

# Clinical Psychologist - helping people

## make positive changes to their thinking and behaviour

#### **Entry requirements:**

You will need to complete:

- a 3-year degree in psychology accredited by The British Psychological Society (BPS)
- a 3-year postgraduate doctorate in clinical psychology
- You may be able to study for an approved postgraduate conversion course, if you're a graduate in a subject other than psychology or your psychology degree is not accredited by the BPS.
- Competition for postgraduate training is strong. You'll need an upper second class degree or higher, and evidence of excellent research skills to apply. You'll also need relevant work experience.

#### **Entry requirements**

You will usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grade 4 (C) or above, including English, maths and sometimes a science
- 3 A levels or equivalent

### **Skills required:**

You will need:

- knowledge of psychology
- counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach
- the ability to understand people's reactions
- knowledge of English language
- sensitivity and understanding
- active listening skills
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- being able to use a computer terminal or hand-held device may be beneficial for this job.

#### What you will do:

In this role you could be:

- assessing clients' needs through interviews, tests and observations
- deciding on the most appropriate form of treatment, like therapy, counselling or advice
- planning treatment programmes
- working with clients in groups or individually
- writing reports and going to case conferences
- carrying out research
- working closely with other professionals, like doctors and probation officers.

#### What you will earn:

• Starter: £28,050

• Experienced: £85,333

These figures are a guide.

#### Working hours, patterns and environment:

- You could work in an NHS or private hospital, at a client's home, at a university or at a health centre.
- Your working environment may be emotionally demanding.
- 37 to 39 hours a week with occasional weekends and evening

#### Career path and progression:

With experience, you could produce legal reports or act as an expert witness in court. You could specialise in working with groups like children, young offenders or older adults.

With experience and further training you could specialise in clinical neuropsychology.

You could move into research or teaching.

You could also work as a freelance consultant, advising other professionals and clients, or set up your own practice.