

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

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|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Region | Type of qualification | Full or part time |
| - Any - ▼ | - Any - ▼ | Search ▼ |

Displaying 11 - 14 of 14 matches

Forensic psychology DForenPsy

University of Nottingham

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

- Study mode
 - Part-time
- Duration of the course
 - Up to 4 years
- Leading to a career in
 - Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details
 - +44 (0) 115 951 5559
- Region
 - East Midlands
- Admissions address
 - University of Nottingham
 - University Park Campus
 - Nottingham, NG7 2RD
 - United Kingdom

Forensic psychology practice PgDip

Manchester Metropolitan University

[View course](#) ^[8] Opens in a new window

- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 years
- Leading to a career in
 - Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details
 - +44 (0)161 247 2000
- Region
 - North West
- Admissions address
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
 - All Saints Building
 - Manchester
 - M15 6BH
 - United Kingdom

Forensic psychology practice PgDip

Manchester Metropolitan University

- Study mode
 - Part-time
- Duration of the course
 - 5 years
- Leading to a career in
 - Psychology (forensic)

- Contact details
 - +44 (0)161 247 2000
- Region
 - North West
- Admissions address
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
 - All Saints Building
 - Manchester
 - M15 6BH
 - United Kingdom

Forensic psychology practice PGDip

University of Derby

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

- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 2 years
- Leading to a career in
 - Psychology (forensic)
- Contact details
 - udolenquiries@derby.ac.uk ^[10]
 - +44 (0) 1332 594000
- Region
 - East Midlands
- Admissions address
 - Kedleston Road
 - Derby
 - DE22 1GB
-

• Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

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Search

- **Qualified Forensic Psychologist**

Liverpool, L97LH

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sodexo

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Qualified Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Senior Forensic Psychologist**

Liverpool, L97LH

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sodexo

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Highly Specialist Clinical Forensic Psychologist**

Ealing, UB1 3HW

Salary:

£59490.00 to £66239.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West London NHS Trust

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

- **Forensic/Clinical Psychologist**

Doncaster, DN4 8QN

Salary:

£62215.00 to £72293.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHSFT

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

- **Senior Clinical/Forensic Psychologist - Thornford Park**

Thatcham, RG19 8ET

Salary:

£56166.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

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

- **Senior Clinical/Counselling/Forensic Psychologist (8a)**

Birmingham, B13 8QE

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **8b Clinical/Counselling or Forensic Psychologist**

Norwich, NR6 5BE

Salary:

£64455.00 to £74896.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for 8b Clinical/Counselling or Forensic Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

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

Yorkshire and Humber, BD6 3DQ

Salary:

£40000.00 to £41700.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

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

- **Psychologist - Clinical/Counselling/Forensic (Part Time)**

Lancashire, FY3 8NU

Salary:

£51675.00 to £51675.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Psychologist - Clinical/Counselling/Forensic \(Part Time\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Clinical / Forensic / Counselling Psychologist - Part time**

East Midlands, S43 3DN

Salary:

£28620.00 to £28620.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

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

- **HDU Principal Applied Psychologist (Clinical / Counselling / Forensic)**

Doncaster, DN4 8QN

Salary:

£62215.00 to £72293.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHSFT

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

- **Forensic Associate Specialist**

Atherton, M46 9NT

Salary:

Negotiable
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Elysium Healthcare
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Forensic Associate Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **Psychologist / Senior Psychologist**

Maidstone, ME16 9QQ

Salary:
£46148.00 to £60504.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

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

- **Psychologist / Senior Psychologist**

Gillingham, ME7 1AL

Salary:

£46148.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Psychologist / Senior Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Psychologist**

Prescott, L35 6NE

Salary:

£56160.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Psychologist**

Kings Lynn, PE30 5PD

Salary:

£47810.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Psychologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry - Southfield Low Secure**

Southampton, SO40 2RZ

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 - Southfield Low Secure job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Clinical psychologist](#) [30]
- [High intensity therapist](#) [31]
- [Forensic psychiatry](#) [32]
- [Psychological wellbeing practitioner](#) [33]

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/forensic-psychologist?page=2>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/forensic-psychologist/real-life-story-hon-professor-dr-geraldine-akerman> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates> [3] <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HCPC> [5] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/mental-health/psychological-professions/funding-psychological-professions-training-programmes> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/high-intensity-therapist> [7] <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/course/research/forensic-psychology-top-up-dforenpsy> [8] <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/course/pgdip-forensic-psychology-practice> [9] <https://www.derby.ac.uk/online/psychology-courses/forensic-psychology-practice-pg-dip/> [10] <mailto:udolenquiries@derby.ac.uk> [11] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0036-25-0003> [12] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0036-25-0006> [13] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9222-25-0437> [14] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9376-25-0381> [15] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0132-25-0801> [16] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9284-25-0343> [17] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9246-25-0705> [18] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0233-25-1325> [19] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0233-25-1235> [20] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0233-25-1313> [21] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9376-25-0393> [22] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0132-25-0855> [23] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9050-24-0037> [24] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9348-25-1451> [25] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9380-25-0470> [26] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9380-25-0449> [27] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0132-25-0990> [28] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9246-25-0736> [29] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9348-25-1450> [30] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/clinical-psychologist> [31] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/high-intensity-therapist> [32] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/psychiatry/forensic-psychiatry> [33] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/psychological-wellbeing-practitioner>