

# I want to be an.....

## Occupational Psychologist

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Occupational (or Organisational) psychologists are concerned with how people function in work environments. They use psychological methods to assess how the nature of work and working conditions can affect people. Their role can include recruitment and selection, psychometric testing, health and safety, training, appraisals, organisational change and ergonomics. Organisational psychologists may be employed by large companies or management consultancy firms. Some will be employed by specialist consultancy firms or run their own independent consultancy. The Civil Service is one of the main employers of occupational psychologists in the UK. The Prison Service, the Home Office, the Employment Department Group (including the Employment Service), the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Service Commission all employ occupational psychologists.

### Qualifications and training

To become an Occupational Psychologist you require:

- A degree (Usually a 2:1 or equivalent) in Psychology from a BPS approved course.
- A Society accredited Masters in Occupational/Organisational Psychology or Stage 1 of the Society's Qualification in Occupational Psychology
- Stage 2 of the Society's Qualification in Occupational Psychology (two years full-time practice under the supervision of a Chartered Occupational Psychologist)

### Work experience

Work experience is desirable but not always essential to get on to a Masters course.

Working for a psychometric test publisher is a route into careers in occupational psychology for some graduates and a good way of gaining some of the relevant commercial experience necessary for a more varied portfolio. Relevant work experience could also include:

- Working within an HR / learning and development department.
- Working within a business environment / any work that gives a better understanding of workplace issues / a graduate scheme

Use **Careerslink** to see all the latest internships and graduate positions being sent to the University for Manchester students and graduates [www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink)

Check with individual admissions tutors for advice on the type and amount of experience they particularly look for.

### Occupational Psychology: Useful Websites

- **The Division of Occupational Psychology (DOP) of the BPS**  
Promote and develop the work of occupational psychologists. Also produces a downloadable booklet –“Occupational Psychology as a Career Option”  
[www.bps.org.uk/member-microsites/division-occupational-psychology/careers](http://www.bps.org.uk/member-microsites/division-occupational-psychology/careers)

The University of Manchester Careers Service – Psychology Careers Team (Aug, 2019)

Contact: [bmhcareers@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:bmhcareers@manchester.ac.uk)

### **The Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development.**

The professional body for those involved in the management and development of people.

[www.cipd.co.uk](http://www.cipd.co.uk)

- **Civil Service**

One of the main employers of Occupational Psychologists. (incl : Civil Service Commission, Dep't of Work and Pensions, MoD, Home Office and HM Prison Service)

[www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/index.aspx](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/index.aspx)

## **Find Manchester graduates doing this role**

### **LinkedIn**

Use LinkedIn to see and connect with other psychology graduates from UoM who have gone into this and other roles. You can filter for "Psychology" graduates on the second page of the alumni tab, or just search for the job title you are looking for.

[www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-manchester/](http://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-manchester/)

Join the **Psychology Graduate Network** just for Manchester students & graduates on LinkedIn and view members here too: [www.bit.ly/psychologynetwork](http://www.bit.ly/psychologynetwork)

NB) You can also use LinkedIn to click through to the organisations where people work in this role, connect with other people who work there and view any job vacancies.

The alumni office run **The Manchester Network** which is a similar platform for all Manchester alumni. You can also use this tool to send alumni any questions about their work. [www.network.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.network.manchester.ac.uk)

## **More information about the role**

Read the Prospects job profile: [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/occupational-psychologist](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/occupational-psychologist)