

# PSYCHOLOGY

2009

The profession of psychology covers a lot of ground and many different forms of practice. Clinical psychologists study and treat disorders of personality and behavior at different stages of life. Industrial and organizational psychologists provide counsel on how to get the best out of employees, for example, through incentives and training. Social and behavioral psychologists help businesses study consumer behavior. They also help government agencies understand social and cultural phenomena. Educational psychologists orient and guide school children and help adults in their efforts to retrain for new jobs. Other psychologists work in the criminal justice system.

Psychology should not be confused with psychiatry, a medical speciality, or with psychoanalysis or psychotherapy, which are unregulated professions.

To earn the right to claim the professional title of psychologist, students must complete a defined curriculum in psychology that includes a licence, 2-year master's degree, and internship.

**Field:** Humanities and social sciences

Also see the following profiles: *Human resource management, Medicine, Psychoanalysis, Humanities and social sciences.*

**Professional opportunities:** public service, clinical psychology, social psychologist (market studies, consumer behavior), educational psychologist, trainer, industrial/organizational psychologist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst.

**Universities**

## ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES IN FRANCE

### Universities

Students who choose to study psychology should have a deep interest in how people think, behave, form beliefs, and express feelings.

A licence in psychology appeals to many students who gravitate toward the human and social sciences, particularly those fascinated by human behavior. The goal of the licence program is to provide theoretical and methodological grounding in the five major branches of psychology: cognitive, social, developmental, clinical, and psychophysiological.

Additional options are opened to students as they advance: educational psychology, health psychology, the psychology of work and the connections between psychology and society. Some universities include courses in psychoanalysis in the psychology curriculum (see the profile on Psychoanalysis).

Not all master's degrees in psychology confer the right to practice as a professional psychologist. Students interested in professional practice should be sure that the program they choose will take them where they want to go.

To practice as a psychologist in France, an individual must have completed 5 years of postsecondary education, including 2 years of master-level training. Some 30 different specializations are possible at the master's level, including the following:

- Clinical psychology, clinical and abnormal psychology (in all university departments)
- Child and adolescent psychology
- Psychology of aging
- Psychology of work and social life
- Labor psychology, ergonomics, human factors, and work safety
- Neuropsychology
- Organizational psychology, concentrations in information, cognition, training, and man-machine interaction
- Multidisciplinary analysis of workplace situations
- Psychology of cognitive disorders
- Psychology mental deficiency
- Psychology of practical training and apprenticeship
- Addictive behaviors
- Normal and abnormal processes in learning and development
- Applied social psychology, intervention and change in human systems

• EHESS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, school of advanced study in the social sciences), <http://www.ehess.fr>

A 5-year program leads to the EHESS degree. Students must produce a thesis reporting the results of their original research. Most then enter doctoral programs. Students are admitted based on their academic record. Field: psychology and cognitive sciences, research master in social psychology in association with the University of Paris 5, <http://lps.ehess.fr>.

### Specialized private institutions

• EPP Psycho-Prat (École de Psychologues Praticiens, school of professional psychology), <http://www.psycho-prat.fr>

A private institution administered by the Institut Catholique de Paris, with a branch in Lyon. The first 4 years of the curriculum are devoted to general education in the various fields of psychology (child, experimental, general). In their fifth year, students choose a specialization: abnormal psychology, health and society, forensic psychology, human resource management, or marketing psychology.

• IPSA (Institut de Psychologie et de Sociologie Appliquée, institute of psychology and applied sociology) at the Catholic University of Angers, [www.uco.fr/IPSA/](http://www.uco.fr/IPSA/) Clinical psychology, developmental psychology, educational psychology, social psychology in fifth year of curriculum.

• Institut Catholique de Lille, [www.icl-lille.fr](http://www.icl-lille.fr)

Specializations: clinical psychology, social cohesion, and psychopathology; and clinical psychology, social cohesion, and the family.

• Nationals of EU member states who hold a credential entitling them to practice psychology in their home country should consult decree 2003-1073 of November 14, 2003, on how to obtain authorization to practice in France (Journal Officiel, November 16, 2003, <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>).

## ► Useful Web sites

- CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, national center for scientific research), department of humanities and social sciences, <http://www.cnrs.fr>
- INETOP (Institut National d'Étude du Travail et d'Orientation Professionnelle, national institute for research on work and professional orientation), <http://www.inetop.cnam.fr/>  
Advanced degree and certificate programs in career orientation for international specialists.
- ANVIE (national association for interdisciplinary business applications of scientific research in the humanities and social sciences), <http://www.anvie.fr/anvie.asp>
- SFP (Société Française de Psychologie, French society of psychology), <http://www.sfpsy.org>
- Fédération Française des Psychologues et de Psychologie (French federation of psychologists and psychology), <http://www.psychologues-psychologie.net/>
- SNP (Syndicat National des Psychologues, national union of psychologists), <http://www.psychologues.org>
- AEJCPP (Association Européenne des Jeunes Chercheurs en Psychopathologie et en Psychanalyse, European association for research in psychopathology and psychoanalysis), <http://aejcpp.free.fr>
- Œdipe (Web portal for francophone psychoanalysis), <http://www.oedipe.org/fr>
- Psychologue.fr, <http://www.psychologue.fr>  
Information about the profession from a clinical psychologist

## ► Keywords

adolescence – adult – affect – aging – analysis – behavior modeling – biology – care – cellular – childhood – clinic – cognitive science – competency inventory – computer science – criminology – custody – deficiency – development – disorders – education – emotion – environment – ergonomics – ethology – evaluation – family – gerontology – handicap – health – humanities – human factors engineering – humanities and behavioral sciences – humanities and social sciences – languages – life sciences – literature – social bonds – illness – management of human relations – medication – mental health – motor performance – neuropsychology – neuroscience – nutrition – occupational therapy – orientation counselor – pathology – physicochemistry – physiology – prevention – psychoanalysis – psychocriminology – psychology – psychophysiotherapy – psychotherapy – social administration and management – social conduct – social dynamics – society – sport psychology – stress – support for disturbed, maladapted, and marginalized individuals – training – work-related sciences –



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<http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/d-catalogue/campusbourse/cfbourse/index.html>