



Where could Psychology take you?

Wondering what to do after your Level 3 course?

Use this booklet to get an idea of possible next steps with psychology.

Included in this booklet:

- Qualifications after Level 3
- Examples of psychology degrees in the UK
- Becoming a Chartered Psychologist
- Examples of other possible careers
- Useful websites to help you research your options

Aspire Higher

This leaflet was produced by **Aspire Higher**, a regional Uni Connect (formerly NCOP) Outreach Team, covering Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

The aim of the programme is to provide students with impartial advice about their future options with an emphasis on encouraging progression to higher level study.

This leaflet has been produced to help schools and colleges provide information with clear links between their curriculum and future career options and was produced in Spring 2021 (information was correct at that time).

If you have any comments, questions or feedback, please contact us via our dedicated email address (aspirehigher@northampton.ac.uk) or via the Chat Box on our website, www.aspire-higher.co.uk.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to **Isabella McMurray** at the **University of Bedfordshire** for their help producing this guide

What next?

So, you're on track to complete your Level 3 qualification(s) and thinking about studying something related to Psychology. The next section lays out a few things you should consider.

What are my options?

Higher education

go straight into studying at a higher level, either at university or a college.

Apprenticeship

combine working with studying to gain a higher-level qualification.

Work

go into a line of work with Level 3 qualification entry requirements, such as a nursing associate role.

What kind of qualification can you get after Level 3?

There are a range of qualifications you can study upon completion of your Level 3 course, depending on the grades you achieve and the kind of higher education provider you want to attend.

HNC - Level 4 - One year - Lower entry requirements

HND or Foundation Degree - Level 5 - One or two years
Lower entry requirements

Bachelor's Degree - Level 6 - Three years - Medium entry requirements

Masters Degree - Level 7 - Four years - High entry requirements

Undertaking a higher education qualification is both exciting and challenging – we're focussing on degrees here. A British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited degree means that you will gain in-depth subject knowledge, understanding and research skills in a range of areas in psychology. There are not a lot of degrees that you start as an undergraduate that take you straight to Masters level, it's much more usual to do a Bachelors degree then specialise by studying a one-year postgraduate Masters degree. If you don't study psychology but decide you'd like to work in an area that needs a BPS recognised qualification, you can study a conversion course at postgraduate Masters level.

One route for psychology graduates is go on to become Chartered Psychologists. The flexibility of a Psychology degree drawing on both the sciences and humanities means that many psychology graduates go on to work in a wide range of other environments too, including: Education, Health and Social care, as well working in prisons, the police force, the armed services, business, marketing and advertising.

This booklet provides a brief outline of the different routes into becoming a Chartered Psychologist as well as other career routes that psychology graduates might consider.



Entry requirements and course examples

Here's a cross-section of the type of course you can find in Psychology Departments at university. The actual courses on offer and the subjects covered vary between universities, so spend a bit of time exploring what's available online – this is just a snapshot as there are 1771 courses offered by 179 Higher Education providers. Many universities offer Foundation Years, Work Placements or Study Abroad opportunities too.

HEI & Example Course	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
University of Bristol MSci Psychology and Neuroscience	Not accepted	A*AA - AAB	D*DD	45 Level 3 credits including 30 credits at Distinction; 15 at Merit	Grade 6/B in GCSE Mathematics (or equivalent) and 4/C in GCSE English (or equivalent)
Brunel University, London BSc (Hons) Psychology	Not accepted	BBB	DDD	Min 120 UCAS points with 45 Credits at Level 3	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above including English Language (or grade B/5 in English Literature) and Mathematics (or equivalents)
University of Exeter BSc (Hons) Psychology with Study Abroad		A*AA	D*DD	Including 45 credits at Level 3 – Merit 15, Distinction - 30	GCSE Maths at grade 6/B or above (or equivalent)
University Centre Farnborough BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology (Accelerated degree)	72	Equivalent to 72 points	Equivalent to 72 points	Equivalent to 72 points	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Gloucestershire BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology	112	BBC	DDM	Application and interview	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)

