Public Services Delivery
Scotland

Trainee Health Psychologist Programme

Frequently Asked Questions



Stage 2 Trainee Health Psychology Programme 2027 Intake – Webinar Questions and Answers

Eligibility

Q: Can I apply if I have not yet received my MSc in Health Psychology results?

A: Yes. You can apply if you have completed your MSc in Health Psychology and are due to receive your results by interview date of 14th January 2027. If your results are expected after you submit your application, you should explain this in the application form and provide the expected date of your results.

Q: Do I need to be a member of the British Psychological Society (BPS) before applying?

A: No. BPS membership is not required at the application stage and is not considered when assessing applications. However, successful applicants will need BPS membership when registering for the Stage 2 qualification. Please check that you are eligible for or have Graduate Basis for Chartership with the BPS as detailed in the advert.

Q: Do I need experience across all five Stage 2 competencies before applying?

A: No. Applicants are not expected to have experience across all five competencies since the training enables trainees to gain these competencies. However, any relevant experience should be highlighted within the application.

Q: Are international applicants eligible to apply?

A: International applicants may be eligible, but they must have the right to work in the UK for the entire duration of the programme. Applicants will be required to confirm their right to work status as part of the employer's pre-employment checks, which commence after interview. Applicants should check with the UK visas and immigration website or their local British Embassy if they are unsure about their right to work status.

Q: If I have a 2:2 in my undergraduate or psychology conversion degree, am I still eligible?

A: Yes, provided you also have a BPS accredited MSc in Health Psychology and achieve a merit-level result of 60% or above.

Q: Can I apply with only a Psychology Conversion MSc?

A: No. To apply, you must also have an MSc in Health Psychology. If you do have an MSc psychology conversion, this should be at the 2:1 level. Or if a 2:2 is granted, applicants must have achieved a merit-level result of 60% or above for their MSc in Health Psychology.

Application Form

Q: Is the application closing date of 19 November definite?

A: Yes, the closing date will not change. Applications will not close early, even if a large number of applications are received.

Q: How should I answer the application question asking whether I have a Stage 1 qualification if my MSc result is still pending?

A: Applicants awaiting confirmation of their MSc result should tick the box to say you have your MSc in Health Psychology but in the result box, explain the date that you expect your result and the projected grade (if you have this information available).

Q: What makes a strong application?

A: Applicants should clearly demonstrate how they meet the person. Meeting the desirable as well as essential criteria can strengthen an application. NHS experience can help candidates provide stronger evidence of their skills, although NHS experience is not essential.

Q: Will my age, gender, ethnicity or time since graduating from my MSc affect shortlisting?

A: No. Applicants are asked to submit equal opportunities information, but these are not seen by reviewers. Applications are reviewed anonymously, meaning no identifiable information (including gender, sex, age and ethnicity) will be taken into account when

shortlisting applications. Time since graduating is not asked in the application form and is not part of the criteria.

Interview

Q: What does the interview involve?

A: The interview is competency-based and typically lasts 25 to 30 minutes. There are usually around four questions. Candidates are asked to draw on their experience to demonstrate their competencies. The interview does not include group exercises or scenario-based tests where candidates are asked how they would respond to a hypothetical situation.

Appointments, Employment and Relocation

Q: Does completion of the programme lead directly to a permanent role?

A: No. As with other psychology training routes, the training contract ends when the programme is completed. There is no guarantee of employment afterwards. If qualified posts are advertised, former trainees must apply through the standard recruitment process.

Q: Is there a flexible or part-time training route?

A: No. The programme is a full-time, two-year training route. There is currently no facility to undertake the programme part-time. Successful applicants are expected to relocate to Scotland if they do not already live there.

Q: Is accommodation provided?

A: No. Successful applicants are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and relocation, if moving to Scotland for the post.

Q: Are relocation expenses available?

A: Relocation expenses are not funded by PSD Scotland. Relocation policies vary by Health Board and there is no guarantee they will be able to offer them.

Future Opportunities and Funding

Q: When will the next funding round be available?

A: There is currently no confirmation about the next funding round. Any updates will be communicated via the programme website as soon as information becomes available.

Q: Are there placement opportunities outside this funded programme?

A: There is currently no funding available for additional work placements outside the programme. Individuals already completing Health Psychology training who are seeking specific experiences, such as consultancy placements, are welcome to make contact to discuss potential opportunities, although these cannot be guaranteed.

Further questions

If you have any further questions that are not answered here, or in the information provided on the job advert, please email psychology@nes.scot.nhs.uk