Careers in Psychology: Pathways, Challenges and Success

Psychology students learn about human behaviour and explore concepts such as perception, emotion, intelligence, motivation, brain functioning, personality and relationships. Psychology students develop a number of skills that are useful in a variety of different job roles, and may not necessarily go on to become a Psychologist, requiring further study beyond a Bachelor degree. These skills include communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to design, conduct and analyse research, as well as critical thinking skills.

Psychology students at Murdoch can undertake a three year degree with either or both of the following specialisations:

• Bachelor of Science (Cognitive Neuroscience and Health Psychology)
• Bachelor of Arts (Social and Developmental Psychology)

You are encouraged to complete both specialisations should you wish to progress to fourth year or beyond.

NOTE: Places are strictly limited for post-graduate Masters and PhD qualifications in Psychology and selection is based on prior academic performance and relevant experience.

Engage in your career before you graduate

Given Psychology is such a broad field, and the option of a practical placement unit is not available until fourth year, it is important that you seek independent work experience or volunteer work, engaging with industry to develop your network and confirm your key interest areas as an undergraduate student. This includes connecting with organisations associated with:

• Community Engagement and Support for Minority Groups
• Early Learning Delays and Disability Support
• Market Research
• Mental Health Support
• Substance Abuse
• Suicide Prevention
• Youth Leadership Development, just to name a few

The Murdoch Volunteering Hub (situated next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court) is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain relevant experience. You can also graduate with a “Community and Career Skills Development Transcript” through volunteering. The Volunteering Hub email: volunteering@the-guild.com.au and Phone: 08 9360 6307.

Additionally, you can engage in your profession by joining and getting involved in the Murdoch Psychology Society (student society) and professional associations in the field. Students who participate in other co-curricular activities on campus such as Mentoring or Leadership programmes are also well regarded by employers.

Lastly, if you have an interest in Organisational Psychology/Human Resources/Leadership Development etc. you are encouraged to enter student team competitions hosted by industry. Multi-disciplinary team competitions are a great way to network. The experience can also be used to evidence the ability to work in diverse teams and problem solve – additional skills for the resume.
Careers in Psychology: Pathways, Challenges and Success

Careers in Psychology

Psychologists are employed across a wide range of workplace contexts including: schools, hospitals, academic and applied research settings, law courts, prisons, defence forces, consulting firms, market research companies, as well as in private practice.

Specialist Psychologist titles or endorsed areas (requiring a minimum two years additional post-graduate study beyond fourth year) include:

- Clinical Psychology (offered at Murdoch University)
- Clinical Neuropsychology
- Community Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Educational and Developmental Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Health Psychology and Organisational Psychology (offered at Murdoch University)
- Sport and Exercise Psychology

Alternatively, you can gain registration as a Psychologist without specialising in an endorsed area, through an internship pathway after fourth year. Murdoch University also offers an additional one year Master of Psychology (Professional) degree, which:

- articulates with postgraduate courses in Clinical and Organisational Psychology or
- can reduce the length of internship necessary for general registration.

Alternative Careers

The skills you gain through your studies help to make you competitive for a range of different roles across a number of industries such as:

- Career Coaching and Counselling
- Correctional Services
- Disability Support
- Employment Placement and Recruitment
- Family Support and Child Protection
- Human Resources/Training and Development
- Leadership and Management Consultancy
- Marketing and Promotions and:
  - Survey Data Analysis
  - Teaching/Mental Health Education
- Vocational or Drug Rehabilitation

Considering an additional minor can further diversify your career options.

Psychology graduates have also been successful in securing multi-discipline Graduate Program positions offered by the public sector and larger private organisations. Graduate Programs are structured professional development programs specifically designed for new graduates. Final year students apply for these positions from March for the following year. Murdoch Psychology students have previously secured Graduate positions with Government Departments, major consulting firms and organisations in the resources sector.

Psychology can open many different doors but you have to pave your own journey through your experiences. You have the ability to continuously develop your career by actively engaging in university life, networking initiatives and stepping up to opportunity. Choosing a degree in Psychology is just the beginning.

Further Information:
Australian Psychology Society
www.psychology.org.au
Job Guide
www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au