Careers Options for Psychology Students
Studying a degree in psychology will provide you with a broad range of skills, which include the following.

- Analytical research
- Team working
- Communication skills - written and verbal
- Handling data and statistics
- Problem solving
- Adaptability

As a result, these transferable skills can be used as the basis for a diverse range of job roles and career paths many of which are outlined in this handout.

**Researching your Career Options**

Read our ‘Researching your career options’ guide for information and resources that will help you to explore your options. [http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students/how-we-can-help-you/careers-videos-guides-and-directories/](http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students/how-we-can-help-you/careers-videos-guides-and-directories/)

Prospects offers a great tool to help you research your options with your degree: [www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology)

**Graduate Destinations**

Every year, we contact our recent graduates to find out what they have gone on to do six months after their degree at Manchester Met. Here are some recent examples.

- Assistant Psychiatrist at a Mental Healthcare Unit
- Behavioural Assistant
- Graduate Intern, Mental Health Services
- Marketing Intern at a university
- Special Needs Teaching Assistant in a primary school
- Support Worker in a hospital
- Programme Executive for a market research agency
- Children Support Worker for Social Services
- Interventions Facilitator in a prison
- Merchandiser for a home textiles company
- Assistant Clinical Psychologist
- Graduate Psychologist
- Family and Children Support Worker
- Peer Mentor for a charity
- Project Officer in local government
- Research Assistant at a university
- Further study is also a popular option for many psychology graduates; Masters in Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Organisational Psychology, Psychological Research, Speech and Language Therapy, Mental Health Research, Social Work, Nursing, Primary and Secondary Teaching and Human Resources.

You can also use the Manchester Met Alumni search facility within LinkedIn to look at the career paths of former students. For help and guidance with setting up a profile see our ‘Creating Your LinkedIn Profile’ guide: [http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students/how-we-can-help-you/careers-videos-guides-and-directories/](http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students/how-we-can-help-you/careers-videos-guides-and-directories/)
Becoming a Psychologist

You may decide to progress into a role that directly relates to your degree subject. These include:

- **Clinical** - reducing distress and positively improving the wellbeing of clients
- **Counselling** - helping clients with difficult life issues and mental health conditions
- **Educational** - helping children/young people with emotional, social and learning difficulties
- **Forensic** - this relates to the assessment and treatment of criminal behaviour, working with prisoners, offenders, victims of crime and the judicial and penal system
- **Health** - helping patients to manage the psychological aspects of their illness
- **Occupational** - focus on the world of work and aim to improve job performance and satisfaction of employees
- **Sport and exercise** - looking at the behaviours, mental processes and well-being of individuals and teams

Both related experience and postgraduate study are required in order to become a chartered psychologist. The following sources will provide you with further information about the options.

- The British Psychological Society has an informative website to guide you through how to become a psychologist with useful video clips, written guides, illustrations and details about job vacancies: [www.bps.org.uk/careers](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers)
- This specialist website is full of useful case studies and articles relating to working in psychology, You can sign up to receive a newsletter for further information: [www.careersinpsychology.co.uk](http://www.careersinpsychology.co.uk)
- ‘I want to Work in...Psychology’ resource: [www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/psychology.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/psychology.htm)
- The BPS also provides a place to start researching options for training [www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/accredited-courses-training-programmes/accreditation-faqs/accreditation-f](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/accredited-courses-training-programmes/accreditation-faqs/accreditation-f)

There are many alternative career paths available to you because of the different skills acquired as a psychology student. The following article illustrates just a small sample of the wide range of possibilities: [www.careersinpsychology.co.uk/unusual-career-paths-for-psychology-graduates.html](http://www.careersinpsychology.co.uk/unusual-career-paths-for-psychology-graduates.html)
Useful links covering key areas of psychology:
The Health & Care Professions Council [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org) regulates professional psychologists and recognises seven categories of Practitioner Psychologist.

Key links for each:

- Counselling psychologists - British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy [https://www.bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist](https://www.bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist)
- Educational psychologists - Association of Educational Psychologists [www.aep.org.uk/careers/](http://www.aep.org.uk/careers/)
- Forensic psychologists [http://careers.bps.org.uk/area/forensic](http://careers.bps.org.uk/area/forensic)

Additional links detailing popular careers areas:

- The UK Council for Psychotherapy [www.psychotherapy.org.uk](http://www.psychtherapy.org.uk)
- The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development [www.cipd.co.uk](http://www.cipd.co.uk)
- The Home Office [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk) [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/recruitment](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/recruitment)
- The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences: [www.bases.org.uk](http://www.bases.org.uk)
- Psychminded: News, features and jobs vacancies for psychologists and mental health workers [www.psychminded.co.uk](http://www.psychminded.co.uk)
- Psychology related social media -Twitter feeds from The British Psychological Society @psychmag and Psychminded.co.uk @psychmindednews

Key employers

Because psychology looks at the study of human behaviour it is considered to be a valuable degree subject by a wide range of employers, these include:

- Social Services
- Local and national government
- Schools and colleges
- Police, prisons and the National Probation Service
- HR departments
- Marketing companies
- Financial services
- The Media
- Commercial companies.
Job Listings
Psychology-related job vacancies are advertised in the BPS’s Appointments Memorandum www.appmemo.co.uk

Also, check the links to each Branch of Psychology for specific vacancy sources.

Other vacancies may be found at the following sites:
- NHS www.jobs.nhs.uk/
- Healthjobs UK www.healthjobsuk.com
- Jobs.ac.uk www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/psychology
- NewScientist www.newscientistjobs.com
- Career Jet www.careerjet.co.uk/psychology-jobs.html
- Psychminded www.psychminded.co.uk/mental-health-jobs-vacancies/
- Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate_job_search.htm
- MMU Jobs Hub Online www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students-and-graduates/finding-a-job.php

Links for further study
- The BPS’s searchable database of accredited courses including postgraduate training: bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist/accredited-courses?type=PG
- Clearing House for Postgraduate Courses in Clinical Psychology: www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp
- Worldwide A-Z of university psychology departments: www.psych.hanover.edu
- Europe: www.enqa.net/psychology

Additional information including global links
- Association for Psychological Science www.psychologicalscience.org
- American Psychological Association www.apa.org
- The National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology (USA) www.nitop.org

Careers & Employability Support
The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:
- **Find Opportunities:** We advertise hundreds of part time, graduate and internship roles through My Career Hub.
- **Careers Consultant Appointments:** Book a 30 minute appointment and get expert advice from our specialist Careers Consultants.
- **Careers Events:** Meet employers and enhance your employability by attending our workshops, employer events and careers fairs.

For more information visit www.mmu.ac.uk/careers