



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CLINICAL &
APPLIED SCIENCES

Application Information

MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration)

Subject Group: Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Sciences
2020-2021 Entry

Start date: January 2021

Closing Date for Applications: Thursday 24th September 2020

Introduction

Hello!

I am delighted that you are considering applying for the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) programme at Leeds Beckett University. Our programme is designed to create occupational therapists that are practice-scholars for now and for the future. We offer an innovative curriculum and our academic tutors have excellent clinical, research and teaching expertise. On practice placement our students learn from and work with experts in the field.

I hope that you find all the information that you need in this document together with the information online. I would recommend that you attend one of the Leeds Beckett University Postgraduate open evenings where you will be able to talk to teaching and admissions staff.

If you would like to discuss your application to the programme please do contact our Admissions Lead, their details are at the back of this booklet.

Dr Rob Brooks
Course Director

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Course Overview

This section provides a very brief overview of the structure and content of the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) course. Please note there may be some variation to the number of weeks per module. The assessment strategies used include oral presentations, report writing, reflective assignments, case studies, practical examination, group work and a written exam. These assessments take place in formative and summative forms. The following information is a guide only. The programme uses an Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) approach throughout the two years.

Year 1

Occupations Across the Lifespan (20 credits)

This module teaches students about occupation. With an Inquiry Based Learning structure, it uses scenarios/case studies to help students understand how occupations are defined and classified and how they influence identity across the lifespan. It emphasises the importance of occupation for health and wellbeing and draws upon cognate subjects such as occupational science, human anatomy, sociology and psychology. This module also introduces students to models of occupation. Students will become skilled in occupational analysis and be able to describe the biopsychosocial factors that influence occupational participation and engagement.

Research Methods and Design (20 Credits)

This module supports students to develop a research proposal within the scope of occupational therapy. Students will be introduced to literature searching and critical appraisal; research gaps; how to construct research questions; how to critically apply research methodologies and methods; and research ethics. Students will receive supervision and be supported to write a structured research proposal which is the assessment for this module.

Achieving Occupational Potential (20 Credits)

The focus within this module is on introducing occupational therapy and the occupational therapy process. An emphasis will be given to developing skills in its implementation to understand occupational narratives and dysfunction, and to enable occupational potential, identity and wellness. The module emphasises the use of models of occupation to inform an occupation and client-centred occupational therapy process, including consent, information gathering, assessment, intervention and outcome informed by professional reasoning. With an Inquiry Based Learning structure, the module addresses a variety of case studies which consider occupational therapy with diverse populations and across the spectrum of health and social care settings of promotion/prevention, primary care, acute, rehabilitation and community settings.

Applied Research (40 Credits)

This module builds upon the previous research design module, offering the opportunity to carry out an independent research project. Students will be allocated a research supervisor who will guide the student through the process of research ethics and support them through independent data collection, analysis and write-up. Students will disseminate their research project in the form of a journal article and a research poster. In addition, students will have to defend their research process, findings and application to occupational therapy practice through a viva voce. This module starts in year one and runs throughout year two also.

Practice Placement 1 (0 Credits)

This is a six-week practice placement module; the module starts with preparation for practice, including mandatory training. On placement students will apply knowledge and skills necessary for professional occupational therapy practice. Students will observe and practice occupational therapy and reflect on their performance. It is an opportunity for students to consider how theory is applied in practice, including how to engage with service users, apply the occupational therapy process and understand the importance of clinical reasoning and multidisciplinary working. The assessment is conducted by the practice educator using the Competency Based Fieldwork Evaluation (CBFE) for Occupational Therapists.

Occupational Therapy as a Complex Intervention (40 Credits)

This module creatively applies the occupational therapy process to a range of people and in diverse practice settings. This module has a focus on occupation-based and/or occupation-focused assessment and intervention. Embedding the use of models of occupation this module will enhance professional reasoning skills, supporting students to synthesise and apply theory, evidence, knowledge, skills and techniques, effectively and safely. With an Inquiry Based Learning structure, this module will use diverse real-life case studies to help students understand and use standardised and non-standardised assessments of the personal, socio-economic, cultural, environment and spiritual circumstances that influence human occupation. In addition, students will develop skills of occupational therapy individual and group work interventions that enhance occupational participation and engagement, including the ability to be self-reflective in the therapeutic process.

