

ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL

<u>Job Title:</u>	Principal Psychologist (Specialist)
<u>Grade:</u>	Principal Level
<u>Area Of Assignment:</u>	Department of Psychological Medicine with a specific remit to the Stroke Service.
<u>Reporting Relationship:</u>	Clinical leads of Department of Psychological Medicine and Stroke Service
<u>Salary Scale:</u>	€114,961 - €133,271 (Inc LSIx2)
<u>Closing Date:</u>	Sunday, 5th October 2025
<u>Ref:</u>	001693

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE:

This is an exciting opportunity for a Principal Psychologist to join the experienced and established Department of Psychological Medicine at St James's Hospital (SJH).

In addition to the role in Psychological Medicine, the successful candidate will be a key member of the Stroke MDT, leading in the development and delivery of a comprehensive, evidence based psychological service for stroke patients.

The post holder will also represent Psychology in a range of hospital/HSE initiatives as deemed appropriate by the clinical leads.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE SERVICE

The Department of Psychological Medicine is a comprehensive, well-established, multi-disciplinary, consultant-led team, incorporating experience, support and expertise from clinical psychologists, consultant psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialists, NCHDs, and dedicated administrative staff. It provides assessment and intervention for patients attending the general hospital.

STROKE SERVICE

The Stroke Service in St James's was established in 2007 and is one of the longest established in Ireland. It provides emergency, acute and rehabilitation services for patients presenting to the hospital or referred by GP or consultant colleagues. The service is run collaboratively by the Disciplines of Medicine for Older People, Acute Medicine and Neurology. The service operates both acute and rehabilitation services on-site alongside out-patient clinics. The service also has an active Early Supportive Discharge Team and strong links with neuro-rehabilitation services.

The successful candidate will be a member of both the Psychological Medicine and Stroke teams.

REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must have at the latest date of application:

1. Professional Qualifications & Experience

- i. Have a university degree or diploma (NQAI level 8 equivalent) obtained with first or second-class honours in which Psychology was taken as a major subject and honours obtained in that subject

And

- ii. Have an Irish post-graduate professional psychology qualification accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland in Clinical or Counselling Psychology

Or

An equivalent qualification from another jurisdiction validated by the Department of Health. *Please note Dept of Health verification of overseas training/service and eligibility is required in advance of application, please submit paperwork with application in order to apply. PSI verification is also required.*

And

- iii. Applicants must have at least eight years' satisfactory post-graduate experience in the area of professional psychology, no more than three years of which was spent in gaining the postgraduate professional qualification and no less than three years full-time spent in post-qualification experience as a senior psychologist. Years in excess of the permitted three years for completion of the post-graduate training or time not worked will not be taken into consideration when assessing the eight years' experience requirement.

And

- iv. Applicants with a clinical or counselling psychology qualification must demonstrate that they have acquired in appropriate health settings either at least 60 days or equivalent supervised clinical placements in Adult Psychology as part of the professional qualification, OR at least 60 days or equivalent post-qualification supervised work experience as a psychologist in an Adult Psychology setting.

And

- v. Be eligible for PSI registration.

2. Essential and desirable skills, competencies and/or knowledge (to be evidenced on CV)

- Excellent professional knowledge of evidence-based practice, to the level required to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the role.
- Significant postgraduate supervised clinical experience providing neuropsychological assessment and intervention to patients, including those with acquired disability and / or neurological conditions.
- Demonstrable skill in neuropsychological assessment and evidence of relevant training and experience in neuropsychological assessment and therapy techniques as appropriate to the delivery of a psychology stroke service.
- Previous experience of delivering evidence-based interventions in acute hospital/ medical rehabilitation setting.
- A high level of skill and experience in the assessment and delivery of psychological interventions to patients with acute and chronic medical conditions.

- The ability to plan and deliver psychological services in an effective, efficient and resourceful manner.
- Demonstrable experience of leadership, collaboration with consultant and HSCP colleagues and service development in a busy working environment.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to effectively collaborate with colleagues, families, carers and service users in the interests of delivering the best possible services within available resources.
- Expertise and experience in teaching, training, lecturing and giving presentations.
- Expertise and experience in clinical supervision.
- Eligible to be registered as a chartered clinical neuropsychologist in Ireland.

Desirable:

- Experience in an acute hospital-based stroke service.
- Hold a post-graduate qualification in the area of applied Neuropsychology.
- Excellent leadership skills including post graduate leadership training.
- Experience in the strategic development of services and proven success in quality and change management initiatives.
- Completed peer-reviewed published research and conference presentations.
- A high level of competence in the creation and delivery of psycho-education programmes.
- Effective clinical supervision skills.

MAIN ROLE, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Key Duties and Responsibilities

The following duties and responsibilities are not exhaustive and the successful candidate may be required to perform other duties as may be assigned by the clinical leads for Psychological Medicine and Stroke teams.

