NIBPS & PSI Joint Careers Event

What to do with your psychology degree

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Thanks to previous presenters

Overview

- **What next after doing your degree?**

- **Marketing yourself effectively**

- **Questions**

Overview

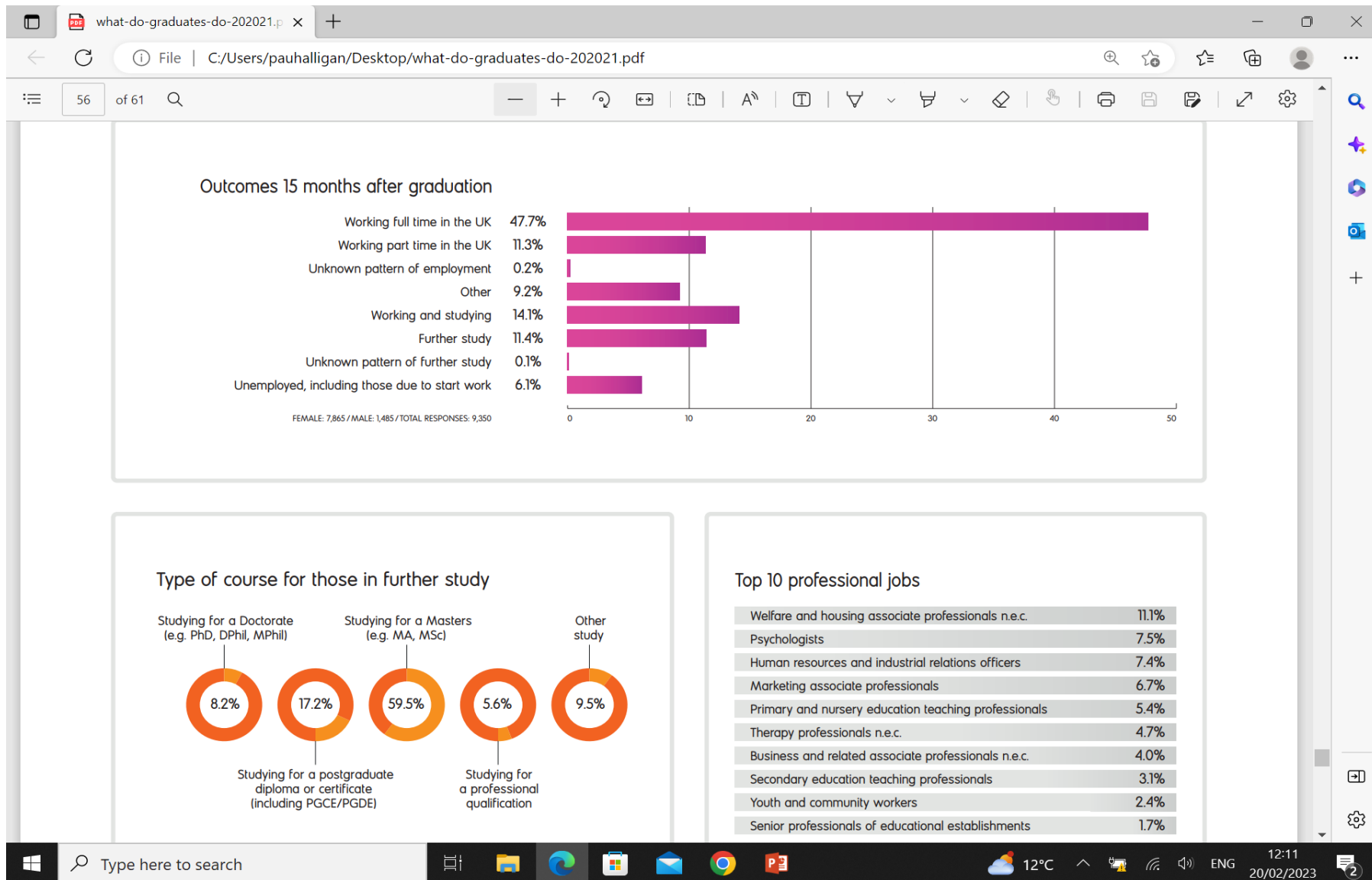**What next after doing your degree?**

What do Psychology Graduates Do?

