

This leaflet gives an overview of paths to psychology for students with BA Psychology and BA Psychological Studies. It includes information on conversion courses (this page), what next after Graduate Membership, recognition of non-Irish qualifications, requirements for psychology specialisms, increasing your chances of a successful applications, seminars on campus and useful contacts.

To work in Ireland you need to be eligible for Registered Membership with the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) whereby you can practise as a psychologist without supervision. Before becoming a Registered Member you must first become a **Graduate Member** which is based on gaining at least a Second Class Honours in an accredited undergraduate degree or conversion course (e.g., BA Psychology from [NUI Galway](#)).

I don't have the BA Psychology, how do I get Graduate Membership?

Certain courses run by Irish universities / institutions are also recognised as bringing your existing degree up to the same standards as an accredited Degree in Psychology. Check with individual Admissions Offices to confirm closing dates. Full list of accredited courses available at [Psychology Society of Ireland](#) .

[National University of Ireland](#), Galway: HDipA in Psychology (Conversion) **Course Code; 1HY1.** for BA Psychological Studies graduates only (1 year full time) Average intake; 16 places.

Higher Diploma in Psychology (Full). Course Code; 1HDP1. Average intake; 8.

The HDipPsych (Full) is a two-year, full-time programme for graduates who have already received a higher degree in a field other than Psychology but who wish to pursue Psychology as a career option.

By completing the HDipPsych (Full), you will cover course content equivalent to that of the NUI Galway BA Psychology programme, thus qualifying you for entry to postgraduate professional programmes in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Apply through www.pac.ie.

[University College Cork](#): Higher Diploma in Psychology. **Course Code; CKA01. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates should normally have at least a 2H1 honours degree in any subject. Previous study of psychology, although not a requirement is highly advantageous See [Requirements](#) for full details.

University College Dublin: **Undergraduate Psychology.**

Avenues available to study psychology with us are:

- **Honours BSc in Psychology 3-year degree**
 - Denominated entry
 - Fully accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland
 - Gateway to further postgraduate professional training in all branches of psychology including clinical, counselling and health psychology
- Learn about our honours [BSc in Psychology](#) accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI)
- **Honours BSc International in Psychology.** If you are studying the BSc in Psychology at UCD, you may choose to apply to study abroad for your third year in France, Spain, The Netherlands, Germany or the US. You apply for this option in second year, spend third year studying abroad, and return to UCD to complete your final, fourth year of study. If you spend this additional year in one of UCD's partnership universities studying your degree, and successfully complete the academic programme abroad as well as in UCD, you will graduate with a BSc (International) in Psychology after four years' of study.
 - Just like the BSc in Psychology, the BSc (International) in Psychology provides a general academic training in psychology and is fully accredited by the [Psychological Society of Ireland](#). The BSc and BSc (International) degree in Psychology in UCD is a foundation and gateway for further postgraduate professional training in all branches of psychology including clinical, counselling and health psychology.

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

- **HDip Psychology.** The Higher Diploma in Psychology is an intensive two-year postgraduate conversion course for graduates with an honours degree in a discipline other than psychology, who would like to take the first step towards a professional career in psychology.
- Applicants to the Higher Diploma in Psychology programme must be graduates with an honours degree (typically a 2.1 or higher), or final year students on an honours degree programme in any discipline. Offers to applicants who are not yet graduates will be contingent on degree results. The programme welcomes applications from mature students. The selection process for the Higher Diploma in Psychology will take account of: 1) undergraduate record and, where relevant, postgraduate record; (2) certified modules or courses in psychology; (3) experience of psychology through work or voluntary activities; (4) employment record; (5) references; (6) applicant's personal statement on the application form.
- For further information on these programmes and closing dates go to; <https://www.ucd.ie/psychology/study/graduateprogrammes/>

Trinity College Dublin: Psychology. B.A. Honours Bachelor Degree. Course Code; TR006. 4 years full time.

Psychology: The course for you?

The School of Psychology aims to offer a knowledge base and a set of skills that not only equip students for the many careers that exist in psychology, but also prepare students intellectually for other careers.

Psychology is a branch of science that demands clear, rigorous thinking, numeracy and the ability to define, study and solve problems in complex, changing settings. It is also an applied science that deals with how people act and behave in the real world and provides support for people in their social life and work, for example, through clinical and counselling interventions. If you are interested in the factors influencing human thinking, feeling and behaviour you will enjoy this course.

Do you enjoy:

- Trying to understand other people's behaviour?
- Trying to understand how the brain works?
- Conducting your own research to answer questions?

For further information and to apply go to; <https://www.tcd.ie/courses/undergraduate/az/course.php?id=DUBPS-PSYC-2F09#apply-content>

Dublin Business School: Higher Diploma in Arts in Psychology.

The Higher Diploma in Arts in Psychology is for graduates who wish to pursue a professional career or postgraduate study in psychology but who don't hold an honours degree in psychology.

