

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](#) ^[1]

Pay and benefits

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the [Agenda for Change \(AfC\)](#) ^[2] 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](#) ^[3] (HCPC ^[4]). 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 ^[4]-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](#) ^[5] 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](#) ^[6].

• Find your course to become a forensic psychologist

Region

- Any - ▼

Type of qualification

- Any - ▼

Full or part time

Search ▼

Displaying 1 - 5 of 14 matches

Forensic Psychology (Practitioner Programme)

Cardiff Metropolitan University

[View course](#) ^[7] 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 ^[8]
029 2041 6010
- Region
Wales
- Admissions address
Western Avenue
Cardiff
CF5 2YB
Wales

Forensic Psychology (Practitioner Programme)

Cardiff Metropolitan University

[View course](#) ^[7] Opens in a new window

- 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 ^[8]
029 2041 6010
- Region
Wales
- Admissions address
Western Avenue
Cardiff
CF5 2YB
Wales

Forensic Psychology Practice

University of Birmingham

[View course](#) ^[9] Opens in a new window

- 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 ^[10]
- Region
West Midlands
- Admissions address
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TU
England

Forensic Psychology Practice

University of Birmingham

[View course](#) ^[9] Opens in a new window

- 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 ^[10]
- Region
West Midlands
- Admissions address
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TU
England

Forensic Clinical Psychology

University of Birmingham

[View course](#) ^[11] Opens in a new window

- 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 ^[10]
- Region
 - West Midlands
- Admissions address
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 - Birmingham
 - B15 2TU
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- [Load more Load more results](#) ^[12]

• Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

○ Forensic Psychologist

York , LN3 0AB

Salary:

£58000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Care & Custody - A Mitie Company

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

○ Clinical/Forensic Psychologist

Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4JL

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist - Forensic Psych Services**

Wickford, Essex, SS11 7FE

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist - Forensic Psych Services job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Band 8a Clinical/Forensic Psychologist - Bristol**

Bristol, BS16 1EG

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 8a Clinical/Forensic Psychologist - Bristol job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Principal Clinical or Forensic Psychologist DBT**

Northampton, NN1 5DG

Salary:

£62588.00 to £74165.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St Andrew's Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Clinical or Forensic Psychologist DBT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist - 9 month FTC**

Yorkshire and Humber, BD6 3DQ

Salary:

£41730.00 to £41730.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist - 9 month FTC job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Clinical, Counselling or Forensic Psychologist - Part time**

London and South East, SE2 0AT

Salary:

£27900.00 to £27900.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical, Counselling or Forensic Psychologist - Part time job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist**

Bolton, BL4 0JL

Salary:

£55000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

ABL Health Ltd

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

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

London and South East, SG1 4YS

Salary:

£55000.00 to £59000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

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

- **Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist**

Boston, PE22 0QX

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Band 8a Clinical, Counselling or Forensic Psychologist - Bristol**

Bristol, BS16 1EG

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 8a Clinical, Counselling or Forensic Psychologist - Bristol job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

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

Dudley/Walsall, DY1 2LZ

Salary:

£62215.00 to £72293.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Consultant Psychologist for Forensics and Criminal Justice**

Cambridge, CB21 5EF

Salary:

£74290.00 to £85601.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychologist for Forensics and Criminal Justice job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Principal Psychologist specialising in Forensic MH & Intensive Care**

Carmarthen, SA31 3BB

Salary:

£63150.00 to £73379.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Psychologist specialising in Forensic MH & Intensive Care job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Forensic healthcare Professional - Scarborough**

Scarborough, YO12 7AD

Salary:

£38450.00 to £43465.50

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Partnering Health Ltd

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Forensic healthcare Professional - Scarborough job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry - Ravenswood**

Fareham, PO17 5NA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry - Ravenswood job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Clinical Psychologist / Counselling Psychologist**

Exeter, EX2 5DY

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Psychologist / Counselling Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Clinical Psychologist / Clinical Psychologist**

Southampton, SO14 2AA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Psychologist / Clinical Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Clinical Psychologist / Clinical Psychologist**

Southampton, SO14 2AA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

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

- **Senior Forensic Occupational Therapist - Littlemore - Oxford**

Oxford, OX4 4XN

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Forensic Occupational Therapist - Littlemore - Oxford job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Junior Clinical Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry**

London, N4 2ES

Salary:

£49909.00 to £61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Junior Clinical Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Junior Clinical Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry**

London, N4 2ES

Salary:

£49909.00 to £61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Junior Clinical Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) ^[37]

○ **Clinical Psychologist/Counselling Psychologist/Psychotherapist**

Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2JN

Salary:

£46148.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Psychologist/Counselling Psychologist/Psychotherapist job (opens in a new window) ^[38]

Other roles that may interest you

- Clinical psychologist ^[39]
- High intensity therapist ^[40]
- Forensic psychiatry ^[41]
- Psychological wellbeing practitioner ^[42]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/forensic-psychologist>

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