

Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP)

What is a Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP)?

The Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP) role has been developed to provide greater access to psychologically informed mental health services across the NHS.

The role is part of the NHS long term plan so is currently expanding in line with this.

What do CAPs do?

CAPs are specialist mental health professionals who can practice autonomously with appropriate supervision, working within their scope of practice.

As a CAP, you will:

- Carry out specialist psychological assessments across a broad range of presentations such as anxiety, depression, emotional dysregulation and trauma
- Use evidence-based psychological approaches to formulate difficulties and inform treatment plans
- Deliver interventions using a range of psychological approaches, including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and models that consider wider systems
- Routinely conduct risk assessments to support risk management strategies
- Conduct research, audits, and service improvement projects where needed
- Be a psychological resource for your team, making important contributions to multidisciplinary team discussions, and supervising and teaching other professionals
- Receive regular supervision with a HCPC registered Practitioner Psychologist

How Do I Apply?

Trainee CAP roles will be advertised on Trust websites.

If you are invited to an interview, the panel will comprise of staff members from both the employing NHS Trust and the training provider.



How do I train?

You will complete a postgraduate Level 7 Applied Master's Degree at University of Bath (or any other training organisation that offers the course). During training you be employed as a Trainee or Apprentice CAP at Agenda for Change band 5.

The course will consist of:

- 2 study days per week of study, during which you will learn how to conduct specialist assessments, formulate presentations, deliver evidence based psychological interventions, and conduct research projects. Much of this teaching will be delivered remotely
- As the course is an applied masters you will be completing assignments in your service that will align with the course requirements. Some of these assignments will be clinical reports, critical and ethical reviews and oral presentations
- You will complete an End Point Assessment (EPA) that is marked as pass or fail
- Upon qualification, you will join the Psychological Society (BPS) Wider Psychological Workforce register

Entry Requirements / Previous Experiences Required

- A minimum 2:2 bachelor's degree in psychology, or an equivalent conversion course, accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS)
- Relevant clinical experience in a mental health setting

Career Prospects

Once you graduate, you will become a qualified Clinical Associate in Psychology and be paid at Agenda for Change band 6.

For two years following qualification, further NHS-funded training will not be available, though your service may identify additional training to support you in your CAP role, depending on service need.

Experienced CAPs may eventually choose to undertake further training in psychological therapies or applied psychology.

Alternatively, CAPs may move into clinical and service development, education and/or research.

CAPs can work across a range of NHS settings, including inpatient mental health services, community mental health services and physical health settings.

Any other relevant information

The skills you develop are transferable across client populations, although most CAPs are either trained to work with adults (including older adults) or children: this is reflected in the type of CAP registration you can apply for on the BPS Wider Psychological Workforce register.

Useful Organisations

Clinical associate in psychology (**CAP**) (integrated degree) / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

Detailed information about the **CAP** role and responsibilities.

instituteforapprenticeships.org/

instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/clinical-associate-in-psychology-cap-integrated-degree-v1-0

Clinical Associate in Psychology (England) and Clinical Associate in Applied Psychology (Scotland) job profile | BPS – information from the BPS.

bps.org.uk

bps.org.uk/clinical-associate-psychology-england-and-clinical-associate-applied-psychology-scotland-job

Psychological Professions Network (**PPN**)

ppn.nhs.uk

ppn.nhs.uk/resources/careers-map

MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology, University of Bath

Visit one of the University training provider's website

bath.ac.uk

bath.ac.uk/campaigns/msc-clinical-associate-in-psychology/

Clinical Associate in Psychology (**CAP**) Apprenticeship Programme career pathways at University College London (UCL)

blogs.ucl.ac.uk/

blogs.ucl.ac.uk/caps/2024/08/27/cap-career-pathways/



berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/work-for-us

recruitment.enquiries@berkshire.nhs.uk