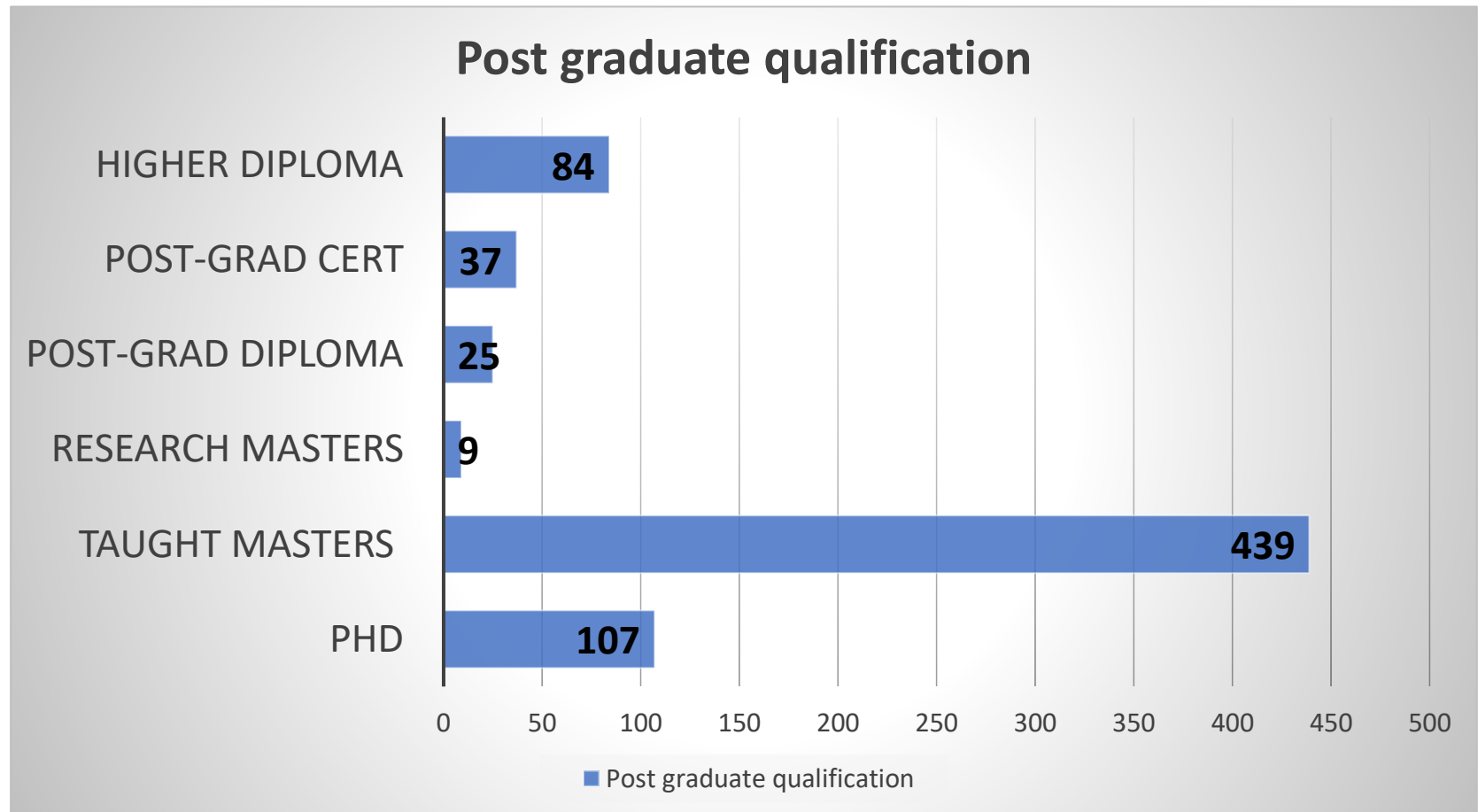**UK data from : What do graduates do? AGCAS JISC 2020-2021**

ROI data: HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey

UK Psychology Class of 2020-2021
Graduate Destinations 15 months after graduation

Outcomes 15 months after graduation

Working full time in the UK	47.7%
Working part time in the UK	11.3%
Unknown pattern of employment	0.2%
Other	9.2%
Working and studying	14.1%
Further study	11.4%
Unknown pattern of further study	0.1%
Unemployed, including those due to start work	6.1%