Year 2

Practice Placement 2 (0 Credits)

This is a six-week practice placement; students receive placement preparation, including mandatory training. This placement serves as a transition between knowledge application and consolidation. During this placement students will practice occupational therapy, including assessments and interventions. Students will begin to develop their own clinical reasoning and make decisions about service users. Students will be encouraged to engage in self-reflection and integrate theory into practice. The assessment is conducted by the practice educator using the Competency Based Fieldwork Evaluation (CBFE) for Occupational Therapists.

Promoting Occupational Justice (20 Credits)

Promoting Occupational Justice explores global and local contexts which impact on health and occupational engagement. The contexts considered will include political, social, cultural, economic, digital and environmental. The module will draw on knowledge from other disciplines such as: health promotion, politics, social sciences, human geography, information technology, anthropology, cultural studies and sociology. An understanding will be developed of how it is possible to influence these contexts at micro, meso and macro levels for the promotion of occupational justice. Relevant legislation and health and social care policies which impact on occupational rights will be examined. The module will also demonstrate how the application of knowledge and an innovative occupational perspective can meet occupational needs to enable and campaign for occupational justice.

Potential for Occupational Therapy (20 Credits)

This module prepares students to lead and deliver innovative and effective occupational therapy within potential emerging and contemporary markets. The module challenges students to consider their role within the future of occupational therapy and health and social care services. It takes a public health perspective whereby population health needs assessment is fundamental to service development. The module introduces students to leadership, business and marketing skills to equip students with the ability to drive the profession forwards. By the end of the module, the students will have acquired skills in marketing themselves and the profession, demonstrating employability and personal future career development.

Practice Placement 3 (0 credits)

This six-week placement in a non-traditional setting begins with one day a week while students explore possible service development areas which may benefit from an occupational perspective. After the first initial one day a week for 5 weeks the students embark on a full-time placement whereupon they will develop a sustainable project which is of benefit to the placement setting. Students will be supervised by a long-arm occupational therapy practice educator, who is external to the setting; and receive support and supervision for day-to-day management from a member of staff within the setting (on-site practice educator). The assessment is conducted by the practice educator using the Competency Based Fieldwork Evaluation (CBFE) for Occupational Therapists.

Practice Placement 4 (0 credits)

This is a final ten-week placement practice placement. Students will be expected to perform near to the level of a graduate occupational therapist. The placement consolidates the knowledge and skills required of an occupational therapist and students work more autonomously. It is an opportunity to demonstrate they are ready to make the transition to practice. Students are able to utilise the occupational therapy process with more complex clients and recognise the importance of clinical reasoning, evidence-based practice, collaborative inter-professional working relationships, quality assurance and leadership. The assessment is conducted by the practice educator using the Competency Based Fieldwork Evaluation (CBFE) for Occupational Therapists.

Practice Placements

Students are involved in practice placements throughout Leeds and occasionally elsewhere in the region. This may necessitate students staying in local accommodation or travelling on a daily basis. All travel and accommodation costs are initially met by the student however if eligible maybe claimed back from Health Education England (HEE). Students are allocated practice placements based on their educational needs, within the parameters of the placements offered by local services. Students are not able to negotiate their own practice placements. Students will be provided with uniforms by the University.

Entry requirements UK, EU and international applicants

Applicants should normally have at least a second class honours degree usually completed in the last five years in the cognate subjects of Science, Social Sciences, Healthcare (including degrees in related health and social care professions), Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, History, Politics, Environment or Arts.

Applicants who do not have English as their first language are required to have IELTS 7.0 with no skill below 6.5 or an equivalent award. Evidence of this must be provided at the time of application.

Applicants will also need to demonstrate in their application:

- An understanding of the philosophy, practice and scope of occupational therapy
- Appropriate work experience/shadowing
- The attitudes and behaviours in line with the National Health Service (NHS) values
- Evidence of self-direction and motivation
- Effective communication skills and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team

Satisfactory health and enhanced criminal history checks (such as DBS) will be required by all applicants prior to acceptance on the course, these will be in line with professional body membership and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration requirements.

Applications must be accompanied by **TWO** references. The references should provide evidence of an applicant's suitability for the occupational therapy profession and postgraduate study e.g. academic tutor, current or recent employer. These should be supplied at the point of submitting your application; if they are not submitted with your application before the deadline, the application will not be shortlisted.