HEI & Example Course	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
New City College BA (Hons) Integrative Counselling	48	Level 3 Counselling qualification required + interview	Level 3 Counselling qualification required + interview	Pass – 45 credits at Level 3 in Access to Counselling + interview	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Hertfordshire BSc (Hons) Sports Studies with Psychology	96	CCC	MMM	Not accepted	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
Leeds Trinity University BSc (Hons) Counselling Psychology	112	Equivalent to 112 UCAS points	Equivalent to 112 UCAS points	Equivalent to 112 UCAS points	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Liverpool MPsycholSc in Psychological Science	Not accepted	AAA (one Science required)	D*D*D	45 Level 3 credits in relevant course	GCSE English and Maths at grade 6/B or above (or equivalent)
Loughborough College BSc (Hons) Sports Coaching	96	Equivalent to 96 UCAS points	Equivalent to 96 UCAS points	Equivalent to 96 UCAS points	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Manchester BSc (Hons) Educational Psychology	Not accepted	AAB	DDD	60 credits with at least 45 at Level 3	GCSE English Language and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)

HEI & Example Course	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
University of Nottingham BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychology	Not accepted	AAB	Considered on individual basis	60 credits with 45 at Distinction at Level 3	GCSE English and Maths at grade 5/B or above (or equivalent)
University Campus Oldham FDSC Counselling and Psychotherapy	64	Equivalent to 64 UCAS points + interview Level 3 qualification in Counselling desirable	Equivalent to 64 UCAS points + interview Level 3 qualification in Counselling desirable	Equivalent to 64 UCAS points + interview Level 3 qualification in Counselling desirable	GCSE English Language (essential) and Maths (desirable) at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Reading BA (Hons) Art and Psychology	Not accepted	BBB	DDM	18 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 27 Level 3 credits at Merit	GCSE English, Maths, Science at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Suffolk BA (Hons) Counselling	112	BBC	DMM	Equivalent to 112 UCAS points	GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
University of Arts London BSc (Hons) Psychology of Fashion		BBB	DDM	120 UCAS points	6 GCSEs including English and Maths at grade A*-C/ 9-4 (or equivalents)

This mapping was correct at the time of print in Spring 2021. While we have tried to ensure that this information is as up to date as possible, we take no responsibility in terms of the accuracy. Please always check the relevant provider for the latest information. This is not an exhaustive list of all institutions offering courses related to Psychology

So you want to become a Chartered Psychologist?

There are several areas of psychology in which it is possible to become a Chartered Psychologist. Undertaking a BPS accredited Psychology degree is the first step on your journey to becoming a Chartered Psychologist. Becoming a Chartered Psychologist involves post-graduate study and you are unlikely to be accepted immediately after finishing your degree unless you have good work experience in the area you want to train in. It may take a few years of applying to be accepted on a training course as competition is very high for limited places, but if you are committed to this career path, keep getting experience in the area you're interested in and keep applying even if it takes a few years to get on the post-graduate training course.

Clinical Psychology

A Clinical Psychologist aims to reduce psychological distress such as, anxiety, depression and serious mental illness working in health and care settings. Using a variety of clinical assessment methods, a Clinical Psychologist aims to enhance and promote psychological well-being. Most people start as an Assistant Psychologist to gain experience but voluntary work may also be accepted.

Counselling Psychology

Counselling Psychologists are concerned with the integration of psychological theory and research with therapeutic practice. The practice of Counselling Psychology requires a high level of self-awareness and competence in relating the skills and knowledge of personal and interpersonal dynamics to the therapeutic context. Counselling psychologists work in health, social care, voluntary, private and commercial settings. You'll need relevant work experience, basic counselling/therapeutic training and the ability to do research as well as your psychology degree to apply.

