

## **Background**

*Speaker 1 has a degree, an MA and a PHD in Psychology and after achieving her clinical training, and now does Research teaching at the university as well as clinical work with the NHS.*

*Speaker 2 was born in Edinburgh, and went to St Andrews for her degree in Psychology. She continued to take an MA and is currently studying for her PHD at Edinburgh. She has completed clinical training and is a Research Assistant at the NHS.*

*Speaker 3 has a degree in Engineering, and after working in this field and travelling all over the world, he is now taking a MSC conversion course at Edinburgh in Psychology.*

## **Subject**

If you are curious about human behaviour, social interaction, brain function etc, then Psychology might be the subject for you.

Speaker 1 recommended that pupils who are interested in Psychology have a look at the BPS (British Psychological Website - [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)). There is an A-Z of Psychology describing the different roles within Psychology and advice on how to become a psychologist.

## **A degree in Psychology:**

Read the information about degree courses carefully as it is a wide subject that encompasses aspects of biology, sociology and statistics. It is a diverse course. You will learn about many different subjects such as social psychology and neuroscience. It is in between Arts and Science.

They warned that there is a strong focus on statistical analysis, probably about a third of the course. However, Speaker 2 said that although she didn't like Maths at school, she found that she learned to understand statistics. Speaker 1 liked Maths & probability, so enjoyed the statistics.

There are no longer experiments on monkeys, but there are experiments on rats.

In the 3rd year, you will undertake research projects. You will work with a lecturer helping other people.

Often students choose to take joint honours courses combining, for instance, Biology and Psychology.

# Psychology



## **Careers after your degree:**

Speaker 1 feels a Psychology degree is a good foundation and she has learned concepts which are useful to her in everyday life. It is a qualification which potential employers are interested in. You will develop many skills which are helpful in the modern workforce. Speaker 2's peers have gone onto careers in Marketing, HR, Finance and Business, and into many graduate schemes in companies.

## **Applying to University:**

**Highers/Advanced Highers:** Courses in different universities have different entrance requirements. Check on their websites to see which subjects at Higher would be helpful when applying for Psychology. They recommended attending the University Open Days to get a better understanding of what you are applying for.

It might be helpful, but is not necessary, to get some relevant work experience. There are many opportunities to volunteer in Edinburgh. Speaker 2 worked with young children in nurseries. Discuss this with your parents.

## **Personal Statement:**

Speaker 1 felt that the primary factor that she looks for in personal statements are signs that you understand the course you are applying for. The University want to know that you are interested in the course they are offering, and that you will be engaged.

It is also helpful to write about your wider interests and other hobbies and skills.

## **Postgraduate Funding & Clinical Training**

To become a practising psychologist after your degree, you will need to take the clinical training course. It is highly competitive to get accepted onto this course. Only 1 in 6 students are offered a place. You will need to get some work experience after your degree, working with relevant groups.

The BPS funds postgraduate training courses and some MA courses are NHS funded. You will receive a salary and tuition fees.

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