

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DIVERSE PLACEMENTS



*ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOW AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT COULD HELP YOUR ORGANISATION PROMOTE ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR CLIENTS AND STAFF?*

Occupational therapy (OT) is a profession concerned with promoting health and wellbeing through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in activities of everyday life and to be able to carry out the activities that are meaningful and important to them (College of Occupational Therapists, 2006).

OT's work with a wide range of people including those with physical, mental or social difficulties that arise from illness, accident, disability, ageing or environmental circumstances. They work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, day centres, rehabilitation units, hospices, care homes, vocational services. Increasingly OT's are working outside of the NHS or Local Authority settings as well as with the general population to raise awareness of how engaging in meaningful activities can improve a person's health.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
WORK  
COLLABORATIVELY TO  
DEVELOP INNOVATIVE  
IDEAS WHICH COULD  
ENHANCE YOUR  
SERVICE?

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CAN YOUR  
ORGANISATION PROVIDE  
A PLACEMENT  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY STUDENTS?

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WOULD YOU LIKE  
OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY STUDENTS IN  
YOUR ORGANISATION  
TO HELP PROMOTE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
THROUGH  
OCCUPATION?

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IF SO PLEASE CONTACT:

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## **OT Student diverse placements**

Occupational therapy students from the University of Brighton would be interested in undertaking placements in new areas of practice to promote the role of occupational therapy and offer an occupational perspective of health and wellbeing to service users and staff.

## **What the student can offer**

An OT student could offer, for example the following:

- An assessment of the occupational needs of your client group: what do people want or need to be able to do in everyday life, are they having difficulty carrying out these activities?
- Recommendations for activities that are meaningful to your client group and would improve effectiveness of service delivery.
- Practical interventions that enhance a person's life e.g. group work using activities such as art, cooking, ceramics, gardening, community trips, life skills and work with individual clients based on their needs.
- Environmental assessment to promote access to meaningful occupations.
- Work based assessments and interventions for people wanting to access work.
- Education for clients and staff about the link between occupation, health and well-being

## **Benefits**

Benefit to your organisation could include:

- Enhancing of quality of services and care.
- Working together to advance the organisation's objectives and meet targets.
- Developing an understanding of the role of occupational therapy and enable your client group to carry out activities that are important to them and improve a person's life.
- Building of contacts for future recruitment – some organisations have employed an occupational therapist as a result of offering a placement to a student.

## **How the placement is structured**

The placements are 8 weeks in total length. This will include a 5 day induction period over 5 weeks initially and then a full time 7 week block. Either 1 or 2 students (depending on your requirements) would come to your organisation full time for the 7 week duration. The students would be completing the placement as part requirement of their 2 year fulltime MSc in Occupational therapy or 4 year part time BSc in Occupational Therapy. The majority of the students are mature students and those on the BSc course are also working part time, mostly in occupational therapy settings. Due to their existing skills, our students are often complimented on their professionalism, ability to settle into new teams quickly and skill at developing effective rapport with clients.

The placement would require one member of the organisation acting as an 'on-site' practice educator for the student, providing at least 1 hour of supervision per week. An external practising occupational therapist or member of university staff would also be liaising with your organisation and providing clinical supervision. The University would also work closely with you to prepare the placement prior to the student starting and support you throughout the placement.

## **For more information, please contact:**

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