



What can you do with a psychology degree from Glasgow?

Psychology graduates gain an impressive range of skills that make them highly attractive to employers. A key factor in this success is the development of a diverse knowledge and impressive range of skills that make them highly employable across a wide range of professions. The psychology programme at Glasgow delivers a number of skills that employers value such as numerical skills, the ability to understand and work with statistics, effective communication, and the ability to work productively in teams. These graduate skills give psychology students a real edge when competing with graduates from other disciplines.

The career trajectory of our graduates typically follow three main routes: those that enter postgraduate study, those that join graduate schemes/programs, and those students that simply want to find employment after their degree. The advice found on this page is designed to help you think about these three main routes.

Graduate Skills



Below are some examples of the skills developed during your psychology degree and how they might be valued by different industries...

- **Strong research and analytical skills:** Psychology degrees typically emphasize research methods and data analysis that are highly valued by employers in many industries. For instance, **healthcare organisations** need to collect and analyze data to improve patient outcomes, evaluate treatment effectiveness, and manage costs. **Market research companies** rely on data analysis to help businesses make informed decisions about product development, marketing, and customer engagement. **Government agencies** use research to evaluate policies and programs, identify areas of need, and allocate resources effectively, whilst **non-profit organisations** use research to understand social and environmental issues, evaluate the effectiveness of their programs, and make informed decisions about resource allocation.
- **Understanding of human behaviour:** Psychology graduates have a deep understanding of how people think, feel, and behave that can be valuable in a variety of industries from marketing to human resources to healthcare. Specifically, more and more industries are seeing the value in **behavioural analytics** which is an area of data analytics that focuses on providing insights into the actions of people within different sectors including e-commerce, gaming, social media, and other applications to identify opportunities to optimize products in order to meet specific business outcomes.
- **Communication skills:** Psychology degrees often require students to develop strong written and verbal communication skills which are essential in many careers. For example, **human resources professionals** need to communicate effectively with employees and management to address workplace issues, handle conflict, and manage employee relations. Similarly, **public relation specialists** need to communicate effectively with clients, media outlets, and the public to manage reputations, handle crises, and promote products and services.
- **Critical Thinking skills:** Finally, psychology graduates are trained to think critically and objectively about complex issues, another key skill highly valued by employers. **Marketing research analysts**, for example, use critical thinking skills to design and conduct market research studies, analyse data, and develop insights into inform business decisions. Those who pursue a career in **management consultancy** will rely on critical thinking skills to analyse complex business problems, identify solutions, and make evidence-informed recommendations to clients. In short, psychology graduates with strong critical thinking skills are well-suited for careers that involve problem-solving, analysis, and decision-making.

How to maximise your options during a psychology degree

Take the time to think about your options

Choosing a career path can be a daunting task, especially for undergraduates who are still trying to figure out their interests and strengths. However, it is crucial to start thinking about your career options early on in your undergraduate degree as it can provide clarity and direction towards achieving your goals.

An important first step when considering a career is to **identify and explore various career options that align with your interests, skills, and values**. Consider whether there are particular aspects of your studies that you enjoy (i.e., qualitative research methods, data analytics, problem solving) and try to think of what types of careers might align with these interests. For instance, a student passionate about problem solving and group work might consider a role as a project manager. It's important that you think about the potential value of your degree early on and it's [application to different roles and sectors](#).

Another important step is to **make informed decisions about academic and extracurricular activities**. Having a clear understanding of your career goals means that you might select courses (such as specific option courses at Honours) and internships or part time work that will provide you with the necessary skills and experiences to succeed in your chosen profession. Also taking part in micro courses offered by popular websites such as [LinkedIn Learning](#) might also help you explore and develop new skills that are relevant to your specific career choice. You might also consider signing up for the [MVLS Graduate Skills Award](#) that provides formal recognition of individual commitments to extracurricular activities and achievements undertaken during your time at University.

Thinking about your career early can result in better job opportunities and higher earning potential. Students who have a clear idea of their career goals can **start building their professional network** and relevant skills early on, which can help them secure internships and job offers. Within the School of Psychology and Neuroscience, for example, we have our own LinkedIn group so that our students can reach out to our alumni in order to start building this important network. You can join this group by signing up for a LinkedIn account and searching for "University of Glasgow Psychology" where you will be able to request to join the group. Here, you can connect with your peers, receive up to date careers advice relevant to psychology, and connect with our alumni.

Finally, we have lots of [recordings for you to listen to from our alumni](#) who work in lots of different sectors which might also give you an idea of the career paths open to you.

In short, thinking about career options early on in your studies is crucial for students who want to achieve their professional goals. By exploring different career paths, making informed decisions about academic and extracurricular activities, and building your professional network, students can increase their chances of success and fulfilment in their chosen profession. If you are unsure about what to do in the future and what career might be right for you, [our careers service provide lots of advice in making this important decision](#).

Work experience and voluntary work

Gaining work experience or volunteering is incredibly important for students. For example, it provides you with the opportunity to develop and refine skills in real-world settings. Classroom learning can only go so far, however, and practical experience can help you apply what you have learned and gain valuable insights into your chosen field.

Work experience and volunteering can also help you develop your professional network. Work experience or volunteering gives students the opportunity to meet people in their industry of interest and gain exposure to different career paths. Students can also learn from experienced professionals and potentially secure valuable references for future job applications. Importantly, [the rise of digital placements](#) now allow students increased flexibility to seek out work experience with employers from different parts of the country and to fit volunteering work around their own schedules.

Students who seek out different work experiences and volunteering opportunities will also stand out in the competitive job market. Employers often look for candidates who have relevant experience, and having a proven track record of success in a work or volunteer role can give students a significant advantage.

