Contemporary Occupational Therapy
MSc, PGDip, PGCert

This distance learning postgraduate course is designed for UK, EU and international occupational therapists.
Course overview

This distance learning course is designed for UK, EU and international occupational therapists.

Occupational therapists need to respond to an ever-changing and challenging practice environment. Throughout this course, you will gain the skills and knowledge to help you transform your own practice and that of the teams within which you work, and increase the influence you have on your organisations.

Oxford Brookes already has an excellent reputation and a long and prestigious history for pre-qualifying occupational therapy education. Dorset House, School of Occupational Therapy in Oxford was a pioneering institution in occupational therapy which dates back to the 1930s and became part of the School of Health and Social Care at Oxford Brookes in 1997.

View our library archive: www.brookes.ac.uk/library/speccoll/dorset.html

Features of this course include:

- Distance learning, with an emphasis on working together in an online community.
- The opportunity to explore a specialist area of practice and to apply it through a work-based learning module.
- The chance to study with students from different professions.
- The development of research skills and the opportunity to undertake an in depth study on a topic of your choice.

Course content

All your modules will be delivered electronically using 'Brookes Virtual Gateway'; an online repository of lectures, handouts, information and learning exercises. Three modules are compulsory for all levels of this course:

1. **Occupational Therapy: New Perspectives**
   This module will provide you with the opportunity to develop your understanding of current perspectives informing contemporary occupational therapy practice. You will explore established and emerging theory and research in the areas of occupation and occupational performance. You will have the opportunity to further understand the evolving discipline of occupational science, considering the factors that contribute to the health and well being of individuals, groups and communities from an occupational perspective. Through the learning activities you will analyse the contexts and influences on occupational therapy practice now and in the future.

2. **Mastering Professional Practice**
   This module aims to extend your understanding of professional practice beyond that of competence to one of mastery. Through examining the nature of professional practice, including the concepts and theoretical perspectives of your own profession, you will be able to blend this knowledge with your own experiences to arrive at a new way of knowing and enacting your occupation therapy professional role. This module enables you to analyse and debate key theories and issues in the advancement of your professional practice.
   You will examine developments within occupational therapy and in relation to your own role. You will be supported in the enhancement of self-awareness and personal/professional growth through the use of strategies that include reflective practice and critical thinking. You will be facilitated in analysing and debating real issues from your practice, using student-centred learning approaches such as online action learning and online group discussion.

3. **Evidence-based practice**
   You will explore and critique theories, models and strategies for evidence-based practice, and apply it to the health and social care setting.
   You will examine the purposes, uses and limitations of various approaches to evidence-based practice, with consideration of political and economic dimensions. You will consider the concepts of decision-making from the practitioner, purchaser, provider and consumer perspectives and explore the tools for critical-appraisal and the transfer of evidence to professional knowledge. You will share the work of experts, researchers and the student group for discussion and critique.

In addition, for the PDip and MSc, the following module is compulsory:

**Advanced Research Design**
This module aims to equip you with skills to find, appraise and utilise research, as well as plan and design a piece of research work. It seeks to prepare you to define a suitable research question and to use this as a basis for identifying appropriate research methodologies for a small-scale research project or dissertation. This module is designed to impart the skills to enable you to plan and outline a rationale for a piece of primary research, secondary analysis, literature review or audit. It focuses on research as part of a body of evidence used for health and social care practice, and provides an overview of methodologies and methods commonly used in health and social care policies and working environments.

You will then choose two of the following modules:

1. Leadership in health and social care
2. Health promotion
3. Rehabilitation: theories and concepts and practical applications
4. Vulnerable children and young people
5. Substance misuse
6. Work-based learning

To complete the MSc, you will be required to complete a Dissertation (triple module) – a 20,000 word research thesis.

Key facts...

The course starts in September (Semester 1). In exceptional circumstances, you may be able to start in January (Semester 2). Please contact us for further information.

- **Full-time:** MSc: 12 months
- **Part-time:** MSc: 3-5 years

**Note:** Oxford Brookes operates the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
All postgraduate single modules are equivalent to 10 ECTS credits, double modules to 20 ECTS credits, and treble modules to 30 ECTS credits. A full master's course will carry 90 ECTS credits.

See website for more information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc48_en.htm

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and research
This course places great emphasis on linking teaching and research. This is because the central focus of the course is the study of effective, evidence-based practice, and research enables you to base decisions on sound evidence. Lecturers on this course are actively involved in research, which helps to ensure the teaching is closely linked to current research – something which is particularly important if you are undertaking a research dissertation. The Advanced Research Design module, compulsory for the PGDip and the MSc, will enable you to understand the relationship between methodology and method, and to appreciate the theoretical underpinning of research-based decisions.

An international curriculum
The course content is informed by relevant international research, and international literature is used as comparative material. This is important to help you develop a depth of critical analysis and evaluation. In addition, in health and social care studies we believe it is important to promote the understanding of the beliefs, attitudes and values of differing cultures, and their effect and influence on practice across the globe.

Assessment
Each module will be assessed separately, normally through an assignment of 3,500 words. Assignments will be individually graded. You are also expected to assess your own participation in coursework and e-group activities through self-assessment exercises.

Student support
All our courses adopt a student-centred approach to teaching and learning and are strongly focused on encouraging each individual to attain their full potential as lifelong learners. To facilitate this, you will encounter a variety of online teaching methods, both traditional and innovative, which are designed to support your needs as a distance learner. The assessments by coursework are varied in style and include (but are not limited to) essays, critical reviews, case studies and virtual presentations. MSc students will also write a dissertation on a topic of their choice. Distance learning materials are provided to guide you during your studies; these include study guides and course readers.

