

# Forensic psychologist

Forensic psychologists apply psychological theory to criminal investigation to help understand psychological problems associated with criminal behaviour, and the treatment of those who have committed offences.

They work with all aspects of the criminal justice system.



## Working life

Forensic psychologists work with the psychological aspects of investigation, legal process and offending behaviour and apply psychological methods to reduce the impact of this and future re-offending.

You'll work in the treatment of offenders in a range of areas including sexual offending, violence and aggression, interpersonal and social skills and intervention to help stop illicit drug and or alcohol use. You'll offer treatment for those who have committed offences to reduce the impact of their experiences and to reduce chances of reoffending.

Most of your work will be done in association with the police, probation services, prisons, young offender institutions, or secure mental health hospitals.

Your work may include:

- implementing treatment programmes
- reducing stress for staff and offenders in secure settings
- providing research evidence to support psychological practice with offenders
- undertaking statistical analysis for prisoner profiling
- giving expert evidence in court
- advising parole boards and mental health tribunals
- crime analysis

## Hon Professor Dr Geraldine Akerman

### Consultant forensic psychologist

I am interested in helping individuals look back at their experiences and see what they need to address for their future well-being and to prevent further offending or harm to others.

[Read Geraldine's story](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

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## Pay and benefits

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the [Agenda for Change \(AfC\)](#) <sup>[2]</sup> pay scales. This pay system covers all staff except doctors, dentists and the most senior managers.

After completing your training, you will be paid at band 7. Psychologists in the NHS can work full or part time. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Forensic psychologists work with all aspects of the criminal justice system.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

## Who will I work with?

Forensic psychologists work with a range of people, including:

- those who have chronic difficulties
- those at risk of offending as a consequence of their behaviour
- family members
- victims
- the public affected by crime

Whilst this usually applies to adults, some specialised forensic psychologists work with young offenders and within the youth justice system.

## Where will I work?

The largest single employer of forensic psychologists in the UK is HM Prison Service, although forensic psychologists are also employed by:

- specialist NHS mental health settings (such as 'secure hospitals')
- social services
- offender management services (such as police and probation)

- academic departments, teaching, supervising, and researching in their area of expertise

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need a British Psychological Society accredited undergraduate degree in psychology for the Master's degree in forensic psychology. Experience is also essential when applying to forensic psychology programmes. This can be paid or voluntary and preference is given to those with experience of working in a forensic setting such as within prisons, probation services or a youth offending service.

## Training

You'll need to complete a Master's degree in forensic psychology approved by the [Health and Care Professions Council](#) <sup>[3]</sup> (HCPC <sup>[4]</sup>). You'll then need to complete one of the following:

1. A minimum of three years of evidence supervised practice where the trainee can provide evidence of applying psychology appropriately in forensic practice
2. An HCPC <sup>[4]</sup>-accredited doctoral programme that includes practice placements and a third year research thesis

If you started NHS-funded training from April 2022, you will normally be unable to access further NHS-funded training for a new occupation in the psychological professions until two years after your qualifying exam board.

Visit the [funding for psychological professions training programmes web page](#) <sup>[5]</sup> for more information on NHS funding.

## Where the role can take you

Once you have qualified as a psychologist, there are a wide range of opportunities. You could apply for more senior positions, for example consultant psychologist or head of a psychology service. As psychology relies heavily on research, you could contribute to the development of the profession through research work and teaching. You could apply for a trainee [high intensity therapist position](#) <sup>[6]</sup>.

### • Find your course to become a forensic psychologist

Region

- Any - ▼

Type of qualification

- Any - ▼

Full or part time

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Displaying 1 - 5 of 14 matches

## Forensic Psychology (Practitioner Programme)

Cardiff Metropolitan University

[View course](#) <sup>[7]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification  
Postgraduate Diploma - PgDip
- Study mode  
Part-time
- Duration of the course  
5 Years
- Leading to a career in  
Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details  
[askadmissions@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:askadmissions@cardiffmet.ac.uk) <sup>[8]</sup>  
029 2041 6010
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Wales
- Admissions address  
Western Avenue  
Cardiff  
CF5 2YB  
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## Forensic Psychology (Practitioner Programme)

Cardiff Metropolitan University

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- Qualification  
Postgraduate Diploma - PgDip
- Study mode  
Full-time
- Duration of the course  
2 Years
- Leading to a career in  
Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details  
[askadmissions@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:askadmissions@cardiffmet.ac.uk) <sup>[8]</sup>  
029 2041 6010
- Region  
Wales
- Admissions address  
Western Avenue  
Cardiff  
CF5 2YB  
Wales

