

# Job of The Week

## Forensic Psychologist

### Key Skills

- Knowledge of psychology
- Counselling skills including active
- Listening and a non-judgemental approach
- Analytical thinking skills
- The ability to understand people's reactions
- Sensitivity and understanding
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- Excellent written communication skills
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

### Salary

£49,000 - £65,000

### Working hours

37 – 40 per week  
Between 8am and 6pm  
On a rota

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

# Forensic Psychologist

## Work

You may be able to start your career as an [interventions facilitator in HM Prison Service](#).

You could study for a psychology degree part-time while you work. You would then apply for a trainee forensic psychologist role.

## University

To become a forensic psychologist, you can either follow the accredited degree process or complete a doctorate programme.

### Accredited degree process

1. Do a psychology [degree or conversion course that is accredited by the British Psychological Society \(BPS\)](#).
2. [Apply for graduate membership](#) to obtain the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC).
3. Study for a master's degree in forensic psychology that is accredited by BPS, known as stage 1.
4. Complete 2 years of supervised practice as part of stage 2 of the BPS qualification in forensic psychology.

### Doctorate programme

Some universities offer a doctorate programme in forensic psychology. This is the equivalent of the accredited master's degree and 2 years of supervised practice.

There's a lot of competition for postgraduate training. To apply, you may need:

- a first or upper second class (2:1) degree
- evidence of excellent research skills
- relevant work experience, for example in a prison, probation or youth offending service

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths
- 3 A levels or equivalent

## Career path and progression

With experience, you could:

- become a senior psychologist in a prison or hospital secure unit
- move into a policy, strategy or service management role
- work freelance as a consultant, for example as an expert witness

## Day to Day tasks

- Carry out research, prepare risk assessments and write reports
- Offer advice to parole boards, mental health tribunals and courts
- Work closely with other professionals and train new psychologists
- Help police identify possible suspects, known as criminal profiling
- Advise on how to reduce stress and improve life inside prisons
- Provide psychological therapy to help people understand and overcome their problems

## Working conditions

You could work in a prison, in an NHS or private hospital, at a police station or in the community. Your working environment may be emotionally demanding and you'll travel often.

# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Clinical psychologists	Other psychologists	Psychotherapists and cognitive behaviour therapists
<p>Weekly Pay <b>£950</b></p> <p>Hours/Week <b>38h</b></p> <p>Annual Pay <b>£49,400</b></p> <p>Hourly Pay <b>£25</b></p>	<p>Weekly Pay <b>£720</b></p> <p>Hours/Week <b>35h</b></p> <p>Annual Pay <b>£37,440</b></p> <p>Hourly Pay <b>£21</b></p>	<p>Weekly Pay <b>£700</b></p> <p>Hours/Week <b>35h</b></p> <p>Annual Pay <b>£36,400</b></p> <p>Hourly Pay <b>£20</b></p>
<p><b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)</p> <p>Growth <b>8.6%</b></p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 8.6% over the period to 2035, creating <b>2,300</b> jobs.</p>	<p><b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)</p> <p>Growth <b>8.6%</b></p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 8.6% over the period to 2035, creating <b>3,000</b> jobs.</p>	<p><b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)</p> <p>Growth <b>8.6%</b></p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 8.6% over the period to 2035, creating <b>3,700</b> jobs.</p>
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health</li> <li>Residential care</li> <li>Public admin. &amp; defence</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social work</li> <li>Residential care</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Public admin. &amp; defence</li> <li>Health</li> </ul>	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social work</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">More info</a> <a href="#">Clear card</a></p>	<p><a href="#">More info</a> <a href="#">Clear card</a></p>	<p><a href="#">More info</a> <a href="#">Clear card</a></p>

# Labour Market Information



Clinical psychologists	Other psychologists	Psychotherapists and cognitive behaviour therapists
<p>Clinical psychologists work with people experiencing emotional, psychological or behavioural distress, perform tests and assess their emotional, cognitive and behavioural processes, and determine treatments to help patients improve their mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Psychologists research, study and assess emotional, cognitive and behavioural processes and abnormalities in human beings and animals and how these are affected by genetic, physical and social factors.</p>	<p>Psychotherapists and cognitive behaviour therapists use a variety of therapies in one-on-one or group settings to help people with mental health issues, stress, emotional and relationship problems.</p>
<p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>administers tests to assess patients' needs through interviews, psychometric tests and observation of their behaviour</li> <li>determines appropriate treatment and may refer patients to other mental health professionals</li> <li>provides treatment or guidance using a variety of therapy and counselling techniques</li> <li>helps patients to manage their own psychological conditions</li> </ul>	<p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develops and administers tests to measure intelligence, abilities, aptitudes, etc. and assesses results</li> <li>develops treatment and guidance methods and gives treatment or guidance using a variety of therapy and counselling techniques</li> <li>observes and experiments on humans and animals to measure mental and physical characteristics</li> <li>analyses the effect of hereditary, social and physical factors on thought and behaviour</li> </ul>	<p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assesses and provides treatment for people suffering with mental illness, stress, and emotional and relationship problems</li> <li>talks with patients about their emotions, relationships and personal history</li> <li>analyses events, behaviour, and habits to understand their mode of thinking and feelings</li> <li>helps people come up with new ways to cope with their problems and to change their ways of thinking</li> </ul>
<p>Back Clear card</p>	<p>Back Clear card</p>	<p>Back Clear card</p>

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

## Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

### Prison Service Careers



[What does a forensic psychologist do in a prison?](#)

### What is Forensic Psychology?



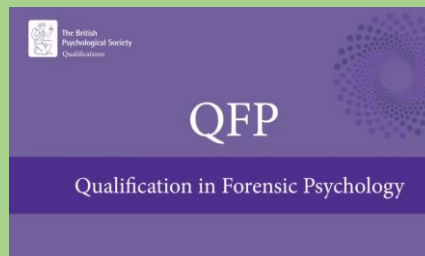
[Forensic Psychology | 10 Key Concepts Explained](#)

### NHS Careers



[Working in forensic psychology with Fiona at South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

### How to Qualify



[How to qualify as a Forensic Psychologist](#)

## Useful Websites

[Find your career in psychology | BPS](#)

[Forensic psychologist | Health Careers](#)

[PPN - Forensic Psychologist](#)

[Forensic psychologist | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Psychologist training - Prison and Probation Jobs](#)