk/careers/

Graduate Prospects undertook a survey of these conversion courses and the summary of responses can be viewed at www.prospects.ac.uk/links/PsychConversionVCSC

Once I do the conversion course, am I a Psychologist?

No, further study is needed before you can call yourself a Psychologist.

For Registered Membership with PSI you require **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:

- Clinical Psychology – NUI Galway, PSI, UCD, TCD and QUB, new course in UL
- Counselling Psychology – UCC, TCD, UU
- Educational Psychology – PSI, QUB, UCD
- Forensic Psychology – UCC
- Health Psychology – only in UK
- Neuropsychology – only in UK
- Organisational Psychology – DCU, UCD, QUB
- Sports Psychology – new course in Waterford IT
- Psychological Research – NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, UCD, UCC, TCD, QUB, UU, OU

The Careers Service has information files and books on careers and courses in psychology. Check our information room or go to our website at www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/occupations_b.html

In the UK, there is a choice of postgraduate courses accredited by BPS in 8 categories. These include Neuropsychology, Forensic Psychology, Clinical Psychology (more information on courses and work experience desirable for each course from Clearing House for Postgraduate Courses in Clinical Psychology –see useful contacts), Counselling Psychology, Occupational Health Psychology, Health Psychology, Sport & Exercise Psychology and Educational Psychology.

According to the BPS: “Clinical Psychology is one of the most competitive areas to gain a place on an accredited course and the universities that offer these courses are looking for students to have some form of relevant experience as well as an accredited psychology degree. The most sought after experience by clinical courses is that of 'assistant psychologist' or 'research assistant'. You will find that some courses lay down more specific requirements or give advice on how to go about gaining experience.” (*source www.bps.org.uk*)

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 – Wed 11th October 2006 @ 7pm Siobhan McKenna Theatre

Options with Psychological Studies – Wed 25th October @6pm Tyndall Theatre

CV/Interview Techniques workshops – various dates October / November and again in 2nd term.

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

Psychological Society of Ireland	www.psihq.ie
NUI Galway - Psychology Dept	www.nuigalway.ie/psy/
British Psychological Society	www.bps.org.uk/index.cfm
Vocational Course Survey	www.prospects.ac.uk/links/PsychConversionVCSC
Clearing House for Postgrad Courses in Clinical Psychology	www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp/index.htm

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.