Educational Psychology

Educational Psychologists promote child development and learning with children and young people up to the age of 19 years, through the application of psychology. Work is carried out in partnership with individuals and groups of children, teachers and other adults in schools and Early Years settings. You'll need relevant work experience with young people in an educational setting as well as your psychology degree to apply.

Forensic/Criminal Psychology

Forensic psychology is devoted to psychological aspects of legal processes in courts. The term is often used to refer to investigative and criminological psychology: applying psychological theory to criminal investigation, understanding psychological problems associated with criminal behaviour, and the treatment of criminals. You'll need relevant work experience in a prison or working in mental health to apply.

Health Psychology

Health Psychologists use psychological principles to promote changes in people's attitudes, behaviour and thinking about health and illness, such as smoking, drug-abuse and poor diet. Health psychologists are represented in a number of settings, such as hospitals, academic health research units, health authorities and university departments. You can get relevant experience by voluntary or paid work in nursing, social work, care work, mental health work or working in services for disabled people.

Neuropsychology

Neuropsychologists work with people of all ages with neurological problems, which might include traumatic brain injury, stroke, toxic and metabolic disorders, tumours, and neurodegenerative diseases. Neuropsychologists require a knowledge of the broad range of mental health problems and specialist knowledge in the neurosciences, assessment and rehabilitation. Neuropsychologists can be linked to rehabilitation centres, community services or can be found working alongside neurosurgeons or neurologists. Usually, you'd get your experience and then train as a Clinical or Educational Psychologist before you do extra training for this career.

Occupational Psychology

Occupational Psychologists apply psychological knowledge, theory and practice to work in its widest sense, such as understanding how work tasks and the conditions of work can affect people - developing them or constraining and influencing their well-being; and how people and their characteristics determine what and how work is done.

I don't want to be a Chartered Psychologist, but what else can I do with my psychology degree?

Sports & Exercise Psychology

This branch of psychology is concerned with the behaviour and mental processes of people who are involved in sport and exercise. In a sports context, the aim is predominately to help athletes to prepare psychologically for competition and to deal with the psychological demands of both competition and training. Exercise psychologists are concerned with the application of psychology to increase exercise participation and motivation levels in the general population. Work experience is still important – paid or voluntary in a relevant role before your post-graduate training.

Teachers and Researchers in Psychology

There are a variety of different Psychology teachers and researchers: for example, teachers of Psychology in schools, sixth-form colleges of Further Education and lecturers in Universities. University lecturers are expected to extend their subject by gathering psychological evidence on key research questions and then tell others what they have found by publishing articles. This is one area where you can be accepted onto post-graduate study immediately after your degree, for example a PhD or PGCE.

Psychology career options

We've included a few brief snapshots of other careers and roles that you could pursue with your psychology qualification.

The skills and understanding of people that your psychology degree gives you is very much in demand by employers as you are good with words and numbers! This means that the possibilities for careers with a psychology degree are (almost) endless, but have a look for yourself – websites like the British Psychological Society, Prospects or the National Careers Service have a wealth of information to explore.



Assistant Psychologist

Salary

£21,000-£30,000

Brief Description

Provides support under the supervision of qualified psychologist for a wide range of service users who are experiencing a wide variety of psycho-social needs. You'll work as part of a multidisciplinary team and may be involved with: carrying out neuropsychological assessments, contributing to multidisciplinary discussions about a client's diagnosis, treatment, risk assessment and care plan issues, undertaking specified behavioural observations and assessments. Most roles are clinical, although there are some in other specialist areas.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject) that confers Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the BPS

Advice Worker

Salary

Starting salary for trainees: £16,000 - £19,500

With experience: £20,000 - £40,000

Brief Description

Advice Workers provide free, impartial and confidential advice to clients on a range of issues, such as debt, employment and housing. As an Advice Worker you'll support your clients by providing quality, independent information and advice to help them address their problems and prevent them from getting worse. You could be based in a variety of settings including community centres, doctors' surgeries, and courts and prisons, as well as in dedicated advice or call centres.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject); for some roles, an HND in a related subject.

