

Promoting Growth

Future Paths Initiative

"Turning Potential into Results, One Student at a Time"

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6



THIS ISSUE'S OVERVIEW

This issue is a more compact one: it covers information for current and prospective Psychology A-Level students, and a piece of advice for your summer break.



AMAZING RESOURCE!

We have included our personal favourite way of gaining work experience in ANY SECTOR hassle-free. Additionally we have amazing peer-sourced advice on what course (A-Level/BTEC) you should pick.

We hope you enjoy reading!)





CONTENTS

INTRO

PART 1

PSYCHOLOGY

PART 2

SUMMER
ACTIVITY IDEAS

PART 3

CAREER OF THE WEEK

PART 4

COURSE ADVICE

PART 5

MEDIA
OPPORTUNITIES

PART 6

WORK
EXPERIENCE



TO FUTURE YEAR 12s...

A small summary of the subject for those who don't know what to expect..

In the UK, psychology is deemed a social science, this means that it deals with human behaviour in its cultural social aspects. Although there are some biological features to it, a majority is social and cultural.

Like all A-Levels, psychology is extremely content heavy; you will be required to memorise lots of studies, lots of facts and lots of researchers. You will also develop evaluation skills and general understanding of human behaviour which you can apply to real life!

Overall, psychology is an amazing subject that will enable you to develop so many skills whilst learning such interesting content. This is your sign to take A-Level psychology!

TO CURRENT YEAR 12s...

It is that time of year where we have to start thinking about our personal statements. Here at FPI, we are full of opportunities and overcome any challenge thrown at us. However, the task of finding an extracurricular or work experience relating to psychology has succeeded us for now.

However, there is still a large range of books, documentaries and videos you can watch to enhance your personal statement if you want to pursue psychology in higher education.

Here are some books/videos we recommend:

- ***Thinking Fast And Slow*** Daniel Kahneman
- ***Authentic Happiness*** Martin Seligman
- ***How The Mind Works*** Steven Pinker
- ***JCS Psychology (YouTube)*** especially if you are interested in criminal psychology



PART TWO ACTIVITY IDEAS

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER



Summer, whether it's the transition to higher education or onto your final year in college, is a crucial time to begin finalising your path and making use of your time off of school.

In this short guide we will introduce a brief overview of some of the best activities we recommend that you can get started on.

Volunteering/ Outdoor work

Another excellent idea is to arrange a volunteering experience- from helping at hospitals, getting involved in local coding/educational fairs, assisting in research, there is a lot you can do to simultaneously demonstrate community engagement and your passion. If you are interested in environmental and sustainable focused STEM careers, partake or even start initiatives which protect your local environment or community.

Work experience

If you haven't already, check out the Speakers for Schools website for incredible WEX opportunities, or reach out to local institutions/groups/individuals to arrange one on your own accord.

Be creative!

Utilise your time to perhaps conduct your own research- whether this is research into prospective careers, universities, colleges, apprenticeships or even genuine research within your field of interest, produce something unique! Leading your own blog, writing a research paper, crafting an essay are all extremely enriching activities.

Use the internet!

Use this time to truly explore the depths of the internet- complete a MOOC, listen to a podcast, watch a documentary or find a book to further develop your supercurricular understanding.



DATA SCIENTIST

Data engineer, machine learning engineer, AI data scientist... Whatever you want to call it, data scientists use software, artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyse and interpret large amounts of data.

requirements

You'll typically need a degree in a computer science, mathematical or science-based subject to work as a data scientist. The following degree subjects may be particularly useful:

**computer science
data science/computer and data science
engineering
mathematics
mathematics and operational research
physics
statistics**

As a data scientist, you'll extract, analyse and interpret large amounts of data from a range of sources, using algorithmic, data mining, artificial intelligence, machine learning and statistical tools, to make it accessible to businesses. Once you've interpreted the data, you'll present your results using clear and engaging language.

skills and employment



what skills do i need?

