**Occupational Psychology**



Job Summary

As an Occupational Psychologist you would apply psychological knowledge to help improve the overall effectiveness of organisations. You would ensure that employees are working to the best of their abilities and are satisfied with their jobs. You would either work in the development of organisations or work in areas of assessment and training.

As an Occupational Psychologist, your job may entail:

* Working in a consultancy role or in-house as an employee of the company to ensure organisational development by working with the managers and collaborating with all members of the work force.
* Selection, assessment and training of personnel
* Counselling for employees and assistance in development of personal qualities to work within a team
* Health and Safety



* Research

Most Occupational Psychologists work within the business sector, however some may additionally work in the Civil Service. There are other employers such as the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office. Others work as lecturers in Universities or have a research role.

As an Occupational Psychologist, your salary can vary hugely depending on whether you work in public or private settings and how experienced you are.

Qualifications – How do I become an Occupational Psychologist?

1. You will need a 3-year degree in Psychology that meets the standards of accreditation by the British Psychological Society. Qualification of a 2i or more gives you eligibility to apply for **GBC** (**G**raduate **B**asis for **C**hartered Membership of BPS).
2. EITHER a Masters in Occupational Psychology that demonstrates applied research ability OR Stage 1 (knowledge and training) of BPS Qualification in Occupational Psychology.
3. Stage 2 of BPS Qualification in Occupational Psychology (further training and two years supervised practice) to be eligible to apply for registration with the **HPC** (**H**ealth **P**rofessions **C**ouncil) and to apply for Chartered Psychologist status.

What relevant work experience would I need?

There is an increasing demand for Occupational Psychologists as society is changing, but places on postgraduate courses are still difficult to obtain. As well as your degree, any kind of work experience is useful as long as you are able to understand the functioning and operation of various organisations. Below is a list of job opportunities that students can undertake to get an insight into these areas:

* Any office-based/administrative work.
  + Volunteer Receptionist (Enabling Services) and Volunteer Administrator – apply through http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Volunteer+Receptionist+%28Enabling+Services%29
* Internships in Human Resources, personnel or staff development units – career destinations offer Easter and Summer placements for students http://www.soton.ac.uk/careers/
* Work experience in recruitment
* Work experience with psychometric test publishers – you may need to get in contact with companies for vacancies

Jobs are advertised 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 from the Civil Service.

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

To find out more about life as an Occupational Psychologist, take a look at the BPS video:

http://www.youtube.com/user/bpsmediacentre#p/u/7/blWzTs4N\_pE