



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

*Your Career with  
an Arts Degree*

# Careers in Psychology



## 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:

*Community Development Officer • Psychologist - various specialisms  
Probation Officer • Careers Adviser • Research Officer  
Human Resource Officer • Psychotherapist • Social Researcher  
Counsellor • Health Promotion Officer • Youth Worker • Teacher/Lecturer  
• Management trainee or Manager • Marketing Officer • Public Relations Officer • Care Leader • Fundraiser*

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

## 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, Abalta 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*

*(Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey)*

## 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](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers)

[www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com) also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://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/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/psy/)

Psychological Society of Ireland [www.psychologicalsociety.ie](http://www.psychologicalsociety.ie)

### EUROPE

British Psychological Society [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)

European Federation of Psychology Associations [www.efpa.eu/links](http://www.efpa.eu/links)

European Health Psychology Society [www.ehps.net](http://www.ehps.net)

### INTERNATIONAL

American Psychological Association [www.apa.org/](http://www.apa.org/)

Canadian Psychological Association [www.cpa.ca](http://www.cpa.ca)

Social Psychology Network [www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm](http://www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm)

Australian Psychological Society [www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au)

### GENERAL STUDENT / GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities: [www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html)

Gradireland [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)

Prospects UK Psychology profile [www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_psychology\\_your\\_skills.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_psychology_your_skills.htm)

[www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) [academic jobs, fellowships etc UK, Europe and worldwide]



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