You'll need to have:

excellent analytical and problem-solving skills

experience in database interrogation and analysis tools, such as Apache Hadoop, SQL and SAS (don't worry - this will come naturally as you're training for a data science job!)

exceptional communication and presentation skills for explaining your work to people who don't understand the mechanics behind data analysis

effective listening skills for understanding the requirements of the business

drive and the resilience to try new ideas if the first one doesn't work - you'll be expected to work with minimal supervision, so it's important that you're able to motivate yourself

planning, time management and organisational skills

employment?

The leading employers for data scientists tend to be in the finance, retail and ecommerce sectors. Businesses in these sectors are keen to better understand their audience groups in order to target their focus on relevant products and offerings.

Sectors such as telecoms, oil and gas, and transport are increasingly using big data to make decisions that could positively impact their workforce, operations or sales.

Jobs are also available with:

government departments

NHS

universities and research institutes.

how much will I be paid?

- you can expect to work around **40hrs a week**
- **pay: £32,000–£90,000(uk)**
- data scientists contracting out projects can earn up to **£500/day**

With experience, you could specialize in:

artificial intelligence
machine learning
database management

You might also:

move up to senior or principal data scientist
become a departmental strategy manager
go into academic research and university teaching

check out the links below!

[what is data science?](#)

[10 things i wish i knew](#)

PART FOUR COURSE ADVICE

The image features a dark background with two photographs. On the left, a group of students in a classroom setting, with the text 'A-LEVELS' overlaid in large white letters. On the right, a student working on a laptop, with the text 'BTEC' overlaid in large white letters. The word 'vs' is placed between the two images.

A-LEVELS vs BTEC

There is a traditional view that A-Levels will take you further and that BTEC are the easy option...is this factual?

It is true that universities tend to favour A-Levels when making their admissions decisions, but for many students, this way of learning would only hinder them and produce unrepresentative results.

As commonly known, A-Level subjects are assessed by exams at the end of the two year course. Whilst performance throughout the two years is highly considered when teachers are deciding on predicted grades, there are no coursework projects which count toward your overall grade.

This is unlike in BTEC subjects, where depending on the course, a large proportion of the subject is coursework (e.g. group projects, which you'll need to present) as well as internal unit exams. What this means is that, rather than having a long exam on anything you have learned over 2 years, you will have a smaller range of content end of topic tests can cover, allowing you to prepare more specifically.

Many students taking BTECs find that the way of learning is much more suitable for them, especially for students struggling with test anxiety. Coursework allows them to excel in more human-orientated ways instead of having to memorise and recall facts, formulas, and dates. Group projects strengthen teamwork, continuous assessments builds time management skills, and presenting projects helps with confidence and public speaking. Taking BTECs is definitely is better suited for practical individuals, who do not gain knowledge from a textbook, but experiences rather.

[MORE ON A-LEVELS BELOW](#)

[MORE ON A-LEVELS BELOW](#)

[MORE ON A-LEVELS BELOW](#)

[MORE ON A-LEVELS BELOW](#)

[MORE ON A-LEVELS BELOW](#)



PART FOUR COURSE ADVICE



On the other hand, A-Levels are thought to be more rigorous in the sense that you are doing continuous learning in the year, and exam season is an extra period that requires extra focus. However, this does result in more favour from universities, likely because many higher education institutes have similar ways of teaching. Whilst it may be preparing you better for college, you may find it more difficult to go into the world of work right after finishing university, as you haven't developed those soft skills that you would in a BTEC, as I mentioned above.

To conclude, A-Levels do indeed pave an easier path in the traditional way of starting your career: finish college, go to university, get a job. However, the continuous increase in apprenticeship opportunities make BTECs equally as valuable. Before finalising your decision on what courses you choose in college, take a second and have a think whether university or degree apprenticeship is more appealing to you.

Remember, most colleges allow you to change courses in the first 2–4 weeks of starting college!



4skills

What is 4skills?

