**School of Health & Society / Occupational Therapy**

[www.salford.ac.uk](http://www.salford.ac.uk/)

**FAQs for Pre-Registration Masters in Occupational Therapy**

Hello and thank you for your recent enquiry. Here is a list of frequently asked questions to answer some of your queriesabout your application for the Pre-registration Masters in Occupational Therapy (MScOT) programme. **Please read through these notes carefully. If you then have specific queries that are not answered here, you can contact the admissions lead via the email address below.**

The MScOT is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council and accredited by both the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

This document is intended to supplement any information on the official University of Salford website and should be read in conjunction with the website. Information is updated throughout the cycle. Any advice given does not guarantee a place on the programme.

**Please note our professional expectations:** If you undertake an occupational therapy course, you will need to abide by the Royal College of Occupational Therapy’s Code of Ethics and the Health and Care Professional Council’s Standards of Practice. You can find out more about these guidelines in the links below:

* <https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/rcot-publications/downloads/rcot-standards-and-ethics>
* <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/globalassets/resources/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics.pdf>

**For specific enquiries** regarding our entry requirements please contact the Pre-Registration Admissions Lead:

Dr Deborah Davys at: SHS-OTAdmissions@salford.ac.uk

**For any other queries** associated with the University in general terms (e.g., accommodation and car parking and finance) please visit the main University website: [www.salford.ac.uk](http://www.salford.ac.uk/)

The MScOT has been designed to facilitate:

* Co-creation of learning, meaning that you can create opportunities that will enhance your experience.
* Learning within real world projects, volunteering and placements / virtual learning environments, meaning that you will be ready to step into a variety of roles that require you as an occupational therapist to think critically and work autonomously.
* Employability - the accelerated programme means you will be ready to join the workplace in 2 years.

Some of the learning will take place alongside our existing undergraduate students, to develop the core skills and knowledge required for safe and effective practice. However, in addition, you will have an identified MSc Tutor who will work with you and your peers to facilitate the assimilation of learning into Masters level thinking. It is intended that you will work with the MSc Tutor and your cohort to co-create the learning to add depth and breadth to your knowledge and experience, and to facilitate engagement at Level 7 in:

1. Research
2. Critical thinking
3. Application of knowledge and skills to a broad range of issues (local, national and global)

We have highly skilled staff with a range of clinical backgrounds, involvement with professional boards and committees and national and international conference presence. Some staff have PhDs, and some have been awarded the Vice-Chancellor Distinguished Teacher awards. In addition, we have Fellows and Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy demonstrating excellence in teaching and learning.

All staff teaching on this course have worked clinically as occupational therapists representing a wide variety of settings, including international working. There is also an active research ethos across the department that informs the practice of occupational therapy in the clinical setting. Find out more about our current research on our Centre for Health Sciences Research webpages

**Entry requirements**

Applicants must satisfy both the University’s general entry requirements and the specific entry requirements for this programme, as detailed below.

The General Entry Academic Requirements are as per the University’s Admissions and Retention Policy: <https://www.salford.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/AdmissionsRetentionPolicy.pdf>

**Programme Specific Academic and Other Entry Requirements:**

* **GCSE**: five passes at grade A to C to include English Language, Maths and a science.
* **Bachelor's degree**: 1st class or 2:1 preferred in any subject. Normally we would expect this to be completed within the last 5 years, however, relevant work related CPD or other relevant study could be taken into consideration as recent study (with evidence). International students / learners will hold a degree equivalent to a UK Honours degree. NARIC will be used to assess classification.

**In addition:**

* Subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Barring Service check (Enhanced Disclosure)
* Subject to satisfactory medical clearance
* Relevant experience of working with people, alongside good verbal and written communication skills and commitment
* Applicants are strongly advised to visit at least one occupational therapy area before applying (see *“What Experience Do I need”* section for further guidance)
* Applicants are also advised to have a clear understanding of the core values of the profession, understand the different ways in which occupational therapists may work with people and have an appreciation of the different areas of clinical practice
* A comprehensive personal statement of no more than **500 words**, is required, that demonstrates your understanding of occupational therapy as suggested in the points above, including some key terms i.e., activity, independence; visits you have completed to occupational therapy areas and what you have learnt from this. You are also asked to write a little about yourself and what has brought you to the point of application for the programme and your commitment to studying occupational therapy. **This needs to be submitted as a separate word document, rather than on the standard University personal statement template**. Refer to the section *“What makes a good personal statement”* for further advice*.*

Applications will be made directly to the University (more information is available on this website): <https://www.salford.ac.uk/pgt-courses/occupational-therapy>

**Accreditation of Prior Learning**

As above under *“Entry Requirements”* APEL can be considered when the most recent study is more than 5 years ago by evidence of relevant CPD activity or completion of an identified piece of work, set by the University. This will be discussed on an individual basis.

