

Forensic Psychology

Demonstrating and presenting training routes and practical applications to a forensic psychologist within psychology.

What is forensic psychology?

Forensic psychology is the applications of psychological principles and methods towards the criminal justice system. A main study within forensic psychology is behaviour and committing crimes. The role of a psychologist tries to prevent crimes and ensure punishment is given. Applying psychological theory to criminal investigation to understand psychological problems with criminal behaviour. (Gross, R, 2010)

A forensic psychologist is employed by HM prison service, the health service, police, young offender units and the probation service.

The training required for forensic psychology

- Graduate basis for chartered membership
- BPS accredited Msc in forensic psychology
- BPS diploma in forensic psychology
- Duration can be 2 years but if part time can vary.
- Some universities can offer a doctorate programme in Forensic Psychology, which is the equivalent of both an accredited Masters Qualification and stage 2 of the Society Qualification

(The british psychological society, 2000-2018)

Professional competencies

- Communication skills to clients knowing they understand when implementing treatment programmes and communicating with other professionals to give the right treatment, punishment ect.
- Professional at all times when dealing with criminals in the system such as abuse. Also trying to reduce stress for staff and the clients.
- Ability to prioritise workload as forensic psychologist schedule is busy
- Having to give attention to detail for modifying behaviour, research and evidence.

Practical application of forensic psychology

A forensic psychologist tasks would include building hard evidence of a crime for the criminal justice system. They would build profiles of prisoners to help other staff get an understanding about the criminal. They provide research and evidence sometimes this has to be shown in court and advertising parole boards and mental health tribunals for clients. A big part of a forensic psychologist would be to modify offenders behaviour this can be to predict future and if they were ever to leave jail or young offenders.

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