**Social Psychology**

Job Summary

As a Social Psychologist you will apply psychological theory of how people’s thoughts, feelings and behaviour are influenced by social contexts (eg: groups and relationships). You might also study individuals’ attitudes, goals, incentives and social norms.

Individuals who want to become Social Psychologists do not have a set career pathway like the other fields of psychology. To become a Social Psychologist it often involves doing research into that area.

You can take the role of:

* A lecturer
* An independent researcher for universities (publishing research in academic journals)
* Working for businesses or organisations in pin-pointing best target groups and carrying out market research
* Consultation and research for companies. This could be working as a statistician analysing and organising data sets, questionnaire development or research design
* Media Consultant

Qualifications – How do I become a Social Psychologist?

1. You will need a 3-year degree in Psychology that the British Psychological Society accredits. This gives you a **GBC** (**G**raduate **B**asis for **C**hartered Membership of BPS).
2. You will need to complete an accredited Doctorate in Social Psychology because it prepares graduates to be an independent researcher in the area. Accomplishment of a Doctorate will lead to eligibility as a Chartered Psychologist.
* The University of Southampton offers a Masters (MSc) in Research Methods in Psychology - <http://www.soton.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgstudy/programmes/psychology/msc_research_methods_psychology.html>. This is perfect grounding for a Doctorate, and at Southampton we have a team of Social Psychologists who can supervise your work in a relevant area. http://www.soton.ac.uk/psychology/research/groups/centre\_for\_research\_on\_self\_and\_identity.page

What relevant work experience would I need?

Work experience alongside researchers may be just as important to a postgraduate selector as your degree.

The following are opportunities of relevant work experience; some include jobs in the local area:

* Any role that allows you to enhance your interpersonal and communication skills with diverse people will be of particular benefit because it will further your understanding of how people act in a variety of different contexts. Good organisational skills is also key, this is needed for tasks such as conducting studies and running the labs.
* The University of Southampton runs a programme for a Voluntary Research Assistant (VRA). This is unpaid and usually runs over the summer or a few hours a week during term time. It is a great opportunity to increase your chances of achieving a place on a post graduate course. In addition, the researchers could write a letter of reference for you.
* Southampton City Council Volunteering Opportunities - http://www.southampton.gov.uk/living/adult-care/dayservices/volunteeringopps.aspx
* The British Psychological Society offers a Summer Research Assistantship for undergraduates before the start of their final year. The research project typically lasts around 6-8 weeks and it provides the students with a stipend of £200 per week. Up to 10 places are available each year- <http://www.bps.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-grants/undergraduate-research-assistantship-scheme/undergraduate-research-assistan>

**If you are working with children or sensitive information you will need a CRB check.**