You will be supported throughout the course by academic skills advice, an allocated academic adviser and module and dissertation support. The student support co-ordinators provide a service for any queries you may have about any aspect of student life, covering both academic and personal welfare. The university’s support services include Upgrade which provides advice on study skills such as planning and writing essays, assignments and dissertations, research, or preparing for an exam. They also give advice on statistics and maths.

There is a dedicated Student Disability and Dyslexia Service, which provides support for students with disabilities including sensory and mobility impairments, dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties, mental health problems and medical conditions. They offer advice and support on a range of issues, including physical access, funding, alternative assessment arrangements and liaison with teaching staff to ensure that they are aware of your requirements.

Course fees
Applicants should contact the Programme Administrator for details of course fees.

Note: All applicants (UK, EU and International) will be required to provide details of their funding arrangements prior to enrolment on the course.

Useful links

University support services: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/life/wellbeing
Upgrade Study Advice Centre: www.brookes.ac.uk/services/upgrade/
Student support co-ordinators: http://shac.brookes.ac.uk/student-support-coordinators

Student profile

Name: Rosie Hale
Studying: Contemporary Occupational Therapy

I have been an occupational therapist for three years and I am currently working in a Mental Health Crisis Team.

I chose Oxford Brookes as I felt the course was unique and it is distance learning, which means that I am able to continue to work full-time.

I hope that the course will allow me to develop my clinical reasoning, reflection skills and evidence-based practice so that I may continue to move forward in my career.
Specific entry requirements

You should normally hold:

• A UK or overseas degree from a recognised institution and a professional occupational therapy qualification
• Applicants who do not hold the academic requirement of a degree may be considered for entry through accreditation of prior certificated learning or accreditation of experiential learning. For consideration of the latter, you will be required to provide a portfolio of evidence of comparable educational learning.
• Applicants should have at least 6 months post registration experience working as an occupational therapist in current or recent employment.
• Applicants may also be admitted to the programme with recognition of prior academic credits - this has to be requested when applying for the course.

If your first language is not English you must demonstrate that your level of English is appropriate for study at postgraduate level. This level is outlined in the Oxford Brookes University postgraduate regulations at: www.brookes.ac.uk/international/courses/postgraduate/apply

This is a distance learning course so you will need to have reliable access to the internet, preferably through a broadband connection. You will need to have good IT skills and be proficient in the use of the internet and online communication.

How to apply

If you would like more information about the course, please contact the Programme Administrator.

If you meet the criteria detailed in the specific entry requirements section, and you are ready to apply, your next step is to complete an application form. Application is made online through UKPASS at www.ukpass.ac.uk (course code: P044866).

Applications received electronically through UKPASS will be forwarded directly to the Programme Administrator. Supporting documentation should be forwarded using the email addresses indicated on the UKPASS application form.

International applicants will:
• need to apply early to allow enough time for obtaining visas if offered a place
• be asked to pay a deposit of £1,000 to secure a place on the course.

Applications are dealt with on a first come, first served basis, so please act early to avoid disappointment.

Programme Administrator
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 488800
Email: pgoccupationaltherapy@brookes.ac.uk
Website: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk
Address: School of Health and Social Care
Oxford Brookes University, Jack Straw’s Lane,
Marston, Oxford, OX3 0FL, UK

Why study at Oxford Brookes?

• Oxford Brookes University has been named the UK’s best modern university for the tenth year in a row due to its strong teaching and research profile in the modern university sector (The Sunday Times’ University Guide 2011).
• Oxford Brookes has been named one of the greenest universities in the country – according to the student campaigning group, People & Planet.
• We have our own osteopathic clinics: MI Court in Headington, Oxford and at Fermi Dale Campus in Swindon offering a full range of osteopathic treatments to students, staff, NHS staff and the general public. http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/osteoclinics
• Our courses are open to a wide range of health and social care professionals providing highly flexible continuing professional development (CPD) study opportunities with part-time, full-time and mixed mode options (including opportunities for e-learning, blended and distance learning).
• We support multi and interprofessional learning and teaching, and many of our courses are either fully multiprofessional or offer excellent opportunities for shared learning.
• Our lecturers are experienced in their specialist practice area and maintain excellent practice links with those areas locally or across the region.
• Many of our lecturers have reputations for excellence and have established links with colleagues, organisations and institutions at national and international level.
• We have a strong research profile, with experienced researchers working in established areas of cancer care, children and families, drug and alcohol, physical rehabilitation and enablement and interprofessional education & collaborative practice.
• Oxford Brookes is rated internationally excellent across a broad range of subjects in the 2018 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 70% of our research in Allied Health Professions and Studies was rated as being of international significance, and of this, 10% was rated as world-leading.
• Oxford Brookes is a student centred institution that is fully committed to each individual achieving their potential. To support this, we offer a broad range of student support schemes to facilitate learning and development: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/life/wellbeing
• We have been awarded the highest commendation possible, for all its health and social care programmes and courses, by the Quality Assurance Agency, following their Major Review of our educational provision in 2005.
• We have an excellent track record of high levels of student satisfaction, low student attrition rates and high employability.

To obtain a large-print copy of (or sections of) this publication or to enquire about other formats, please contact +44 (0) 1865 484848 or email query@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.