Psychology graduates and the employment market

Psychology is the study of behaviour and mental processes, and the study of psychology includes individual and social, human and animal, normal and abnormal aspects. Psychology students acquire a wide range of valuable skills and qualities including:

- Social skills – in particular negotiations skills, ability to deal with people and conflict management
- Information gathering, such as literature searching, report writing, interviewing and survey design
- Analysis and synthesis skills- editing and synthesising information from a variety of sources and assessing critically
- Project planning; identifying steps, resources, solving problems, dependability, ability to use initiative and work on several tasks at once
- Excellent understanding of the capabilities and limitations of people – cognitive, perceptual, physical, emotional, social, development and personality
- Numerical, IT, statistical and inferential skills, analysis and presentation skills
- Communication skills – oral, written and listening skills

Source: "Degrees of Skill: Student Employability Profiles" The Higher Education Academy.
Typical jobs for Psychology graduates

Psychology graduates find employment in diverse fields. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our Psychology graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Development Officer</th>
<th>Psychologist - various specialisations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probation Officer</td>
<td>Careers Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resource Officer</td>
<td>Psychotherapist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>Health Promotion Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management trainee or Manager</td>
<td>Marketing Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Needs Assistant</td>
<td>Public Relations Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Assistant</td>
<td>Teacher/Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer at ISPCC in Galway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recovery Facilitator</td>
<td>Social Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Psychologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Support Worker</td>
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<td>(Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey)</td>
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Career Destinations of our Psychology Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our Psychology graduates took up after graduation:

Working for Psychologist, Psychology Clinic, Dublin
Teaching Assistant, Abáalta School, Galway
Internship in Special Needs Education, Philadelphia
Special Needs Assistant, Brothers of Charity, Galway
Care Assistant, Ability West, Galway
Volunteer at ISPCC in Galway
Recovery Facilitator/Social Care Assistant, St John of God, Dublin
Research Assistant, Melbourne
Assistant Psychologist, Mater Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Dublin
Community Support Worker, Sunbeam House Services

Boosting your employability as a Psychologist

In reality it takes six to seven years to become a Psychologist. A Masters is the minimum qualification required. Not all graduates become Psychologists and over the past few years an increasing number of students find stimulating and interesting career opportunities in numerous fields, using their interests and knowledge of human behaviour gained through their degree.

Psychology graduates considerably increase their chances of getting employment and preferred postgraduate courses by gaining relevant work experience.

Further information can be found on the Psychological Society of Ireland or British Psychological Society’s websites. These sites also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help also with job searching.

The Career Development Centre at NUI Galway has some reference books that may help find work experience and some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.
What Postgraduate Courses do Psychology Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our Psychology graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway:

- Higher Diploma in Arts (Psychology - Conversion)
- MA (Applied Behaviour Analysis)
- HDip (Health Promotion)
- MSc (Software Design and Development)
- Diploma Psychology of Counselling
- MSc (Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management)
- MA (Community Development)
- MSc (Neuropharmacology)
- MSc (Sustainable Resource Management - Policy and Practice)
- MSc (Health Psychology)

Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous Archaeology graduates include:

- MEd (Psychology of Education), University of Bristol
- MscEcon (International Relations), Cardiff University
- International Business Management, SPCD
- BSc (Forensic Psychology), Edinburgh
- Graduate Entry to Medicine, UL
- GradDip (Psychology), Oxford Brookes
- MSc (Human Resource Management), Napier
- MA (Violence, Terrorism and Security), QUB
- MSc (Criminology), QUB
- MSc (Equality Studies), UCD
- Diploma (Sports Management), UCD
- HDip (Psychotherapy), UCD
- MSc (Marketing), DIT
- MA (Economic and Consumer Psychology), Leiden
- MA (Educational Psychology), UCD

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: www.nuigalway.ie/careers

www.postgradireland.com also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and
http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/ covers the EU.
What our students say...

Dr. Siobhan Howard
I work as lecturer in psychology at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at NUI Galway, I pursued my doctoral studies, graduating from NUI Galway with a PhD in 2009. My degree and PhD in psychology at NUI Galway equipped me with the skills and knowledge to complete my postdoctoral work in NUI Galway and in 2011 I was offered a full-time lecturing post in Mary Immaculate College.

Completing a psychology degree at NUI Galway prepares you for the many different options available to psychology graduates; clinical, behavioural, educational, teaching and research; I chose teaching and research.

Where can I find out more?

The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in Psychology.

www.nuigalway.ie/psy/
Psychological Society of Ireland www.psychologicalsociety.ie

EUROPE
British Psychological Society www.bps.org.uk
European Federation of Psychology Associations www.efpa.eu/links
European Health Psychology Society www.ehps.net

INTERNATIONAL
American Psychological Association www.apa.org/
Canadian Psychological Association www.cpa.ca
Social Psychology Network www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm
Australian Psychological Society www.psychology.org.au

GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES
Career Development Centre, degree opportunities: www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html
Gradireland www.gradireland.com
Prospects UK Psychology profile www.prospects.ac.uk/options_psychology_your_skills.htm
www.jobs.ac.uk [academic jobs, fellowships etc UK, Europe and worldwide]