

Your Future **me** Design Thinking Problem Brief

Department: Psychology

MSc Forensic Psychology (2886, 2887)

MSc Health Psychology (2676, 2677)

MSc Psychological Wellbeing in Clinical Practice (2660, 2670)

MSc Clinical Skills in Integrative Psychotherapy (2661, 2671)

MSc Childhood Development and Wellbeing in Practice (2679, 267D)

Opening question:

How might we reimagine personal and professional development within psychology to better prepare students for working in health, social care, education, and/or forensic settings?

Context:

The health, social care and education sectors are continuing to face significant workforce shortages in 2023. This issue has been exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic, which has exposed the dangers of running a system with such shortages. It is therefore vital for organisations to recruit graduates within these sectors.

However, some students have reported a lack of confidence in applying for such roles, often because they do not feel that they have sufficient experience. Others have limited access to placements and voluntary opportunities during their studies. Even graduates who have secured employment often report they did not feel prepared for the types of challenges and issues they faced when they started working in such settings.

We want you to explore ways in which universities could be reimaged to help students build their employability within these sectors and empower students with the confidence in both applying and fulfilling these roles.

Starting points/ prompts:

- Are you focusing on building the employability of all students or will you focus on a specific organisation (NHS, secure service, school, volunteer sector etc)?
- What kinds of roles are available in the different health and education sectors? Find out as much as you can about roles that interest you – look for job descriptions, testimonials, job forums etc.
- What skills are needed for these roles?
- What challenges might people in these roles face? Do these challenges differ across sectors or are there commonalities?
- In what way could a psychology graduate utilise their specific course skills and knowledge to assist with these challenges?
- What creative innovations might help to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will face?
- How could placement opportunities, for example, be made more accessible and inclusive?