**Academic Teachers and Researchers**

Job Summary

Academic teaching and research usually go together at the Higher Education level. Specialism in these areas of psychology usually involves being a University lecturer or teaching psychology at GCSE or A level.

Teaching GCSE or A level usually requires a teaching qualification such as a 1-year PGCE or an Education Degree to obtain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Teaching within Universities often requires a higher degree, usually a PhD, but does not require a teacher’s qualification.

As a lecturer, you would be expected to engage in ‘research-led teaching’ - your own research can inform what, and how, you teach your students. In addition, you contribute to teaching within your academic community, through publication and through conference presentation of your research findings. Accompanying the teaching and research side of your role, lecturers commonly are involved in the administration of modules, and with aspects of the smooth running of a school, or university department.

Qualifications – How do I become a Teacher and Researcher?

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 for **GBC** (**G**raduate **B**asis for **C**hartered Membership of BPS).
2. You will need relevant experience
3. You will need a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in an applied area of Psychology (at least three years being supervised and assessed)
* The University offers a 3-4 year MPhil (Master of Philosophy)/PhD by research, you would initially register for the MPhil award and may transfer to a PhD. The University offers some scholarships.

What relevant work experience would I need?

A postgraduate course is the stepping stone to become an Academic teacher but in order to take a step onto a postgraduate course you will need relevant work experience.

Below are some ideas about the kind of roles that will give you this experience (including some in the local area):

* Teaching assistant/volunteer. 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 schools in order to balance requests across the community. <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/>

* Special Educational Needs (SEN) Volunteer at local schools. Eg: Bursledon Junior School, you can apply through <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Special+Educational+Needs+%28SEN%29+Volunteer>
* Voluntary Research Assistant - 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 postgraduate course. In addition, the researchers could write a letter of reference for you.
* 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>
* Paid Research Assistant
* Postgraduate teaching assistant

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

Jobs are advertised in the [Psychologist Appointments](http://www.psychapp.co.uk/), which is part of [The Psychologist](http://www.bps.org.uk/publications/thepsychologist/the-psychologist_home.cfm) (the BPS monthly magazine), in newspapers (e.g. The Times, The Guardian, The Independent) and in specialist publications from the Health Service Journal and the Department of Health website.