Professional / Clinical Duties and Responsibilities

The Principal Psychologist will:

- Be an active member of the Department of Psychological Medicine and Stroke team providing clinical service to patients as required.
- Deliver a best practice, evidence-based psychology / neuro-psychology service to inpatients and outpatients in consultation and collaboration with the Psychological Medicine and Stroke teams. This may include assessment, neuropsychological assessment, formulation, consultation and individual and/or group intervention with patients as appropriate. It may also involve working with families and other agencies.
- Offer information and education to patients, families and carers, regarding the psychological and neuropsychological aspects of stroke, recovery and rehabilitation as appropriate.
- Work flexibly and collaboratively with MDT teams, contributing to structures and processes for coordinated interdisciplinary service delivery.
- Support and contribute to the development of pathways related to provision of an evidence-based, timely response for patients.
- Utilise evidence-based literature, research and best practice guidelines to support effective practice and good quality equitable services.
- Exercise professional responsibility for the active management of waiting lists.

- Communicate effectively and work in co-operation with the clinical leads of Psychological Medicine and Stroke teams, SJH directorate management team, and multi-disciplinary colleagues.
- Attend, participate in and contribute to professional meetings and case-conferences as required.
- Provide professional reports and information to other professional staff as appropriate.
- Represent and advocate for the psychological needs of patients.
- Work in an ethical and professional manner at all times.
- Manage continuing professional development, including availing of clinical supervision at an appropriate level.
- Promote a culture that values equality, diversity and respect in the workplace.
- Work within limits of professional competence in line with principles of best practice, professional conduct and excellent clinical governance.
- Maintain records of clinical work and provide professional reports as required within professional and SJH guidelines.

Education and Training

The Principal Psychologist will:

- Attend regular peer supervision within the Psychological Medicine Service.
- Participate actively in the ongoing training, lecturing, advice, consultation and continuing education of St James's Hospital staff, and the Psychological Medicine and Stroke teams in particular.
- Establish links with the educational institutions with regard to under-graduate and postgraduate training as appropriate.
- Provide ongoing supervision for senior, staff, trainee and assistant grade Psychologists as required.
- Provide consultation, education and teaching to non-psychologists working within St James's Hospital in the delivery of psychological interventions, as appropriate.
- Attend mandatory training programmes.
- Be informed of advances in professional knowledge and practice.
- Be informed of developments in national policies, strategies and legislation and their impact on practice.
- Liaise with key stakeholders, including national organisations, patient representative groups and societies as appropriate.
- Undertake continuous professional development ensuring compliance with statutory registration requirements.
- Contribute to training and psycho-education programmes within the hospital.

Research & Evaluation

The Principal Psychologist will:

- Undertake research in psychology and link with the ongoing research in St. James's Hospital as relevant.
- Participate in evaluation of clinical activity within the service and provide such information as required for the purpose of service monitoring, evaluation and improvement.

PARTICULARS OF OFFICE

1. The appointment is **Permanent, Part-Time and Pensionable**.
2. Annual Leave allowance is **30 days (pro rata to contractual hours worked)**.
3. The person appointed must not give less than **three months' notice**, in writing, of intention to resign.
4. Normal working hours will be **30** per week.
5. You will be required to work the agreed roster/on call arrangements advised to you by your line manager. Your contracted hours of work are liable to change between the hours of 8.00am – 8.00pm over seven days to meet the requirements for extended day services in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement.
6. Incremental credit is normally granted on appointment, in respect of previous relevant experience in the Civil Service, local authorities, health service, public service bodies and other agreed relative experience.

GENERAL

1. The Hospital Board will not be responsible for the loss or theft of personal belongings.
2. Fire orders must be observed and staff must complete fire training every 2 years
3. All accidents within the department must be reported immediately.
4. In accordance with the “Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005”, all staff must comply with all safety regulations.
5. St James’s Hospital is a Tobacco Free Campus. The use of Tobacco or Electronic Cigarettes is not permitted within the Hospital Buildings or on the grounds.
6. In the event that we receive a large number of applications and while you may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, it may be decided at shortlisting to reduce the numbers being invited to interview. An expert board will examine the application forms against pre-determined criteria based on the requirements of the position. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates who, based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications and experience on the application form.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In the course of your employment, you may have access to or hear information concerning the medical or personal affairs of patients and/or staff, or other health services business. Such records and information are strictly confidential and unless acting on the instructions of an authorised officer, on no account must information concerning staff, patients or other health service business be divulged or discussed except in the performance of normal duty. In addition, records must never be left in such a manner that unauthorised persons can obtain access to them and must be kept in safe custody when no longer required.

INFECTION CONTROL AND HYGIENE

It is the responsibility of all staff across the hospital to ensure that infection control and hygiene standards are adhered to and maintained at all times.

HEALTH

A candidate for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

ENQUIRIES

Dr. Aine Connolly, Principal Psychologist, Dept. of Psychological Medicine. Email; aineconnolly@stjames.ie , Tel 01 4103457
or Prof Joe Harbison, Consultant Physician in Stroke Medicine. Tel 01 4284108

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for this position, please complete the online application form no later than **Sunday, 5th October 2025.**

A panel may be formed from which future vacancies will be filled

St. James' Hospital is an Equal Opportunities Employer