The course enables students to study key areas of psychology in a thriving research environment and, through a supervised research dissertation, explore practical issues of interest and relevance to a range of theoretical and occupational fields. Students will develop a firm knowledge base in psychology and gain experience of the research process that will build upon the skills and knowledge that they have already acquired in earlier studies. The Higher Diploma represents the necessary first step to becoming a professional psychologist. Upon successful completion of the Higher Diploma, depending upon the final grade, graduates will be eligible to apply to enter postgraduate training courses in their chosen specialisation and ultimately gain employment in their area of expertise.

Students will be encouraged to consider entering their own analysis as a fundamental requirement for engagement with this field. For further information and to apply go to; [https://www.dbs.ie/course/postgraduate/postgraduate-higher-diploma-in-arts-in-psychology-\(psi-accredited\)](https://www.dbs.ie/course/postgraduate/postgraduate-higher-diploma-in-arts-in-psychology-(psi-accredited))

Master of Science (MSc) Applied Psychology. This programme is suited to graduates who hold a first qualification in Psychology of an upper Second Class Honours (2.1) at NFQ Level 8 or above accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland or show eligibility for accreditation by the Psychological Society of Ireland.

Key Features of the Programme

The programme will provide learners with an insight into the field of applied psychology, thus developing the competencies and skills required to relate theory to practical applications. The learner will explore various theories of psychology that will enable them to understand human behaviour from individual, social and biological perspectives.

The programme is comprised of both core modules and elective modules. Elective modules form two distinct career pathways in the areas of organisational psychology and health psychology.

Central to this programme are the areas of analysis, intervention, application, evaluation and research. There is a

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

strong focus on ethics, professional skills and personal development.

Upon completion of the programme learners will be able to competently investigate contemporary local and global issues using an applied psychological perspective and design solutions to match.

For further information and to apply go to; <https://www.dbs.ie/applied-psychology-msc>

If you wish to take a conversion course in the UK, ensure that it is accredited by the [British Psychological Society](#) (BPS). You will have to get your qualification validated by PSI if applying for Graduate Membership afterwards. There are 184 conversion courses which are detailed on their website.

Further study and registered membership of PSI is needed before you can register as a psychologist. The conversion course allows you to apply for Graduate Membership of either PSI or BPS, which in turn is the requirement for professional training courses.

I have Graduate Membership, what's next?

Visit [The British Psychological Society](#) website for information on all the various types of Psychology.

According to the PSI, graduate members can become registered psychologists 'if they are judged to have completed four years of study/training/experience or any combination thereof such that they can practise as a psychologist without supervision'.

Postgraduate professional training courses at master's level accredited by the Society will be given a maximum credit of two years.

Doctoral professional training courses accredited by the Society will be given a maximum of three years.

If the course is not accredited it can only count for up to 9 nine months experience.

- In the case of courses accredited by the [British Psychological Society](#), or accredited overseas, these courses will receive a weighting similar to that of comparable courses in Ireland irrespective of duration. Details on their website.

The [PSI's list of accredited courses](#) is updated online, as accreditation is awarded. In 2020, the list includes: NUIG, TCD, UCD, UL, WIT, DBS, DCU, UCC, IADT, NCI, NUIM, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design and Technology . Visit their website for full list of accredited courses.

To look for other courses in Ireland, try searching www.postgradireland.com

Application for the above courses is directly to the university in question and full details can be found on their websites and/or postgraduate prospectus.

Will non-Irish qualifications be recognised?

Applicants with [non-national qualifications](#) should apply to the Department of Health for validation of the qualification at 01-6354000 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.

If applying to the UK, ensure that the course is accredited by the [British Psychological Society](#) there are 394 such Post-graduate courses with and also the Health Professions Council:

- 9 Clinical Neuropsychology course providers
- 25 Sport & Exercise Psychology course providers
- 51 Forensic Psychology course providers
- 80 Clinical Psychology course providers – apply through www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp
- 56 Counselling Psychology course providers
- 43 Occupational Health Psychology course providers
- 76 Health Psychology course providers
- 42 Educational Psychology course providers. (E.W. NI)

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

3 Psychology

These include courses in [Queens University Belfast](#) in Clinical, Educational and Research which are accredited by BPS.

Requirements for Psychology specialisms:*

Child Psychologist - There is no direct qualification for a "child psychologist". Generally one needs to train as a Clinical or Counselling 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 further research or academic experience relevant to the field of clinical psychology. This can be by way of voluntary or paid work.

NUIG 3 years - practical and/or research experience relevant to clinical psychology is also required.

NUIG 1 year - is a one-year full-time programme of academic study in the discipline of health psychology

TCD 3 years- Taught academic training, research activity and clinical placements.

UCD 3 years – Work as a psychological assistant, a care assistant, a nursing assistant, a research assistant on a clinical research project, or a post-graduate research degree where the project was conducted in a clinical area are examples of relevant experience.

UCC 3 years- applicants must have postgraduate experience within mental health, disability or related settings (includes voluntary experience).

QUB – DCLinPsych programme is a three year postgraduate professional training course in clinical psychology. Approved by the Health & Care Professions Council ([HPC](#)). Accredited by the British Psychological Society ([BPS](#)).

