

Programme Specification

MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration)

<i>School:</i>	Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Occupational Therapy
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2021-22
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	January
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and The Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Health Studies Postgraduate Diploma Health Studies MSc Health Studies
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	full time for two years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

At York St John University, the occupational therapy pre-registration programme which will lead to the award of MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration).

This programme meets the threshold standards for education, training and proficiency set by the Health Care Professions Council (2012a, 2012b) and follows the curriculum framework as specified by the College of Occupational Therapists (2009) and can be recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

As an occupational therapy graduate you will need to recognise and respond to the changing demands of health and social care practice due to the national and local contextual drivers and influences. Key features of the programme will be contemporary, evidence-based occupational therapy founded on theoretical influences such as occupational science; the potential for role development and practice environments for occupational therapy, with person-centred practice at the core of service delivery.

You will additionally develop business, entrepreneurial and management skills, necessary for the current diversity of occupational therapy practice, to enable you to promote and develop future areas of practice. You will also be encouraged to recognise and foster your own potential.

On **successful completion** of the programme, graduates are **eligible** to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council and membership of the British Association of Occupational Therapy / Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

If a student is offered an aegrotat award as per university regulations, this does not confer eligibility to apply for admission to the Health and Care Professions Council Register.

During your programme of study, you are encouraged to be active members of the national professional body, the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. Currently the university pays this fee for students.

Unique to your programme:

- The skills for practice scheme (previously open badges) which are additional, non-credit bearing learning opportunities for students to include in CPD portfolios. There will be a suite of practice-based opportunities throughout the programme which students can opt to study.

Internationalisation and contemporary practice

York St John is committed to providing you with opportunities for international study. The programme also features a role-emerging (sometimes referred to as contemporary) placement in year 2; such placements are those which take place in settings that have previously not experienced or identified an occupational therapy role (depending on availability you may consider an international placement).

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- You would normally require a first- or upper second-class honours degree in a human biology/behavioural science/sports science/health-related degree, in which the foundation sciences (including human anatomy and/or physiology/psychology) were completed; furthermore you will need to have experience of undergraduate level research and a project/dissertation. Insight into the occupational therapy profession is required, as is evidence of study within the last three years.

If you wish to apply and have a BA honours degree you may be considered in exceptional circumstances and only where they are able to evidence significant academic or professional experience which is judged to be acceptable by York St John University.

Admission to the course is dependent upon your completion of the following selection processes:

- Academic entry requirements being met – application is direct to the University
- Satisfactory application form and personal statement
- Successful interview on the selection day
- Satisfactory references
- Receipt of a satisfactory DBS
- Satisfactory medical screening

During the course and on completion you will be required to declare any convictions, cautions or allegations to the University and relevant professional body prior to application for registration.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

Tests must have been completed within the last two years (and the original official certification must be seen). Where students have satisfied these English language requirements, but further English language training needs are identified after admission, further training is available through the Business School at the University.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The aim of the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) programme is to enable you to study and become a competent occupational therapist based on the concept of the clinical scholar. On completion of

the programme you will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to develop, deliver and evaluate traditional and innovative occupational therapy services in a range of settings.

On **successful completion** of the programme, you will be eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council and membership of the British Association of Occupational Therapy / Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

Programme learning outcomes

Programme learning outcomes are considered in the following three categories: Knowledge, Discipline specific/professional skills and Transferable skills.

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

A. Knowledge; the student will demonstrate:

- 7.1 In-depth, evidence based knowledge and an understanding of the core areas of occupational therapy which includes their application to practice and service delivery.
- 7.2 Concepts of innovative practice as an occupational therapist in the diverse, complex and evolving role of the profession within the widest health and social care arena.
- 7.3 Critical thinking in relation to the evidence and influence of policy and legal frameworks; combined with the ability to discuss the impact on health and social care settings, considering and tackling inequalities in health.
- 7.4 Critical reflection on previously and newly acquired learning and experience; considering how to incorporate this into future learning and professional practice opportunities.
- 7.5 Research and enquiry techniques to collect, analyse, interpret and apply relevant information to occupational therapy theoretically and in practice at Master's level.
- 7.6 Leadership qualities, creative and innovative problem-solving, and an ability to make decisions in challenging situations.
- 7.7 A conceptual understanding of quality, its measurement, and impact upon managing risk and reasoned decision making in the practice settings.

B. Disciplinary/professional skills; the student will demonstrate:

- 7.8 A systematic understanding of the potential contributions and possible limitations of occupational therapy in relation to the health, well-being and occupational lives of a society, groups and individuals of all ages.
- 7.9 A strong sense of professional identity and advocacy aligned to occupational therapy with a willingness to take the profession forward as it evolves and works beyond the boundaries of statutory services.
- 7.10 The ability to promote the value, power and transformative nature of occupation and its centrality to human life, health and well-being.
- 7.11 Critical thinking to evaluate and implement evidence-based interventions with service users in a variety of professional practice settings.
- 7.12 Presentation skills that offer professional opinions with clarity and competence, with an uncompromising ability to defend such opinions in debate, whilst acknowledging the opinions of others and showing due respect for the different perspectives.
- 7.13 The core skills of occupational therapy in a range of practice-based settings.
- 7.14 Compliance with the Health and Care Professions Council (2016) Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics and the College of Occupational Therapists Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (2015).