For those applicants wishing to transfer into the programme from other relevant pre-registration master’s level programmes, this will involve a mapping process across the learning outcomes of both programmes.

**English Language Requirements**

Applicants must satisfy the University’s English Language requirements as per the University’s Admissions and Retention Policy: <https://www.salford.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/AdmissionsRetentionPolicy.pdf>

**When English is not a first language,** applicants must possess a current qualification deemed acceptable by the University as evidence of proficiency in the English Language. This qualification must equate to a minimum average score of 7.0 or above (and for each component 6.5 or above) from the Cambridge / British Council English Language Testing Service (IELTS) or alternative examinations as recognised by the University.

EEA applicants based in the UK may be able to take an English language test at the University. Please contact salfordlanguages@salford.ac.uk for more details.

**Applicants who have previously enrolled on any health professional education programme:** If you have previously been enrolled on any health professional education programme (for example nursing or physiotherapy), ***you must submit a self-declaration confirming no previous fitness to practice concerns have arisen, if a place is offered.***

# How and when do I apply?

You will apply directly to the University from the 1st September. Please see the website for more information:

<https://www.salford.ac.uk/pgt-courses/occupational-therapy>

# Selection and interviews

Usually, the Programme Team will consider all application forms. Successful applicants may be invited to an interview either within the University or virtually (phone or online).

Places will be offered following consideration by the Admissions Team and will be subject to a successful health and DBS checks. We will offer feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

# What makes a good personal statement?

**We are looking for you to demonstrate:**

* Your understanding of the term occupation within the context of occupational therapy.
* Your understanding of the key values and philosophy of the profession of occupational therapy.
* Your understanding of occupational therapists’ varied areas of practice and the interventions that they may use with service users.
* The visits you have completed to occupational therapy areas and what you have gained from this
* Any role that can help you to evidence that you have experience of communicating, managing self, working as part of a team, and supporting people with health or social care needs.
* How your qualities match the professional values of occupational therapy and the 6Cs of healthcare - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/6cs/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/03/introducing-the-6cs.pdf>
* Motivation, commitment, enthusiasm and ability to study at Masters level.
* A standard of written English as appropriate for starting a Masters level degree.

**Other websites that will support your application are:**

* The Royal College of Occupational Therapists: <https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-occupational-therapy/become-an-occupational-therapist/tips-your-occupational-therapy-application>
* The Health and Care Professions Council: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/>

*This website also contains a guide to becoming a healthcare professional for disabled people.*

# What experience do I need to have?

*How much experience (how many days) of shadowing/work experience is required?*

We are looking to see that you have been proactive in gaining an understanding of the profession and have a basic awareness of the differing roles an occupational therapist may have in a variety of work areas. We suggest that you arrange a visit to at least one area of occupational therapy service provision. We acknowledge that gaining a shadowing experience can be difficult in many services so accept that your visit can be anything from an hour, or talking to an occupational therapist about their role, to spending a day observing them engaging in their role. This will differ greatly between services due to issues such as client confidentiality and risk.

*I am also considering doing some volunteering to gain experience with client groups which I do not have. Could you please advise what type of volunteering would strengthen an application?*

Any role that can help you to evidence that you have experience at communicating, managing self, working as part of a team, and using literacy and numeracy skills would be appropriate. This can be anything from a carer role, to a role with local community groups (e.g. Scouts, Age UK). Of course, if you can obtain a role that brings you into contact with people who experience occupational dysfunction (through disability, illness or social circumstances) then this can only increase your awareness of the impact of these factors on an individual. Many applicants now demonstrate engagement in volunteering roles.

# How many days a week are we in University?

* **This is a full time programme** and as such, at this stage, **you should assume attendance is 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday.** Most modules offer a mixture of delivery to include taught time (and therefore at the University or online), self- directed time (completed at a place and time of your convenience) and independent study (which may involve working in small peer groups and may be at the University dependent upon the group requirements). Timetables for all modules for an academic year are usually available at least 6 weeks before the start of the trimester so that necessary arrangements can be made concerning child-care and other commitments.
* **Placements / learning environments** that enable you to develop professional skills **are always full time**. The programme involves 1050 hours of placements, with 4 placements of varying lengths across the two years. Where these placements sit within the programme can be seen in the Programme Structure below.

