

R. - PhD Clinical Psychology, 2009

UCL Faculty:

- Brain Sciences

Current role:

- Senior Clinical Psychologist

Previous role:

- Clinical Psychologist

Sector:

- Health

R. is a Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Kent and Medway NHS Partnership Trust, where he is responsible for the assessment and treatment of clients with mental health problems within secondary care NHS services. R.'s previous role was that of Clinical Psychologist, working within forensic services, at a south east London NHS Trust. R.'s career choices have been motivated by his interest in forensic and adult mental health services, and by a preference for undertaking more therapy work as opposed to conducting assessment.

R.'s PhD expertise is essential for his role. He would not be able to hold the position without his doctorate but he has not been required to gain further qualifications or work experience since graduating. The transferable skills that R. uses in his current role include analysis of complex information, collaborative working, report writing and disseminating complex information clearly and effectively. R. feels that his PhD training, particularly his various NHS placements and written assignments, helped him to develop these transferable skills.

Since graduating R. does not feel he has had to face particular challenges to gaining employment. He has secured his positions by responding to adverts on online job sites.

For those students completing the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, R. believes it would be 'most helpful if you could undertake a clinically relevant area for your thesis, (which) would be useful in your later clinical work.' If you're considering doing a PhD, R. suggests that you 'follow your interests.' He also recommends building a thorough and realistic understanding of what your potential PhD would entail. In order to counter the academic and emotional challenges of a PhD, R. would encourage you to 'pace yourself and start the work early, even if it's just a bit of background reading every other day', highlighting the significance of time management.

Tags:

- Brain Sciences, Health, Psychologist, Non-Academic