**Developmental Psychology**

Job Summary

As a Developmental Psychologist you would be studying how humans undergo changes socially (eg: identity and sexuality), cognitively (eg: learning, language and memory) and physiologically. You would look at the interplay between genetics and environmental factors in determining an individuals’ personality. As this area of psychology includes development over the whole life span, you would choose to specialise in a specific age range, either during infancy, childhood, adolescence or the elderly. Not only would you look at how individuals develop but you would identify disabilities that might affect development.


Developmental Psychologists are employed in a variety of different workplaces depending on what they choose to specialise in:

* Educational settings studying children’s intellectual development – schools and universities
* Elderly assisted living homes
* Hospitals
* Research facilities
* Lecturing
* Private practice

Qualifications – How do I become a Developmental Psychologist?

1. You will need a 3 year degree in Psychology that the British Psychological Society accredits. This gives you a **GBC** (**G**raduate **B**asis for **C**hartered Membership of BPS). You usually need to achieve the minimum of an upper second class honours degree to go on to postgraduate study.
2. You will need to obtain relevant work experience.
3. You will need a PhD in the area of Developmental Psychology.

What relevant work experience would I need?

Work experience may be just as important to a postgraduate selector as your degree. It shows that you have thought about how your psychology knowledge can be applied to the real world and have put it into practice. Undergraduates will often need to complete voluntary work in order to go on and obtain paid work.

* The University of Southampton runs a programme for a Voluntary Research Assistant (VRA). This is unpaid and usually runs over the summer or a few hours a week during term time. It is a great opportunity to increase your chances of achieving a place on a postgraduate course. In addition, the researchers could write a letter of reference for you.
* Volunteer in a school. Local places that offer voluntary work:
	+ Mansbridge Primary School,
	+ Bassett Green Primary School,
	+ Bursledon Junior School,
	+ Oasis Academy Mayfield,
	+ Harefield Primary School,
	+ Nursery Volunteer at Early Years Centre at University of Southampton
	+ Cantell Maths and Computing College

It is best to apply for these roles via [Community Volunteering](http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/) as they are able to provide CRB checks that are essential for working with children and young people. In addition, they can locate volunteers to the appropriate schools in order to balance requests across the community. <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/>

* Special Educational Needs (SEN) Volunteer at local schools. For example at Bursledon Junior School, you can apply through <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Special+Educational+Needs+%28SEN%29+Volunteer>
* Activity volunteer for CCHF All About Kids. They need volunteers to motivate and inspire disadvantaged children. http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Activity+Volunteer
* ABA tutoring (your department usually informs you when these opportunities become available).
* Activity supporter for older people at a day centre <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=Activity+Supporter>
* STAR Junior Homework Club Volunteer <http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=STAR+Junior+Homework+Club+Volunteer>. STAR Infants Homework Club Volunteer http://www.susu.org/community-volunteering/opportunities-detail.html?opportunity=STAR+Infants+Homework+Club+Volunteer
* Volunteer nursery or play scheme worker

**If you are working with children or sensitive information you will need a CRB check.**