FEMALE: 7,865 / MALE: 1,485 / TOTAL RESPONSES: 9,350

Type of course for those in further study

Studying for a Doctorate (e.g. PhD, DPhil, MPhil)		Studying for a Masters (e.g. MA, MSc)		Other study
8.2%	17.2%	59.5%	5.6%	9.5%
	Studying for a postgraduate diploma or certificate (including PGCE/PGDE)		Studying for a professional qualification	

Top 10 professional jobs

Welfare and housing associate professionals n.e.c.	11.1%
Psychologists	7.5%
Human resources and industrial relations officers	7.4%
Marketing associate professionals	6.7%
Primary and nursery education teaching professionals	5.4%
Therapy professionals n.e.c.	4.7%
Business and related associate professionals n.e.c.	4.0%
Secondary education teaching professionals	3.1%
Youth and community workers	2.4%
Senior professionals of educational establishments	1.7%

Class of 2019- Postgraduates Psychology Qualifications
HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey

Post graduate qualification

Qualification	Value
HIGHER DIPLOMA	84
POST-GRAD CERT	37
POST-GRAD DIPLOMA	25
RESEARCH MASTERS	9
TAUGHT MASTERS	439
PHD	107

■ Post graduate qualification

Numerous professional training pathways in psychology....

- Clinical Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Occupational Psychology
- Sport & Exercise Psychology

- Clinical Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Organisational Psychology
- Sports Psychology

The British Psychological Society

The Psychological Society of Ireland

Other examples of career pathways for those with a psychology degree

- Community workers
- Human resources
- Employee relations
- Housing managers/officers
- Community Welfare Officers
- Police/Garda Síochána
- Market research

- Health and Safety
- Social Work
- Youth Work
- Advertising
- Recruitment
- Social Care
- Training and Development
- Probation officers

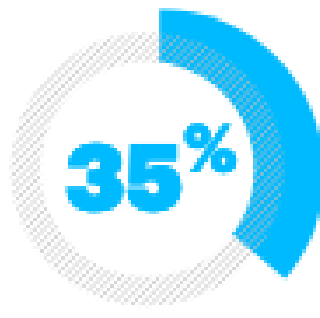# 'Learning to Lead- Preparing for Tomorrows Jobs Today' Accenture 2020

