

PSYCHOLOGY

This is a detailed profile of the psychology field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.



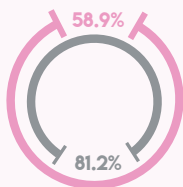
PSYCHOLOGY

Contrary to what people might think, the work of a psychologist involves much more than straight counselling. It can lead to new and emerging fields such as organisational psychology, industrial psychology and sports psychology.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

UNDERGRADUATE **POSTGRADUATE**

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating.



MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY



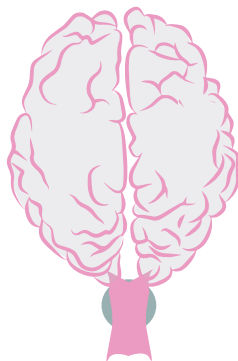
\$55,000

UNDERGRADUATE

\$75,000

POSTGRADUATE

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



2,931

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL

38,497

UNDERGRADUATE

9,419

POSTGRADUATE

WHAT CAN I DO?



Human Services



Research



Counselling



Education



Social Work



Mental Health

Data has been sourced from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Results are pooled to represent graduates who completed the survey in 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014. Graduates complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four months post graduation.



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES PSYCHOLOGY

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

NOTRE DAME	93.3%
BOND	93.1%
USQ	92.9%
UNE	91.1%
SOUTHERN CROSS	90.2%
DEAKIN	89.0%
CQUni	88.9%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 83.9%

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

CSU	73.4%
MACQUARIE	72.1%
QUT	70.8%
USQ	70.8%
CANBERRA	69.0%
SYDNEY	67.1%
UNSW	65.0%
MONASH	64.9%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 58.9%

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

BOND	79.2%
NOTRE DAME	74.4%
CURTIN	71.3%
SOUTHERN CROSS	67.6%
UNSW	67.0%
LA TROBE	65.5%
ACU	63.3%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 57.0%

LEARNING RESOURCES

DEAKIN	93.8%
WOLLONGONG	93.1%
USQ	92.3%
SUNSHINE COAST	92.0%
CQUni	91.6%
ECU	91.4%
BOND	91.3%
FLINDERS	91.3%
CURTIN	91.1%
NEWCASTLE	90.6%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 86.7%

MEDIAN STARTING SALARY

UNE	\$69,000
CSU	\$64,500
CQUni	\$64,000
ECU	\$63,500
USQ	\$60,200
FLINDERS	\$59,200

NATIONAL AVERAGE = \$55,000

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

BOND	95.8%
NOTRE DAME	92.2%
GRIFFITH	88.0%
SOUTHERN CROSS	87.4%
CURTIN	85.6%
VU	85.6%
UNSW	85.4%
USQ	85.0%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 81.8%

STUDENT SUPPORT

SOUTHERN CROSS	91.5%
BOND	89.6%
NOTRE DAME	89.0%
USQ	86.5%
UNE	86.3%
CQUni	84.8%
FEDERATION	84.4%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 76.1%

TEACHING QUALITY

SOUTHERN CROSS	93.4%
NOTRE DAME	92.2%
BOND	91.7%
DEAKIN	90.7%
USQ	90.2%
CURTIN	89.9%
CANBERRA	89.3%
UNE	89.3%
QUEENSLAND	89.1%
GRIFFITH	89.0%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 86.0%

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN? The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the guide.

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is listed separately from the other social and behavioural sciences because it can lead to a specific profession with its own strict rules for admission and practice. It is quite different to courses in counselling, which are often bundled in with the humanities. Contrary to what people might think, the work of a psychologist involves much more than straight counselling.

COURSES AND SPECIALISATIONS

The pathway to becoming a practising psychologist is more complicated than successfully completing a bachelor degree. In order to gain accreditation, it is necessary to first complete a degree majoring in psychology (with honours) or a four-year Bachelor of Psychology. The next step is either an accredited two-year postgraduate qualification (which can be extremely competitive), a one-year postgraduate qualification plus a year of supervised practice or two years of supervised experience with a registered psychologist. The bachelor degree and postgraduate courses must be accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council.

There is a vast range of careers available: everything from market research, advertising, management and business consultancy to human resource management, teaching and social welfare work.

While the common focus of psychologists was previously on helping individuals to overcome problems — which might range in severity from the common difficulties associated with making life decisions through to mental illness — the field of psychology is now much broader. Today, many graduates work with organisations (in organisational psychology and industrial psychology) or with teams of elite sportspeople (in sports psychology). Others help clients with issues such as addictions, depression, eating disorders, fears and phobias, career planning, child behavioural problems, sleep disorders and relationships.

Accredited psychologists can choose to specialise (usually by undertaking further study) in a variety of areas, the most common being clinical psychology, counselling psychology and organisational psychology.

For more information, visit:

- Australian Psychological Society — www.psychology.org.au
- Australian Psychology Accreditation Council — www.psychologycouncil.org.au

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL - SANDRA

Bachelor of Science



What was the best thing about your course?

I really enjoyed the practical aspect of my psychophysiology subjects. The university gave us the opportunity to run our own science experiments and contribute to research in our field of interest.

What advice would you give to students considering studying psychology?

I would suggest that you try to get some hands-on experience to see if you like the practical aspect of the job, as you'll get plenty of theory in class. Practical experience may not involve working with clients or patients directly, but there are some options in mental health services, administrative support in private practice or voluntary phone or face-to-face counselling roles in underprivileged communities. The best thing about studying psychology is that it gives you the flexibility to consider career options in various clinical, organisational, consulting, business and educational settings.

Have you completed further study?

I undertook an additional honours year once I completed my degree, through which I completed research and wrote a thesis on early detection of schizophrenia. I have also furthered my qualifications in marketing and business by completing a combined Master of International Business and Master of Commerce degree, specialising in strategic management and marketing. My knowledge of psychology theories has been particularly useful in areas of consumer behaviour, relationship marketing and managing multicultural teams.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

FEATURES

This section:

- Contains a detailed profile of Psychology
- lists specialisations available
- rates and compares institutions that offer degree-level courses
- introduces the kinds of jobs you could obtain after graduating
- shows which institutions get the best ratings from graduates
- shows how well institutions do in retaining graduates to a second year of study
- shows which institutions produce the best results for their graduates

UNIVERSITIES COMPARED

The “Five-Star Universities” graphs show the institutions whose results place them in the top 20 per cent of universities in each field of study. These ratings are based on the proportion of students in a given field of study who were satisfied with their institution’s performance in six student experience categories: Overall Quality of Educational Experience, Teaching Quality, Learner Engagement, Learning Resources, Student Support and Skills Development.

The graphs also look at universities in the top 20 per cent for employment outcomes, including the proportion of graduates who gained full-time employment and the median salaries of graduates.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results from the Student Experience Survey and Graduate Destination Survey.

WANT MORE INFO?

- To find out more, head to www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au
- Learn all about career paths and potential jobs at www.goodcareersguide.com.au

