**School of Health & Society /**



**Occupational Therapy**

**FAQs**

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

Please read in conjunction with the University of Salford’s web page about the programme: [MScOT at the University of Salford](https://www.salford.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/occupational-therapy-pre-registration)

**This MScOT programme offers:**

* Co-creation of learning opportunities to enhance your experience.
* Learning within real world projects, volunteering and placements / virtual learning environments, so you are ready to step into a variety of roles that require the 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 learning will take place alongside undergraduate students to develop the core skills and knowledge required for safe and effective practice. In addition, designated MSc tutors will work with you and your peers to facilitate the assimilation of learning into Masters level thinking. This will add depth and breadth to your knowledge and experience, developing your critical thinking skills and encouraging integration of theory into practice.

The programme 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.

**What are the entry requirements?**

Applicants must satisfy the University’s general entry requirements and the programme specific entry requirements, 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>

**Entry Requirements:**

* GCSEs: five passes at grade A to C or 9 to 4, to include English Language, maths and a science or equivalents.
  + The English language, maths and science could also be evidenced through a higher qualification e.g. A level or aspects of your degree.
  + Equivalents accepted: maths and English level 2 function skills
  + If you do not have a science qualification, relevant CPD activity or the completion of free Open University courses can be considered (see the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APEL) section for further details on OU courses).
* Bachelor’s degree with honours: 2:1 or above 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). We accept qualifications from all around the world. [Find your country](https://www.salford.ac.uk/international/your-country) to see a full list of entry requirements.
* If you are an international student and not from a majority English speaking country, you will need IELTS 7.0 with no element below 6.5. We also accept a range of other [English language qualifications.](https://www.salford.ac.uk/international/english-language-requirements) If you do not have the English language requirements, you could take our [Pre-sessional English course.](https://www.salford.ac.uk/courses/pre-sessional/pre-sessional-english)

**In addition:**

1. Relevant experience of working with people, good verbal and written communication skills and commitment to learning
2. A clear understanding of the core values of the profession, the different ways occupational therapists may work with people and an appreciation of the different areas of clinical practice.
3. You are strongly advised to visit at **least one** occupational therapy area before applying, *see the “What experience do I need” section for further guidance.*
4. **A comprehensive personal statement of no more than 500 words,** that demonstrates your understanding of occupational therapy as suggested in the points above, including some key terms i.e., activity, occupation, independence and details of the 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.*
5. Satisfactory Disclosure Barring Service check (Enhanced Disclosure).
6. Satisfactory medical clearance.

**Accreditation of Prior Learning (APEL)**

APEL can be considered when the most recent study is more than 5 years ago by evidence of relevant CPD activity or completion of free Open University (OU) courses, from the health catalogue; [Open Learn - Free learning from the OU](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue) - 2 advanced and 2 intermediate, the choice would be yours to select the courses that are of interest to you. The purpose of this is to demonstrate current learning abilities.

For applicants wishing to transfer into the programme from other relevant pre-registration masters programmes, a mapping process across the learning outcomes of both programmes will be required.

**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 do I apply and what is the selection process?**

Apply directly to the University between the 1st of September and January. Please see the website for more information: [MScOT at the University of Salford](https://www.salford.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/occupational-therapy-pre-registration)

Applicants may be invited to an interview within the University or virtually (phone or online).

We can offer feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

**What makes a good personal statement?**

* Writing no more than 500 words.
* Understanding of the term occupation within the context of occupational therapy.
* Understanding of the key values and philosophy of the profession of occupational therapy.
* Understanding of occupational therapists’ varied areas of practice and the interventions they may use with service users.
* Details of visits you have completed to occupational therapy areas and what you have gained from this.
* Evidence of roles that show you have experience of communicating, managing self, working as part of a team, and supporting people with health or social care needs.
* Details of how your qualities match the professional values of occupational therapy and the 6Cs of healthcare: [Introducing the 6Cs - NHS UK](https://www.england.nhs.uk/6cs/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/03/introducing-the-6cs.pdf)
* Information about your motivation, commitment, enthusiasm and ability to study at Masters level.
* A standard of written English as appropriate for starting a Masters level degree.

**Where can I find information about occupational therapy?**

* The Royal College of Occupational Therapists: [Tips for your application](https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-occupational-therapy/become-an-occupational-therapist/tips-your-occupational-therapy-application)
* The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC): [HCPC](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/)

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

**What experience do I need to have?**

***How much occupational therapy experience is required?***

We are looking for evidence 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 occupational therapy service area. We acknowledge that gaining a shadowing experience can be difficult so accept that your experience may be anything from an hour’s visit, to 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 service user confidentiality and risk.

***I am also considering volunteering – what type of volunteering would strengthen my application?***

Any role that can help you to evidence that you have experience of 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 a local community group (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 will I be in university?

* **This is a full-time programme,** and **you should assume attendance is 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday.** Modules offer a mixture of delivery, including taught time (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 for child-care and other commitments.
* **Placements / practice experience** are **always full time**.

**Sample timetable from the 2021-22 academic year:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wed | Thursday | Friday |
| 1 | 9.00-12.00  Welcome and  introduction to MSc modules  10.15-12.30  Intro, history, and philosophy of occupational therapy | 10-10.20  Intro to the module    10.20-12.00  Adventure task      1.00-3.00  Feedback session applying the Person, Environment, Occupation Model | 10.00-13.00  Intro to Real World Problems  2.00-4.00  Preparation for Friday | 9.00 –12.00 & 1.00-4.00  Intro to the module.  Reflection, professional Communication, professional standards. | 10.00-2.00 Coaching  Intro to mentoring and co-creation  Review and reflection on the week.  3.00-4.00  Meet & greet with 2nd year MSc students |

# What do the placements involve?

* You will complete 1050 hours of practice experience.
* Placements are full time and delivered in blocks:
  + Year 1 you complete 4 weeks (Feb) and 7 weeks (June/July).
  + Year 2 you complete 6 weeks (Nov/Dec) and 11 weeks (May/July).
* You must be available for all placements on the dates set.
* Start times on placement may vary and this must be accommodated.
* All placements except your final placement are sourced by the university.
* We have placement arrangements with the NHS, Social Services, voluntary and private sectors.
* 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.

## Applicants should be aware that they must be prepared to travel up to one and a half hours to placement, regardless of whether you 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?

You 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: [MScOT](https://www.salford.ac.uk/pgt-courses/occupational-therapy)

Student finance: [Gov UK - student finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance) ​

Student Loan Company: [Student Loan co​](http://www.slc.co.uk/)

You are also entitled to apply to the NHS Learning Support Fund for a Training Grant for all eligible students of £5,000 per academic year: [NHS Learning Support Fund](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund)

**What is the employment situation?**

At Salford we have an extremely good record with a high percentage of our graduates in work or further study very soon after qualification.

**Any further questions?**

**After reading the FAQs if you have unanswered queries about applying, contact the admissions tutor via the email address below:**

Debbie Burrell at: [SHS-OTAdmissions@salford.ac.uk](mailto:SHS-OTAdmissions@salford.ac.uk)

Please allow at least three working days for a reply.

Please noteany advice given does not guarantee a place on the programme and information in this FAQ document is updated annually.

**General University queries:**

For accommodation, car parking or finance for example, 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](http://www.askus.salford.ac.uk/contact)

**For more information about occupational therapy at Salford please look at:**

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