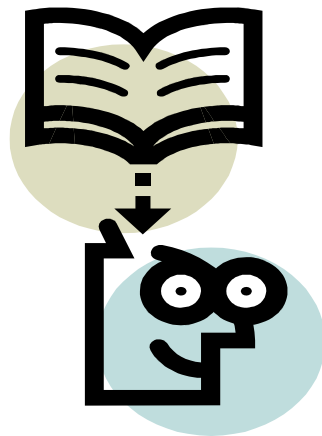


Educational Psychologists



**The Psychological Society of Ireland
Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann**

**CX House, 2A Corn Exchange Place
Poolbeg Street, Dublin 2**

Educational Psychology as a Career

- Educational psychologists deal with the psychological and educational development of people in the education system
- Their work incorporates consultation, assessment and intervention, as well as support and development for persons in educational settings

Where do they work?

- Mostly in schools and educational settings
- Health Service Executive Agency regional centres
- Government departments
- Private practice

Who employs them?

- The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) which has regional centres throughout the country
- The Department of Education and Science
- Vocational Education Committees
- Voluntary bodies - Enable Ireland, Special Schools for Children with Disabilities etc
- Health sector agencies

What do they do?

- Assessing individual students in order to identify any special educational needs they may have
- Planning and carrying out interventions in response to these needs
- Consulting with educational, counselling, clinical, medical or paramedical staff, individually or as a team
- Consulting with and supporting parents of students with developmental and/or educational difficulties

- Individual and group work with students
- Supporting other professionals e.g. class teachers, learning support teachers, classroom assistants
- Contributing to curriculum development and policy-making in areas relevant to their expertise

Who are their clients?

- Students
- Teachers and other educational staff
- Parents
- Policy makers (e.g. the Department of Education & Science)
- Educational institutions – schools, colleges, universities etc

What are the typical problems dealt with?

- Educational, social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties including helping school communities cope with critical incidents due to e.g. accidents, self-harming etc

Who do they work with?

- Teachers, principals of schools and colleges and other educational staff
- Parents of students
- Personnel in the Department of Education & Science, National Council for Special Education, National Education Welfare Board, and NEPS
- Professional colleagues in the health service, special schools, clinics etc

How does a person become an educational psychologist?

- Obtain a primary degree in psychology (with Honours) which is accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland
- Teacher training qualification (usually)
- Complete a full professional training course in Educational Psychology, at Diploma or Master's Degree level

How can someone enhance his or her chances of obtaining a place in a training course?

- By obtaining teaching experience, or experience of working with young people in educational settings
- By working with students with disabilities

How long does it take to qualify?

- Altogether at least five years, including primary degree in psychology, two years' postgraduate training and relevant experience

Courses available at....

- University College Dublin, School of Education and Lifelong Learning
- Queen's University, Belfast, School of Psychology

