**Educational Psychology**

Job Summary

As an Educational Psychologist you would work with families, schools, young people, children and other professionals to ensure that individuals with learning difficulties, social or emotional problems can learn and develop to their full potential. Educational Psychologists may be attached to schools, or may work with local education authorities (LEAs) to provide support for children who are ‘statemented’ or who have identified special needs.

You would carry out a number of duties:

* Assessment of young people’s learning problems by giving tests and consulting colleagues
* Intervention with children, parents and school in order to plan learning programmes
* Help teachers and other professionals cope effectively with the stress associated with their role
* Liaising with other professions about the best ways to meet children’s needs
* Evaluation
* Writing reports for Special Educational Needs (SEN) or courts
* Research into this particular area

As an Educational Psychologist, you would usually work in public settings such as schools, colleges, nurseries, social services, child guidance clinics or in private practice.

You can either work directly with the children or indirectly through the parents, teachers and other health and educational professions. A growing number of Educational Psychologists are working as independent or private consultants.

Your salary can vary incredibly depending on whether you work in public or private settings and how experienced you are. The Association of Educational Psychologists or the National Union of Teachers supplies details on the most recent salaries.

Qualifications – How do I become an Educational Psychologist?

1. You will need a 3-year degree in Psychology that meets the standards of accreditation by the British Psychological Society. Qualification with a 2i or more provides eligibility to apply for **GBC** (**G**raduate **B**asis for **C**hartered Membership of BPS).
	* What to do if you achieve 2:2 – you will need to complete a Masters or have exceptional experience
2. For acceptance onto a postgraduate course, you need relevant experience working with children in educational, childcare or community settings.
3. You will need a 3-year Taught Doctorate in Educational Psychology to gain eligibility to apply for registration with the **HPC** (**H**ealth **P**rofessions **C**ouncil) to become a Chartered Educational Psychologist.
* Completing a Doctorate in Educational Psychology at the University of Southampton: <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/psychology/postgraduate/research_degrees/courses/doctorate_in_educational_psychology_pgr.page>?. This involves incorporating a 300 day placement in local Educational Psychology Services. This programme is approved for registration with the HPC.
* The Children’s Workforce Development Council manages applications and possible funding for postgraduate courses – http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/educational-psychology. They are able to offer fees and funding for year 1 and fees only for years 2 and 3.
* Funding for UK/EU Students at University of Southampton: http://www.soton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding/pgukeufunding.html

What relevant work experience would I need?

It is often very competitive to secure a position on a postgraduate course in Educational Psychology, with the average number of applicants per place on a Doctorate course at Southampton being eight. To increase your chances of being successful, you will need to complete some work experience, whether it be voluntary or paid. Not only does this experience demonstrate to postgraduate selectors that you are interested in this particular field but it gives you the opportunity to apply your studies to the outside world.

Whether it be volunteering as a classroom assistant, working with children with disabilities, or just supporting young people, these are all relevant as a springboard to becoming an Educational Psychologist.

Here are some examples of roles that would be of benefit:

* Volunteer in a school for a Classroom Assistant or Learning Mentor**.** Local places that offer voluntary work:
	+ Mansbridge Primary School,
	+ Bassett Green Primary School,
	+ Bursledon Junior School,
	+ Oasis Academy Mayfield,
	+ Harefield Primary School,
	+ Nursery Volunteer at Early Years Centre at University of Southampton
	+ Cantell Maths and Computing College

It is best to apply for these roles via [Community Volunteering](http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/) as they are able to provide CRB checks that are essential for working with children and young people. In addition, they can locate volunteers to the appropriate school in order to balance out requests across the community. http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/

* Work within voluntary organisations for children and young people
* Barnardos offers internships in children’s services to students in London and various areas across the UK. <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/>
* KIDS offer voluntary summer work to help disabled children, young people and their families. http://www.kids.org.uk/information/100349/102586/volunteer\_with\_kids/
* ABA tutoring for children with Autism (your department will usually make you aware of such opportunities).
* Junior Club Volunteer for St. Denys Community Association. Organising and participating in a range of activities for 5-11 year olds. http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Junior+Club+Volunteer
* Voluntary work as an Assistant Youth Support Worker (Woolston). Apply through <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Assistant+Youth+Support+Worker+%28Woolston%29>
* Special Educational Needs (SEN) Volunteer at local schools. For example, at Bursledon Junior School. Apply through <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Special+Educational+Needs+%28SEN%29+Volunteer>
* School Governor for the independent charity ‘The School Governors’ One-Stop Shop’. The main quality needed is the desire to make a difference to young people’s lives through their education. http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=School+Governor
* Residential Volunteer at Beaulieu, New Forest – transport is provided from Southampton. Apply through <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Residential+Volunteer>
* Community service volunteering - <http://www.csv.org.uk/volunteering>
* The Life Foundation UK offers volunteering in countries such as Bulgaria and Romania working with abandoned children, children with learning disabilities or children with Autism. <http://www.lifefoundation.uk.com/international/>
* Mencap offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities including working with people with disabilities and young people which will be of relevance. <http://jobs.mencap.org.uk/onlinejobs/voluntarysearch.asp?q=onlinejobs/voluntarysearch.asp>
* STAR Junior Homework Club Volunteer <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=STAR+Junior+Homework+Club+Volunteer>. STAR Infants Homework Club Volunteer http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=STAR+Infants+Homework+Club+Volunteer
* Teacher – very relevant although no longer a requirement
* Assistant Educational Psychologist role – easier to obtain after graduation and relevant voluntary work experience has been undertaken. These roles can be found in the Psychologist Appointments which is part of The Psychologist (the BPS monthly magazine) http://www.psychapp.co.uk/, in newspapers or in specialist publications.
* To apply for a Doctorate at the University of Southampton, you are expected to have experience working in community or educational settings which will allow you to demonstrate knowledge of the Common Core Skills and Knowledge for the Children and Young People’s Workforce (CWDC).
* Go to the Children’s Workforce Development Council to find out what other experience you will need for postgraduate study: <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/>

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

To find out more about life as an Educational Psychologist, take a look at the BPS video: http://www.youtube.com/user/bpsmediacentre#p/u/5/qRht7q-laK8