

Forensic Psychologist

What is it?

A forensic psychologist applies psychological principles to the criminal justice system. They work with offenders, victims, law enforcement agencies, and the courts to understand criminal behaviour, assess individuals, and provide expert testimony. Forensic psychologists help the justice system function more effectively by offering insights into the psychological aspects of crime and rehabilitation.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

To become a forensic psychologist in the UK, you need a degree in psychology accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). After your degree, you'll need to complete a BPS-accredited master's degree in forensic psychology, followed by two years of supervised practice in a forensic setting.

Average annual Salary - £23,000 - £48,000

Assessing offenders to understand their mental state, risk of reoffending, and suitability for rehabilitation programs. Providing psychological therapy to offenders, helping them address underlying issues such as anger management, substance abuse, or trauma. Working with victims of crime to help them cope with trauma and provide psychological support. Preparing reports for courts, giving expert evidence about an offender's psychological state or the likelihood of reoffending.

Developing and delivering training programs for prison staff, probation officers, and law enforcement.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Forensic psychologists are in demand in various settings, including prisons, secure hospitals, police forces, probation services, and the courts. The field offers opportunities for career progression into senior roles, such as lead psychologist or head of a forensic psychology department. There is also scope to specialise in areas like offender rehabilitation.

Average annual Salary - £35,000 - £57,000

Typical weekly hours – 37 to 39

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

This job may be suited to individuals who have a strong interest in psychology, criminal justice, and human behaviour. Forensic psychologists need to be empathetic, non-judgmental, and have excellent communication skills to interact effectively with a wide range of people.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level forensic psychologists can expect to earn between £30,000 and £40,000 per year. With experience, salaries can rise to £45,000 to £60,000, depending on the role and the setting. Senior forensic psychologists, particularly those in managerial positions or with significant experience, can earn £60,000 or more annually.

- Clinical Psychologist
- Counselling Psychologist
- Prison Psychologist
- Probation Officer

This job may be suited to individuals

Further Information:

British Psychological Society (BPS):

<https://www.bps.org.uk/>

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC):

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/>