UK TV broadcasting service, *Channel 4*, now offers an incredible online work experience program “**4skills**” – an amazing opportunity for anyone aspiring to go into the world of media. The fantastic thing about this course is the flexibility it allows for completion, as this course will be open for the entirety of the year and is completely online, you have the freedom to tackle tasks at your own pace and fit the work in around your existing schedule.



Channel 4 are constantly looking at developing their work experience programme and so the materials really are the best of the best for the industry. To begin the course, you will partake in 3 'core modules' (the creative industry, creative personas and employability) which will provide the key foundations into the course. Developing on this, you then have the choice to choose which modules you want to complete from the selection provided. The broad range of modules from consumer insight to legal compliance to production in the studio, there really is a range of pathways to suit everyone!

–Jenna Laband

[sign up here!](#)



PART SIX WORK EXPERIENCE

THE SECRET TO GAINING WORK EXPERIENCE IN ANY SECTOR.

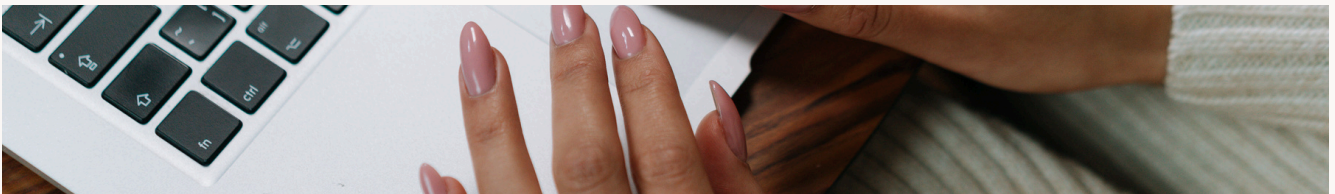
Finding work experience can be quite challenging—employers may lack the necessary insurance, be fully booked with other applicants, not be conveniently located, or simply not respond to inquiries. However, here's a secret: experience doesn't have to be limited to in-person opportunities. Platforms like Springpod offer virtual work experience, providing valuable alternatives that are accessible from anywhere.



I don't know what sector I want to go into?

The beauty of Springpod is the perfect solution! It can be a useful tool if you are unsure what to do in the future too, as you are given an insight into a variety of different job roles.

Springpod offers short sessions that provide insights and skills you might not find through traditional research methods like Google. Discover what each sector demands, and the qualities expected of professionals. Dive into the next page to explore more about these flexible and insightful experience courses!



Wondering when to take advantage of these opportunities? Well, you can complete them whenever you want. But the recommended time is the Summer holidays. This is because you have 6 weeks of time with minimal commitments, meaning you can take your time completing the courses, and complete them whenever you have the time. This shows the flexibility and ease of these experience courses!

Do I have to pay?

Best of all, this platform is FREE.

THE SECRET TO GAINING
WORK EXPERIENCE
IN ANY SECTOR.

THE DIFFERENT SECTORS ON SPRINGPOD

I will give you examples of 3 different career paths, in conjunction to an exemplary course you can take on Springpod.

1. Accounting, Banking & Finance.

Currently, there are 15 opportunities under this sector. One being an Accountancy experience with BDO. You'll hear from experts, see career stories, and explore career pathways. Through this work experience, you'll discover skills you didn't know you had and develop an understanding of a future career with BDO!



2. Media and Film.

Alongside 3 other opportunities, you can complete an experience with leading retailer, Amazon. This module provides context within the TV & Film industry, along with an overview of how broadcast assistant apprentices at Amazon Studios play a significant part in providing support to editorial or technical colleagues to ensure the smooth delivery of content for productions!

3. Healthcare and Medicine.

With 20 other opportunities open at the moment, you can complete an experience with the NHS – a vital organisation. From introducing you to how the NHS is structured to introducing the core values and beliefs of the NHS, you'll gain an insight into what it's like to work in healthcare settings.