**The structure of the programme over 2 years:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Trimester**  | **September F/T** |
| **1** | **1** | Theory and Practice 1  |
| People as Occupational beings |
| **2** | Theory & Practice 1 including Practice Experience 1 |
| People as Occupational Beings |
| **3** | Theory and Practice 1 including Practice Experience 2 |
| **2** | **1** | Theory and Practice 2  |
| Ready for Practice including Practice Experience 3 |
| **2** | Theory and Practice 2 |
| Ready for Practice |
| **3** | Theory and Practice 2 including Practice Experience 4 |

**Sample timetable from the 2020-21 academic year:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wed | Thursday  | Friday  |
|  1 28/9/20 | 9-12 Welcome and Orientation Intro to MSc modules2.45 Being an OT (with OT BSc students) |  9-10 Independent study Review learning agreements in Blackboard Learning Materials 10.00-11.00 Philosophy of OT 11.30-12.00 History of OT (with OT BSc students)1-4 Independent study Online activities for the week  | 10.00-13.00 Intro to Real World Problems   | 9.00 –9.30 Introduction to the learning9.30-12.00 Intro to the lifespan &PEO model **Independent Study** 13.00 –14.00What is occupation? Independent Study 14.00-15.00 Feedback session  | 10.00-2.00 CoachingIntro to mentoring and co-creationReview and reflect on the week 3-4 Meet & Greet with 2nd years  |
| 25/10/20 | 9-12 Being Professional & 6 C’s(with OT BSc students)1-4 Independent study topic: consolidate your week 1 learning | 9.00 or 12.00 Communication and listeningCommunication patterns(with OT BSc students)Other half of the day online learning – communication  | Real World Problems with allotted group Off campus | 9.00 -12:00Exploring how environments influence people’s performance and participation in occupations throughout the life span. The importance of understanding environment13.00 –16.00 Defining and Describing occupational performance(with OT BSc students) | 10-4 Coaching Topic: Occupation-al Science  |

#  Placements / learning environments

* All placements are full time and delivered in blocks. In Year 1 you complete 4 weeks (Feb) and7 weeks (June/July). In Year 2 you complete 6 weeks (Nov/Dec) and 11 weeks (May/July). You must be available for all placements and dates are not negotiable.
* Start times on placement may vary and this must be accommodated.
* All placements except your final placement are sourced by the relevant university team.
* We have placement arrangements with the NHS, Social Services, charities and private practices. The 1st placement in 2nd year (6 weeks) will be either role-emerging/non-traditional placement (where there is no existing occupational therapy service) or a project within a traditional placement
* Over the 4 placements you will have an opportunity to experience a mix of service delivery and service user needs, in line with the World Federation of Occupational Therapy requirements. This means people of different ages, with both long-term and recent needs, and interventions that focus on the person, occupation and environment.
* Placements are assessed on a Pass/Fail basis through the Learning Agreement which demonstrates successful achievement of a range of Learning Outcomes. You will have a placement educator from within the learning environment who will supervise you and assess your development. Support is offered as required from your University Academic Tutor.

## Applicants should be aware that they must be prepared to travel up to one and a half hours to placement, regardless of whether they have young children or no car. Some costs may be incurred during placement e.g. travel, accommodation and parking. Such costs may be retrievable after placement completion.

## You must declare any health issue that could impact upon your performance on placement to the placement provider before going out on placement.

# Do I have to pay for my tuition?

All students / learners are responsible for funding tuition costs. Successful applicants are eligible to apply for a student loan/second student loan for tuition fees as this is a pre-registration health programme.

Please see the following websites for further details:

University website: <https://www.salford.ac.uk/pgt-courses/occupational-therapy>

Student finance: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>​

Student Loan Company: <http://www.slc.co.uk/>​

You are also entitled to apply to the NHS Learning Support Fund a Training Grant for all eligible students of £5,000 per academic year:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs->[learning-support-fund](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund)

# What is the employment situation once I graduate?

At Salford we have an extremely good record with a high percentage of our graduates in work or further study within the first 6 months. Further statistics can be found here:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-information-and-data/discover-uni-and-unistats/>

For more information about us here at Salford please look at:

* Our Facebook page: Occupational Therapy at the University of Salford UK
* Our twitter: @UoSOccTherapy

**Any further questions?**

When emailing please detail all your qualifications (including Maths and English) and the grades and dates these were achieved. In addition, list any related past and present work/voluntary experiences and the number of years in these roles. Please allow at least three working days for a reply.

**For queries regarding the University in general** **please:**

Such as accommodation, car parking or finance please visit: the main University website: www.salford.ac.uk or call the University switchboard T: +44 (0) 161 295 5000

**Course and admission enquiries: UK/EU students:** T +44 (0)161 295 4545 or email enquiries@salford.ac.uk

**Assistance for students:** AskUS the student advice service: http://www.askus.salford.ac.uk/contact