Policy Officer

Salary

Starting: around £22,000

With experience: up to £50,000+

Brief Description

Policy Officers use their findings from research and analysis to advise government, think tanks and businesses about best practice. Your responsibilities as a Policy Officer will include researching and analysing data. You'll advise on various issues, carry out developmental work and liaise with internal and external contacts. You may also need to assess the potential impact of policy decisions and communicate changes to the wider community. Depending on your role, you may be involved in campaigning for change.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject). Postgraduate training/ qualifications may be needed, depending on the role.

Social Researcher

Salary

Starting: £20,000- £29,000

With experience: £30,000 - £50,000+

Brief Description

Social researchers plan, design, conduct and manage social research projects, reporting on findings in order to shape policy or to examine the effectiveness of existing policy. As a social researcher, you'll use a range of methods such as interviews, survey questionnaires and focus groups to investigate the attitudes, behaviour and experiences of population samples on specific issue.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject). Postgraduate training/ qualifications may be needed, depending on the role.

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

Salary

Starting: £24,000

Qualified and with experience: up to £36,600

Brief Description

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners (PWP) are trained to assess and support people with common mental health problems – principally anxiety disorders and depression – in the self-management of their recovery. PWPs use a range of psychological interventions and skills to support individuals with mental health problems such as depression and anxiety. PWPs work closely with other healthcare professionals including high intensity therapists, IAPT counsellors and employment advisers.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject). Postgraduate study will be required to qualify.



Teacher (Primary or Secondary)

Salary

£25,000 – £37,000

Brief Description

Primary teachers teach all subjects at an appropriate level to the same class. Secondary teachers specialise in subjects. You'll plan, teach and assess lessons in line with curriculum objectives, ensure a healthy culture of learning and support, observe and record pupils' progress. Teachers must keep up to date with developments in their subject area, new resources, methods and national objectives. The role involves liaising and networking with other professionals, parents and carers, both informally and formally.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject); School Centred Initial Teacher Training or PGCE necessary.

Human Resources Officer

Salary

Starting: £18,000 – £23,000

With experience: £25,000 - £55,000

Brief Description

Human Resources (HR) Officers develop, advise on and implement policies relating to the effective use of staff in an organisation. As an HR Officer, your aim is to ensure that the organisation you work for employs the right balance of staff in terms of skills and experience, and that training and development opportunities are available to colleagues to enhance their performance and achieve the company's business aims. It's possible to work in either a generalist role, covering the full range of HR work, or to become a specialist in a particular area.

Qualifications required

Honours degree in Psychology (or related subject).

Next Steps

1. Research your options

You need to be proactive and spend time finding out what options are available and most suitable for you. We have included a few helpful websites at the end of this booklet which can be a good place to start. Research what work experience options are out there.

2. Create a shortlist of courses, higher education providers, and apprenticeships that you are interested in.

You might want to make your own spreadsheet, word document, specific notebook, or notes document on your phone to help with this. You'll want to keep a note of any application deadlines, open days or talks, and other key information like accommodation and financial support available.

3. Speak to your school/college careers team about your plans.

It's always good to discuss your plans with people who have lots of experience helping people like you make decisions. Chatting to people in your support network, like friends and family, is helpful but make sure to also use the careers professionals available to you through your school or college. You can also speak to current students using platforms like UniBuddy and The Student Room.

So, what is The Pay Index?



Aspire Higher have signed up with The Pay Index to offer two exciting tools:
'My Future University' and **'My Future Apprenticeships'**

The tools enable students to:

- Compare courses of study and the locations they are available in;
- Explore their earning potential, 1, 3, 5 or 10 years after graduation based on location;
- Understand what student loan repayments would look like after completion of study;
- Question the gender pay gap and empower females entering the workplace;
- Explore the types of apprenticeships available locally and nationally;
- Open a wider dialogue with teachers, careers advisors and parents about university.