International applicants

Applications from international students are welcomed. The entry criteria for international students are the same as for home students. Please see the international application procedure.

Applicants with disabilities

We welcome applicants with specific learning difficulties, physical disability or other health concerns. Early contact with the Leeds Beckett University Disability Support Team disabilityservices@leedsbeckett.ac.uk is advised. You can contact the admissions tutor if you wish to discuss learning, disability or health issues prior to applying for the programme.

Health screening

Due to the nature of the occupational therapy course it is necessary to pass a health screening. This is confidential and is carried out through the University Occupational Health provider.

Disclosure and Barring Service check

It is a requirement that students undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Additional guidance for UK, EU and international applicants

The following lists the criteria which are used to determine whether an application is short listed.

Academic criteria

- Applicants should normally have at least a second class honours degree. Exceptions to this are those with a master's or doctoral degree.
- Study should normally have been completed within the last five years. Applicants with degrees completed more than five years ago should demonstrate that they have recent and relevant study/academic achievement and will be considered on an individual basis.
- Degree in a cognate subject of Science, Social Sciences, Healthcare (including degrees in related health and social care professions), Psychology, Sociology, Politics, Environment, Humanities or Arts.

Non-academic criteria

This information should normally be covered in your supporting information:

- Demonstrate that you have an understanding of the philosophy, practice and scope of occupational therapy. This could include, for example your understanding and experience of where occupational therapists work and the types of client's occupational therapists work with.
- Describe and reflect on your shadowing or work experience with occupational therapists; you should include where and when your shadowing/experiences took place and what you learnt about occupational therapy from your experiences. We do not stipulate an amount of work experience/shadowing but you should demonstrate that you have done enough to understand the role and that it is the right career for you. Your work experience or shadowing may be gained in a variety of ways including conversations with occupational

therapists, visiting occupational therapy departments and spending time observing occupational therapists. **UPDATE: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we appreciate that for 2021 admissions it may be difficult for applicants to gain face-to-face work shadowing with an Occupational Therapist. Instead we recommend that you consider virtual means of understanding the work of an occupational therapist e.g. watching videos on YouTube; following occupational therapy organisations on social media; exploring the resources on the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) website.**

- Demonstrate that your attitudes and behaviours are congruent with the values set out in the NHS Constitution. These key principles for health professionals include displaying care and compassion and ensuring others are treated with dignity and respect. Illustrate how you demonstrate these skills, for example through voluntary or paid care work.
- Identify and describe times when you have demonstrated self-direction and motivation, for example in previous academic settings or in your personal life.
- Illustrate when you have demonstrated effective communication skills and identify what made your communication effective. It may be useful to give an example of when you have had to adapt your communication style to meet the needs of others.
- Reflect upon your abilities to work independently and upon your own contributions to teamwork.

Application procedure for UK and EU students

- Applications for entry to the programme are made direct to Leeds Beckett University.
- Your application should be submitted via our [online application system](#). All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, references) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please email direct-admissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- Please only attach relevant supporting documentation, for example we **do not** need to see GCSE and A-Level certificates or first aid qualifications.
- All applications **must** be accompanied by two references – please **do not** submit references and application forms separately. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that two references are provided in a timely manner with the application. These references should provide evidence of your suitability for the occupational therapy profession **and** postgraduate study e.g. academic tutor, current or recent employer. You will therefore want to show your referees the entry requirements for the course before they write the reference. Personal references will not be accepted.
Please note: References must be the original copy on official headed paper and signed by the referee. Applications which do not include two references will not be processed.
- Applicants who would like to be considered for entry in January 2021 should ensure their completed application is submitted by **24th September 2020**; applications after this date may be considered, but not guaranteed.

- All appropriate applications are reviewed by the admissions tutor or other academic staff from the programme using the admissions criteria.
- We hold several interview panels to allow early applicants to receive a decision. It is not however, a policy of 'first come first served'.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview at Leeds Beckett University. Applicants are advised to keep the following dates available as we will be unable to offer alternative interview times.
 - **Wednesday 1st July 2020**
 - **Thursday 2nd July 2020**
 - **Wednesday 21st October 2020**
 - **Monday 9th November 2020**

We aim to inform you of our decision within two weeks of your interview.