- Highlights the importance to employers of so called "soft" skills of communication work ethic, teamwork, and problem-solving
- Most needed by employers for workforce of tomorrow......the so called unknown jobs
- 'Transversal skills' not limited to one type of job or discipline
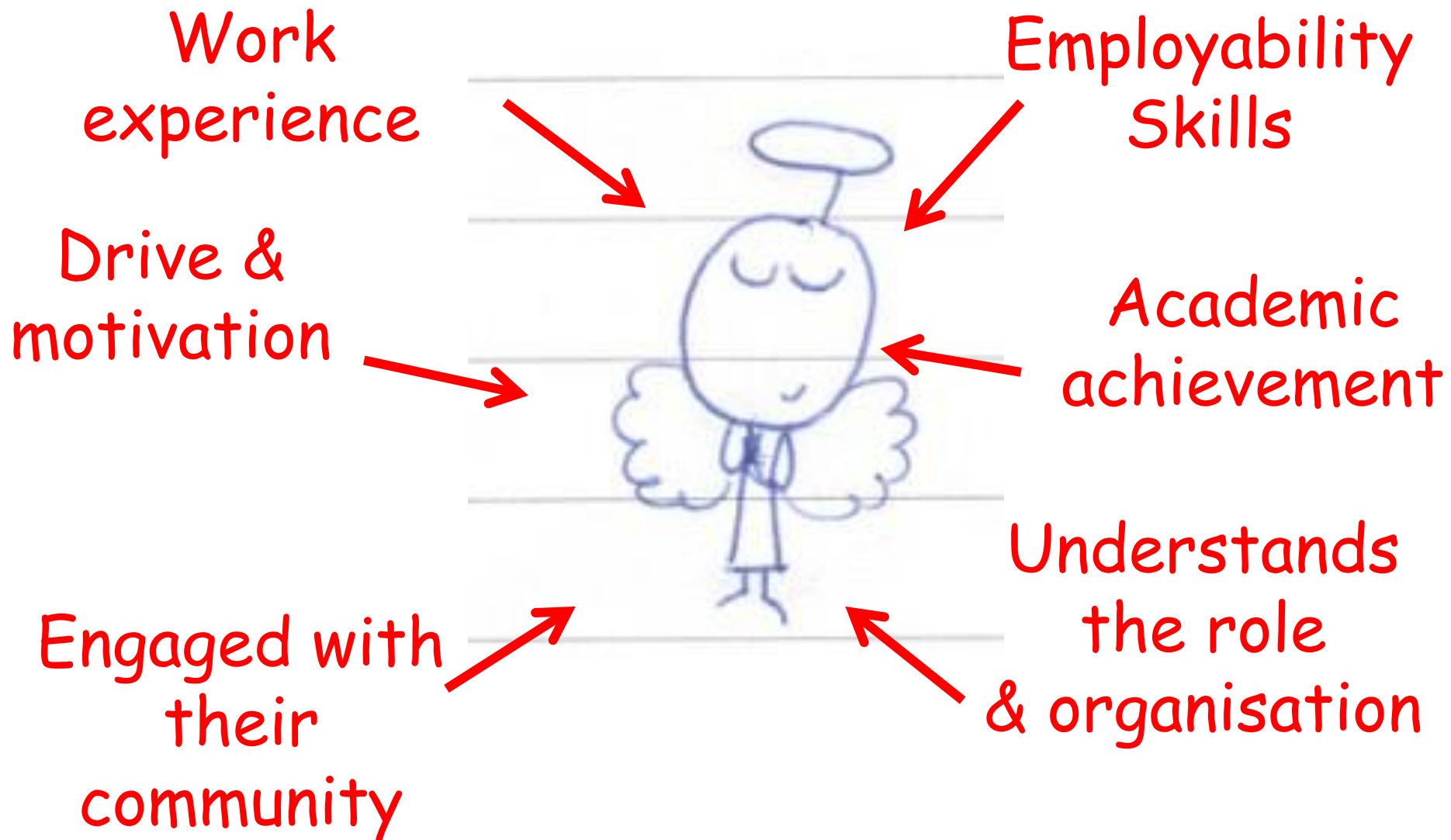
43% Communication

40% Work Ethic

35% Teamwork

28% Problem Solving

Skills gained studying a psychology degree
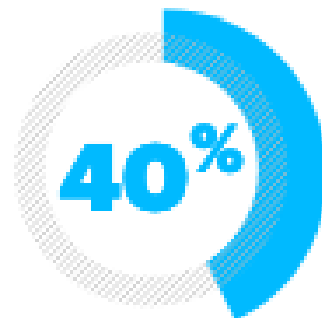
- Effective communication, face-to-face or in writing.
- Understanding, analysing and using complex data.
- Retrieving and organising information from different sources.
- Able to handle primary source material critically.
- Ability to engage in effective team work.
- Problem solving and reasoning scientifically to consider alternative approaches and solutions.
- Ability to make critical judgements and evaluations to gain different perspectives on a question.
- Sensitivity to contextual and interpersonal factors, including behaviour and social interaction.
- Personal planning and project management skills to become more independent and pragmatic.
- Digital literacy

The 'perfect' graduate applicant

Work experience

Employability Skills

Drive & motivation

Academic achievement

Engaged with their community

Understands the role & organisation

Overview

Marketing yourself effectively

Matchmaking

What is the employer looking for?

- Qualifications
- Experience
- Knowledge
- Skills/competencies

- How do you match up?
- How do you best fit?
- Evidence based

Read between the lines – what do they really need?

CV's & Applications
Make yours stand out from the crowd

- Tell your story

- Highlight the 'best of you'

- Tailor it to the job description- a must

- Skills/competencies section – provide evidence!

- Complete yet concise

- Good structure & presentation- make it easy to read

- Factual

- Positive

- Avoid jargon and acronyms

- Error free – proof read- get someone else to read

Cover Letters – ESSENTIAL!