## Forensic Psychology Practice

University of Birmingham

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- Qualification
  - ForenPsyD
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details
  - [postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk) <sup>[10]</sup>
- Region
  - West Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Edgbaston
  - Birmingham
  - B15 2TU
  - England

## Forensic Psychology Practice

University of Birmingham

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- Qualification
  - ForenPsyD
- Study mode
  - Part-time
- Duration of the course
  - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details
  - [postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk) <sup>[10]</sup>
- Region
  - West Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Edgbaston
  - Birmingham
  - B15 2TU
  - England

## Forensic Clinical Psychology

University of Birmingham

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- Qualification
  - ForenPsyD
- Study mode

- Full-time
- Duration of the course
- 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
- Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details
  - [postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk) <sup>[10]</sup>
- Region
  - West Midlands
- Admissions address
  - Edgbaston
  - Birmingham
  - B15 2TU
  - England
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### Find a vacancy

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#### ○ Principal Forensic Psychologist

Surrey, GU1 4RS

Salary:

£64455.00 to £74896.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

#### ○ Clinical/Forensic Psychologist

Grimsby, DN32 7DH

Salary:

£48480.00 to £58178.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Care Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Senior Clinical or Forensic Psychologist**

Birmingham, B37 7HH

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical or Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Senior Clinical or Forensic Psychologist**

Sheffield, S35 0JW

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical or Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Senior Clinical/Forensic Psychologist Part-Time**

Thatcham, RG19 8ET

Salary:

£57000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical/Forensic Psychologist Part-Time job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Band 8a Senior Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist**

Birmingham, B19 1HS

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 8a Senior Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **Clinical or Forensic Psychologist - Youth Justice Service**

Taunton, TA1 4DY

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical or Forensic Psychologist - Youth Justice Service job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist**

Peterborough, PE3 6AN

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Consultant Psychologist Forensic Mental Health**

Carmarthen, SA31 3BB

Salary:

£78120.00 to £90013.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychologist Forensic Mental Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>



- **Principal Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist**

Newton Abbot, TQ12 6DW

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Principal Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist**

Dudley/Walsall, DY1 2LZ

Salary:

£64455.00 to £74896.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist/Psychological Therapist**

Portland, DT5 1EQ

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist/Psychological Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist/Psychological Therapist**

Portland, DT5 1DL

Salary:

£47810.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Forensic/Counselling](#)

[Psychologist/Psychological Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Forensics Dietitian**

Hackney, E9 5TD

Salary:

£46419.00 to £55046.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Forensics Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Forensic Pathway Lead**

Hailsham, BN27 4ER

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Forensic Pathway Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[27]</sup>

- **Forensic Healthcare Professional - Worcester**

Worcester, WR1 3QX

Nuneaton, CV114JU

Salary:

£41190.24

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Partnering Health Ltd

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Forensic Healthcare Professional - Worcester job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry**

Conwy, LL30 1LA

Salary:

£91722.00 to £119079.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Head of Psychology - Clinical / Forensic / Counselling**

London and South East, HA1 3JL

Salary:

£75000.00 to £85000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Head of Psychology - Clinical / Forensic / Counselling job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Clinical Psychologist/Counselling Psychologist**

London, W9 2BA

Salary:

£56276.00 to £63176.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Psychologist/Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Head of Psychology Department - Clinical/Counselling/Forensic**

Wales, CH7 6FQ

Salary:

£68900.00 to £68900.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Head of Psychology Department - Clinical/Counselling/Forensic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Consultant Forensic Psych (Whitlingham)\*Generous Recruitment Package\***

Norwich, NR6 5BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Forensic Psych \(Whitlingham\)\\*Generous Recruitment Package\\* job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

## ○ **Psychologist**

Wath upon Dearne, ROTHERHAM, S63 7TQ

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

## **Other roles that may interest you**

- [Clinical psychologist](#) <sup>[35]</sup>
- [High intensity therapist](#) <sup>[36]</sup>
- [Forensic psychiatry](#) <sup>[37]</sup>
- [Psychological wellbeing practitioner](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

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### **Links**

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<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9369-25-0616> [23]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9285-25-0277> [24]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9277-25-0957> [25]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9277-25-0942> [26]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9363-25-0797> [27]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9354-25-0826> [28]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0062-25-0048> [29]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9050-24-0037> [30]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0233-25-1552> [31]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9333-25-1006> [32]  
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<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/psychiatry/forensic-psychiatry> [38]  
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