

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH AND NHS SCOTLAND
MSc in Applied Psychology for Children and Young People
Person Specification 2026 intake

FACTORS		CRITERIA	MEANS OF ASSESSMENT	
			Application	Interview
Education and Qualifications	Essential	Good Honours Degree in Psychology at 2:1 level or above, or:	√	
		The successful completion of a BPS accredited MSc Psychology conversion programme and where the applicant achieved an average mark of 60% or above (This reflects BPS guidance) OR a higher diploma conversion qualification with 240 credit equivalent (120 ECTS) and confers GBC, where the overall number of research credits is at least 80 (40 ECTS) and the higher diploma is at 2.1 equivalent level or above.	√	
			√	
		Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the BPS.		
Experience (including research if appropriate)	Essential	Evidence of reflection on experience, clinical or non-clinical and academic, in relation to the role of trainee Clinical Associate	√	√
	Desirable	<i>Paid or voluntary work in relevant areas such as education, social care, research and health care settings or supervised psychological work.</i>	√	√
Knowledge and Skills	Essential	Demonstrable knowledge and interest in relevant psychological theories and models for working with children, young people or families and/or developmental psychology and / or common mental health difficulties experienced by children and young people	√	√
		Knowledge of early childhood experience and the impact of this on child and family development.	√	√
		Awareness of early intervention approaches as applied to working with children, young people and families.	√	√
		Knowledge of policy and legislation in relation to children.	√	√
		Knowledge of research design and methodology and evidence of research skills in relation to the critical appraisal of literature, data analysis, data interpretation and research ethics.		√
	Desirable	<i>Evidence of a critical understanding of the relevance of early childhood experience to child and family mental health and wellbeing.</i>		√
Interpersonal skills	Essential	Evidence of appropriate skills necessary to communicate complex information effectively (orally and in writing).	√	√
		Evidence of the ability to interact effectively and build rapport with children, young people and their families.		√
		Awareness of need for professionalism at all times, in behaviour, maintaining confidentiality, appropriate dress, punctuality and reliability.		√
		Ability to communicate empathically and sensitively when required, particularly in emotive situations.		√
	Desirable	<i>Good analytical skills in judging and formulating an interpersonal situation and in imparting or reporting to key people such as clients, professional colleagues or senior personnel).</i>		√
Other factors	Essential	An understanding of professional guidelines as defined by the Health and Care Professions Council and British Psychological Society	√	√
		A strong commitment to evidence-based practice.		√
		An interest in working with children and young people and their families.	√	√

	Desirable	<i>Clear commitment to working within the NHS Health board area.</i>	√	√
		<i>Driving licence may be desirable in some health board areas.</i>	√	