Always accompany your CV with a cover letter

An opportunity for you to personalise your application – to stand out, 1st chance to make a strong impression

Demonstrate your fit for the job by focusing on key strengths & experience

Play the recruitment game

Telephone interview	Online interviews eg Zoom, Webex etc	E-assessments
One to one interviews	Competence based interviews	Group interviews
Assessment centres	In-box exercises	Whiteboarding problems (tech industry)

Be a STAR at interviews

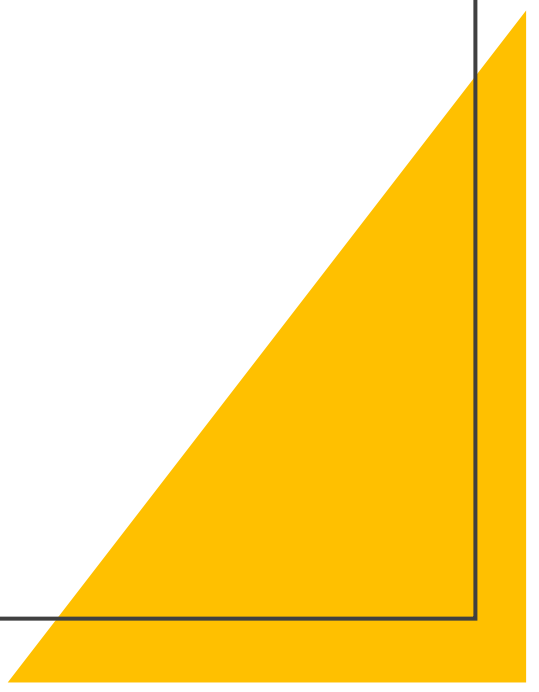**Situation**: Describe the situation or problem.

Task: Describe the task you had to complete / role you were assigned

Action: Describe the actions you took to complete the task successfully and any obstacles your overcame. Focus on what you did, your own actions

Result: Highlight outcomes achieved.

Assessment Centres

- Presentations
- Group exercises
- Individual exercises
- Role plays- simulations
- Situational tasks
- Psychometric testing
- Competency based interviews
- Social events

Grad Ireland
Graduate Salary & Graduate Recruitment Trends Survey 2020

- Employers are seeking specific workplace related competencies

- 'Work readiness' is essential

- Soft skills - especially communication and team working

- Hard skills – e.g. writing

- Knowledge-based skills

- 76% of graduate employers believe relevant work experience enhances employability

- 24% of recruiters believe International work experience can enhance employability

- Best way to enhance employability is to complete an internship or work placement

Important soft skills to develop

The soft skills where recruiters saw the **biggest shortfall** were:

- Communication 50%
- Managing their own learning 48%
- Attention to detail 36%
- Problem solving 33%
- Adaptability 31%
- Independently working 31%
- Confidence 28%
- Leadership 27%
- Work ethic 25%
- Flexibility 20%
- Team working skills 14%
- Diligence 6%

Psychology students are advantaged by having many of these.

Work placements , work experience and internships can each help develop these

Top Tips for Psychology Graduates

- Don't put all your eggs in one basket - Have a plan A, & a plan B…

- Know yourself

- Be flexible

- What's so special about you?

- Manage your own career

- Quality applications - do your research

- Start networking & be opportunity aware

Resources

- www.bps.org.uk

- www.psychologicalsociety.ie

- www.prospects.ac.uk

- www.gradireland.com

- Grad Ireland Directory https://gradireland.com/publications

- www.shldirect.com

- **BPS you-tube channel** Videos about careers and advice for searching for jobs or applying for postgraduate courses and tips for studying etc.

https://www.youtube.com/user/bpsmediacentre/featured

Use your University's career service, great advice on CV's and interviews

Graduate Recruitment Tests:
https://www.shldirect.com/en
70,000 hits a month mostly from graduates

For further information:

BPS

- Web: www.bps.org.uk/careers
- Email: careers@bps.org.uk
- Telephone: +44 (0)116 252 9534

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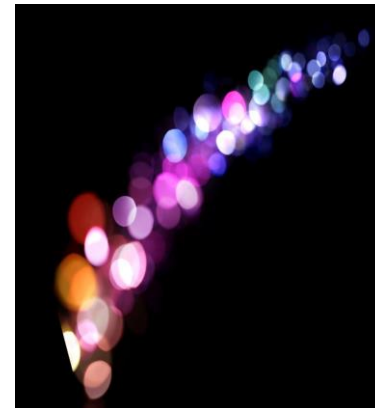
- Web: https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/footer/Jobs
- Email:communications@psychologicalsociety.ie
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- Telephone: +353 1 472 0105

www.bps.org.uk/careers