Application procedure for international students

- International students should apply through the Leeds Beckett University International Office (+44 (0)113 812 1111 09.00 to 17.00 Mon-Thurs / 09.00 to 16.30 Fri GMT or email internationaloffice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).
- The International office will be able to help compare and verify your qualifications
- Applicants who do not have English as their first language are required to have IELTS 7.0 with no skill below 6.5 or an equivalent award. The International Office are able to advise you on courses to improve your English Language.
- The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in the UK is currently not able to conduct overseas criminal record checks. International applicants, those without British Citizenship and British Citizens with a significant period of overseas residency therefore require a criminal records check or certificate of good conduct from their home/overseas country prior to entry on to the course. A UK DBS check will be required after enrolment.
- The closing date for international admission is **Thursday 24th September 2020** applications after this may be considered but not guaranteed to be accepted.
- Shorted listed applicants will be Skype interviewed. These will take place regularly throughout the year, depending on the completed application date.

Accreditation of prior learning, module exemption and transferring

Accreditation of prior learning and experience

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a general term relating to the formal recognition of learning gained in a variety of contexts, outside or prior to a student's course of study.

There are four main types of RPL:

- Type 1: Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL)
- Type 2: Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL)
- Type 3: Credit Transfer
- Type 4: Admission through RPL

All claims must go through the relevant faculty's RPL Approval Board and will always involve an academic judgment about the acceptability of the RPL claim. Applicants are advised to contact the Course Director to discuss any RPL.

The integrated nature and inclusion of essential skills in many modules of this occupational therapy course may result in logistic difficulties in granting entry with advanced standing. All applications under this process will still be subject to health and DBS screening.

Applying for exemption from modules

A single module for the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) course is valued at 20 M level credits. It is possible to obtain exemption from whole modules if you have successfully studied the module content at the equivalent level on another occupational therapy course. You are required to provide evidence of your previous study including module content. However, due to the highly integrated nature of this course it is unlikely that you will have completed similar modules elsewhere. Please contact the admissions tutor for information about the course modules.

Transferring onto the course

It is possible, in theory, to transfer onto this MSc course from another equivalent MSc course. However, this is a course leading to eligibility to apply for registration as an Occupational Therapist with the Health and Care Professions Council, so it is essential that we ensure students have covered all areas of the curriculum. Therefore, in practice, transfer onto the course is unlikely to be feasible due to the highly integrated nature of this course.

Any application for transfer with advance standing would be considered by the Admissions Team. If you are considering this option, please seek advice from the Admissions Tutor or Course Director.

Frequently asked questions

Here are some of the questions frequently asked by potential students. If your particular question is not covered here please visit our website or contact the Admission Tutor

How long is the course and is it full time?

The course is full-time. It starts in early January and runs continuously over two years; students will normally have seven weeks holiday a year (two weeks at Christmas, two weeks at Easter and three weeks in the summer).

Would I be able to stay working on a part time basis and study for the MSc at the same time?

The course is an accelerated two-year course, which does mean that it will be more intense than other courses. Although the current timetable has some time when study is self-directed, if students choose to work during this time they will need to consider when they will fit studying into their week. During practice placements students must be present for a normal full-time working week.

Do I have to pay any fees?

The 2020 tuition fee for home students is £9250. The fee for international students is £16000. The most up to date details of loans and scholarships are available on our online prospectus page, which also has links to the Leeds Beckett University Student Finance team: https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/occupationaltherapyprereg_msc/

What areas can you specialise in?

This course, like all pre-registration occupational therapy courses, aims to produce therapists who can work in any setting. For that reason there is no possibility of specialisation within the course; you would do that after graduating.

Is this course recognised abroad or will I have to do further exams?

As the course is accredited by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) it is also recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). Occupational therapists from a WFOT accredited programme can apply to register and practice in other countries. Some countries will still require you to sit an additional exam. A number of our students have been successful at gaining registration in the United States of America, Canada and Australia.

How many places do you have?

We aim to recruit around 30 students per year.

How many applications do you receive?

While this varies each year we usually receive between 180-200 applications by UK and EU students for our funded places. In addition, we receive 10-20 international applications.

6. Contacts

Admissions Office

Telephone (0113) 812 5946

Email directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

If you would like to contact an academic member of academic staff, regarding the course:

Mandy Graham

Senior Lecturer / Admissions Lead

Telephone (0113) 812 5634

Email m.c.graham@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Dr Rob Brooks

Course Director

Telephone (0113) 812 5636

Email r.b.brooks@leedsbeckett.ac.uk