Another advantage of work experience and volunteering is that it helps you determine your career interests and goals. By working in different industries or organisations, students can gain a better understanding of what they enjoy and what they want to pursue as a career. This can save significant time and effort in the long run, as this experience can focus your job search on positions that align with your interests and goals.

If you are considering a role as a chartered psychologist, you will need to build up significant experience and therefore it's best to start early. Volunteering with relevant client groups and building contacts for further opportunities. Experience will often be transferable across different areas of psychology. If you want to build your research skills, approach relevant lectures and tutors and ask about potential volunteering that can support postgraduate's research projects.

Finally, work experience and volunteering can be personally rewarding. By giving back to the community or working in a meaningful role such as mental health or child support services can give students a sense of purpose and fulfilment outside their academic pursuits.

Below are some resources that will be useful for seeking out work experience and volunteering opportunities.

- [University of Glasgow Careers Finding Jobs and Work Experience page](#)
- [Volunteer Glasgow](#)
- [Vinspired](#)
- [Virtual Work Experience](#)
- [A students guide to virtual internships in the UK](#)
- [Graduate Career Advantage Scotland](#)

Connections and professional memberships

Connecting with individuals from different jobs is a great way of finding out about opportunities and gaining experience.

One way to do this is by [attending career fairs and employer events](#). Here, you can chat with different employers about what their jobs might involve and ask any questions.

Another effective way to connect with other psychology graduates is via social networking sites such as [Linked In](#). From the Linked In University of Glasgow main page you can click on the Alumni tab and filter for "Psychology" graduates. This is a great way of linking up with professionals who previously studied psychology at Glasgow.

You can also join our University of Glasgow School of Psychology and Neuroscience Linked In group page. You can join this group by signing up for a Linked In account and searching for "University of Glasgow Psychology" where you will be able to request to join the group. Here, you can connect with your peers, receive up to date careers advice relevant to psychology, and connect with our alumni.

If you are considering becoming a chartered psychologist, you might also wish to look into [membership of the BPS](#). Members receive invitations to conferences, events, and workshops at reduced student rates. These are great opportunities to connect with psychologists who work in the area that interests you and to keep up to date with research and the latest insights.

Why study for a postgraduate degree?

Those student wishing to become chartered psychologists will often have to apply for postgraduate study/training. The BPS estimate that it takes on average seven years to gain chartered status as you will often have to gain the necessary experience in addition to the relevant qualifications.

[The BPS have a breakdown of the different career paths for chartered psychologists.](#)

Alternatively, students might take postgraduate courses to continue building their research skills and experience if they are interested in a career in academia. [The University of Glasgow provide a list of study options for this route that you can access.](#)

Finally, you may instead choose to apply your knowledge of psychology to other professional training in areas such as speech and language therapy, nursing, law, or social work. Psychology degrees are often accepted if you wish to change direction in your academic journey. It is always important to check the entry requirements for courses that you are considering and contact the admissions staff for clarification if you are not sure.

See the links below for further information:

[What is postgraduate study and how do you fund it?](#)

[The University of Glasgow postgraduate studies page](#)

Graduate programmes relevant to psychology graduates

Graduate schemes will allow you to work and train in large organisations, usually between one to three years, with a view of progressing into a senior role over the long term. Many programmes allow you to experience different placements within the organisation that allow you to decide what roles you are most suited to. Many of these programmes are open to students across any degree discipline.

Examples of different graduate programmes relevant to psychology are listed below. Please remember that these programmes might not run every year.

Charity Sector

- [Charity Works](#)
- [CharityJob](#)
- [Cancer Research UK](#)
- [IntoUniversity](#)
- [Wellcome](#)

Government, Health & Social Care

- [NHS Scotland Graduate Management Training Scheme](#)
- [NHS Graduate Training Opportunities](#)
- [Civil Service Fast Stream](#)
- [Scottish Government Graduate Recruitment](#)

Criminal Justice

- [Police Graduate Leadership Programme](#)
- [Unlocked Prison Officer Leadership Programme](#)

Education & Teaching

- [PGDE graduate programme](#)
- [Teach First](#)
- [Department of Education 2023 graduate opportunities](#)
- [The University of Manchester Future Leaders Graduate Programme](#)

Social Work

- [Think Ahead](#)
- [Frontline](#)
- [The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service \(Cafcass\) graduate scheme](#)

Popular Job Websites

Rather than go into further study or find a graduate scheme, many of our students instead choose to find a job after their degree. Below, are some sites that you might find useful.

General Job Websites/Psychology Related Jobs

- [British Psychology Society \(BPS\)](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [Careerjet](#)

- [Glassdoor](#)
- [Guardian](#)
- [myjobscotland](#)

Mental Health & Healthcare

- [Healthjobs UK](#)
- [NHS Scotland](#)
- [NHS](#)
- [Creative Support](#)
- [Turning Point](#)
- [Health in Mind](#)
- [Priory Group](#)
- [BMJ, Psychologist Jobs](#)
- [Scottish Association for Mental Health](#)
- [Change Mental Health](#)

Government, Social Care, Communities & Charities

- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Civil Service Jobs \(UK\)](#)
- [Cornerstone](#)
- [Charity Jobs](#)
- [Marie Curie](#)
- [Jobsgopublic](#)
- [Community Care](#)

Research Related Jobs

- [Market Research](#)
- [Social Research](#)

Commerical including Human Resources & Marketing

- [HR, learning & development jobs \(CIPD\)](#)
- [Marketing Week](#)

Young people & Education

- [Children and Young People Now Jobs](#)
- [The Cambian Group](#)
- [One Education](#)

- [Education Support](#)
- [Place2Be](#)

University Sector (including research assistant roles)

- [Jobs.ac.uk Psychology Lecturing & Research](#)
- [Jobs.ac.uk Administration Support Services](#)