Within each tool, Aspire Higher have uploaded a range of videos, activities and quizzes to deepen your knowledge on both university and apprenticeships.

What type of qualifications do you have?
5+ GCSE passes

What level of apprenticeship should I think about applying for?
Level 3

How long would it take to complete? **18 - 48 Months** Qualification equivalent when earned **2 A-levels passes**

What requirements do I need to have before applying?
Advanced Apprenticeships require at a minimum 5 GCSE passes at Level 9 to 4 / A* to C with 2 qualifications needed in English and/or Maths. Additionally, you are able to apply to a Level 3 apprenticeship if you have completed a level 2 qualification in a relevant framework.



For more, watch this 2-minute video about the tool:

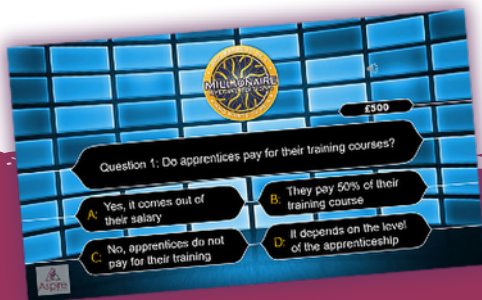
My Future University Introduction Video

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TFG0k1dzaY>).

Sign up and give it a try:

Sign up once and you will be able to access both tools.

Use this link, **The Pay Index Sign-up Link** or scan the QR code
(<https://www.thepayindex.com/aspire-higher/signup>).



Useful Resources

Aspire Higher

Our website has a wide range of resources to help support you on your higher education journey and make informed choices about what's right for you.

Search **Aspire Higher** or click **www.aspire-higher.co.uk**

British Psychological Society (BPS)

The British Psychological Society is a registered charity that represents psychology and psychologists in the UK. They accredit degrees that take you towards Chartered Psychology roles and provide information about careers and opportunities in psychology.

Search **British Psychological Society** or click **<https://www.bps.org.uk/>**

Prospects

Prospects has lots of information and advice about graduate careers and opportunities. They have a range of job profiles related to the Health and Social Care sector on their website, as well as lots of other helpful resources.

Search '**Prospects healthcare/social care job profiles**' or click: **www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/social-care**

UCAS

UCAS has tons of resources to help guide you in your next educational steps. Creating an account on the UCAS Hub should be one of the first things you do. UCAS has a variety of subject guides that provide more information on different subject areas. The UCAS course search tool is also really helpful to see the range of courses out there at all the different higher education providers in the UK.

Search '**UCAS hub**' or click: **www.ucas.com/dashboard**

Search '**UCAS subject guides**' or click: **www.ucas.com/explore/subjects**

Search '**UCAS course search**' or click: **digital.ucas.com/search**

Find an apprenticeship

The government's apprenticeship search tool is one of the best ways to find higher and degree level apprenticeships.

Search '**find an apprenticeship**' or click: **www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/**

RateMyApprenticeship

RateMyApprenticeship also advertises apprenticeship vacancies and has lots of resources available to help you through the apprenticeship application process, as well as reviews from current apprentices.

Search '**ratemyapprenticeship**' or click: **www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/**

Unibuddy

A service which connects prospective students with university ambassadors (current students) and staff.

Search '**unibuddy**' or click: **unibuddy.com**

The Student Room

You can access advice from prospective, current, and former students on this platform.

Search '**the student room**' or click: **www.thestudentroom.co.uk**

NHS Careers

The NHS careers website is a helpful resource for learning about all the different careers within the NHS, and it also posts job vacancies.

Search '**NHS careers**' or click: **www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/**

National Careers Service

This is a government service which can be helpful in providing an overview of entry requirements and routes into certain careers.

Search '**national careers service healthcare**' or click: **<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/healthcare>**