UK: 3 years. Gaining a place on a training course means you become an employee of the [NHS](#) as a trainee Clinical psychologist. Very competitive - look for students with relevant experience as well as a good accredited degree and research skills - some courses will accept a 2:2 and a Masters degree. Minimum of 6-12 months relevant clinical work experience essential - can include work as an assistant psychologist in NHS clinical psychology departments, sometimes on a voluntary basis. Work in other areas is also relevant, e.g. in nursing, social work, mental health work or services for individuals with disabilities. Apply through www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp.

Counselling Psychology – Ireland: enhance chances of a place 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.

TCD 3 years - 14 places - some related experience required.

UU (Jordanstown) 1 Year - MSc Counselling and Therapeutic Communication. Interviews for potential applicants scheduled in September. Applications close 31st July with late applications closing 31st August. Late applications may be considered.

UK: 3 years. Some courses may require a basic counselling skills course. No funded places.

Educational Psychology - Ireland: Enhance chances of a place by gaining teaching experience or working with young people in an educational setting. Working with students with disabilities would also be helpful.

UCD 2 years. Must have degree prior to application and 2 years experience.

QUB –Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology is a three year programme, approved by the Health and Care Professions Council ([HCPC](#)) and accredited by the [British Psychological Society](#) (BPS). MA in Psychology in [UL](#) (FT)

TCD Unique in the Irish context, in this programme - which rests on the principle that problems encountered in diverse learning environments may be usefully informed by psychology - we offer graduates of all relevant undergraduate disciplines the opportunity to study the rapidly developing field of the psychology of education. Put simply, we're interested in what can go right, what can go wrong, and what we can do to help, in educational settings. Further information and to apply go to website.

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

UK: 3-year professional doctorates / 2 year. Apply directly to universities offering courses. Relevant experience required – e.g. teaching, learning support, care worker. Usually you will be required to provide evidence of at least one year's full-time experience and sometimes two years may be required. Experience as a teacher is very relevant, although it is no longer a requirement. Teachers may be given exemptions from parts of the Doctorate.

Forensic Psychology – **Ireland:** Diploma in Popular Forensic Psychology- Part time course available in [DBS](#).

UK: MSc – BPS approved in Forensic psychology plus 2 year supervised practice under the supervision of a Chartered Forensic Psychologist and complete stage 2 BPS Diploma Forensic Psychology. Contact individual universities to find out about relevant work experience.

[University of Worcester](#); MSc Forensic Psychology. Click on university title for further course information including programme aims, learning outcomes, admissions policy etc.

Health Psychology – **Ireland:** [NUIG](#) – **Course Code**; 1MHP1. 1 year. 18 places. Application and closing dates on website.

UU – 1 year distance learning. Application and closing dates on website.

UK: 3 years in total. 1 year MSc plus 2 years supervised experience under the supervision of a Chartered Health Psychologist which is assessed by the [BPS's Health Psychology](#) division. This is achieved by completing a Society accredited degree or conversion course Society accredited Masters in Health Psychology. Stage 2 of the Society's Qualification in Health Psychology (two years supervised practice).

Organisational / Occupational Psychology – **Ireland:** enhance your chances by 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.

[DCU](#) ; Work & Organisational Psychology. 2 years p/t. Application and closing dates on website.

[UL](#) MSc Work Organisational psychology & Behaviour, 1 year f/t, 2 years p/t. Application and closing dates on website.

UK: 3 years in total. 1 year MSc and 2 years supervised work experience which will be assessed by the [BPS](#) Division of Occupational Psychology

Neuropsychology: UK: first need training to become a registered member of [BPS](#) – usually in Clinical or Education. Then 2-3 year part time accredited course.

Sport Psychology – **Ireland:** [WIT](#) 1.5 years. MSc in Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology. Alternatively, honours degree in psychology and significant performance and/or coaching experience in sport accompanied by necessary qualifications to be determined by interview.

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](#)).

** based on recommendations from PSI and BPS websites. Please confirm details with course providers as there may be changes to the above made.*

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

How can I increase my chances of getting on one of these courses?

Most professional training programmes look for work experience - see some examples of relevant work experience overleaf in the 'requirements' section. Course websites will also outline appropriate experience.

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

Voluntary work is usually acceptable, particularly when you have volunteered for a good period of time, or have a range of different voluntary activities. However, the voluntary work should be related to the area of psychology you wish to study – e.g., classroom assistant for educational psychology, volunteering with a support group for counselling psychology etc. Joining the [Volunteering Society](#) while in TU Dublin is a great way to start volunteering in the local community. [Volunteer Ireland](#) have a placement service for Dublin and its surrounds while you can register and search for positions.

Course applications usually consist of personal facts, academic achievements, personal statement / statement of intent and references. References will usually be required from (at least) one academic and one employer. The personal statement is your chance to show your personality and commitment to the course and career and is vital to your application.

Useful Contacts;

Ireland:

[Psychological Society of Ireland](#)

[NUI Galway - Psychology](#)

UK:

[British Psychological Society](#)

[Clearing House for Postgrad Courses in Clinical Psychology](#)

[Health & Care Professions Council](#)

Voluntary work:

[Volunteer Ireland](#)

[Volunteer in Dublin](#)

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.