C. Transferable skills; the student will demonstrate:

- 7.15 Management of their own professional learning and development by acknowledging personal attributes and values; setting personal objectives; efficient time-management; and their own performance appraisal.
- 7.16 Effective learning strategies self-determined and shared learning; sourcing and managing information; using a wide range of academic skills; and evaluating personal learning requirements.
- 7.17 Effective communication and presentation skills necessary to articulate ideas and opinions, with confidence and clarity, to a variety of audiences through the use of appropriate language and media.
- 7.18 Productivity in team working, taking responsibility and executing agreed tasks; using initiative and leading others; supporting; asserting own values and respecting others; evaluating team performance.
- 7.19 Critical thinking and problem solving skills that enable identification of, and resolution strategies for a given problem. Demonstrating analysis; lateral thinking; identifying strategic options and decision making; and evaluating the success of different strategies.
- 7.20 Information technology use appropriate for their learning and employability; as a communication and learning tool; to access and manage information; to present ideas; and use specialist software where relevant.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Year	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
OCT7001M	7	1	Occupational Beings	20	C	NC
OCT7002M	7	1	Theory and Foundations of Occupational Therapy	20	C	NC
OCT7003M	7	1	Contexts of Professional Practice	30	C	NC
OCT7008P	7	1	Practice Placement 1a (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
OCT7009P	7	1	Practice Placement 1b (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
OCT7004M	7	1	Evidence-based Practice and Research	20	C	NC
OCT7005M	7	2	Contributing to Communities	30	C	NC
OCT7010P	7	2	Practice Placement 2a (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
OCT7006M	7	2	Research Project	30	C	NC
OCT7007M	7	2	Management, Innovation and Creativity: Occupational Therapy	30	C	NC
OCT7011P	7	2	Practice Placement 2b (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC

This is a two year, accelerated programme for 45 weeks of each year. The programme must include the 1,000 hours of practice education/placement.

Student attendance is monitored by the University.

The programme structure is found in the table above. There is a combination of modules, practice placements (minimum 1,000 hours), consolidation, review and reflection. Practice placements have been placed deliberately to avoid the same placement times as the undergraduate occupational therapy programme to optimise possibilities for students and practice educators.

Learning, teaching and assessment

This programme will be delivered using problem-based learning (PBL). Problem-based learning, as viewed here, is not a tool to be used to facilitate learning, but a philosophy and overarching approach to learning and teaching. As such, all learning opportunities offered to you on this course will be done so in the context of problem-based learning using problems/triggers.

There is usually a two week cycle to problems. The keystones for this two week period are the problem-based learning tutorials which occur at the start and end of each week. This is best illustrated by considering a weekly student timetable – see table below:

Sample student timetable in a problem-based learning curriculum:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
AM	Study	PBL tutorial	Fixed resource session	Skills session	PBL tutorial
PM	Study	Options / skills session		Options / skills session	Study

Problem-based learning sessions enables teaching staff to give on-going feedback related to your performance, execution of tasks and quality of the work produced. Summative assessments will include written work, research-based projects, poster and oral presentations, placement reports and practical work (e.g. viva, practical demonstrations). Table 3 indicates the types of module assessments.

Year 1	Year 2
Module 1: Occupational Beings Assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational analysis of the occupational being (presentation) (50%) Essay – 2,000 words (50%) 	Module 5: Contributing to Communities Assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poster – service development (50%) Synopsis – 2,500 words (50%)
Module 2: Theory and Foundations of Occupational Therapy Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay – 3,000 words (100%) 	Level 2a Placement Practice placement assessment
Module 3: Contexts of Professional Practice Assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) (25%) Critical reflection – 3,000 words (75%) 	Module 6: Research Project Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal article (60%) Oral defence and poster (40%)
Level 1a Placement Practice placement assessment	Module 7: Management, Innovation and Creativity: Occupational Therapy Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service development plan
Level 1b placement Practice placement assessment	Level 2b Placement Practice placement assessment

<p>Module 4: Evidence-based Practice and Research</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research proposal – 4,000 words (100%) 	<p>Review and reflection/course consolidation</p> <p>Final assessments (January)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research project • Viva • End of programme conference
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Progression and graduation requirements

The University's general [regulations](#) for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Students will be eligible for the award of the **MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration)** when they have:

- Passed all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification
- Passed all four occupational therapy professional practice placements

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- Students must pass the Year 1 module: *Theory and Foundations of Occupational Therapy* before they can undertake a practice placement
- Students must successfully complete and pass a minimum of 1,000 hours of professional practice placement
- Students who fail a Year 1 placement **must** redeem this before progressing to Year 2 of the programme
- Students will only be able to fail and redeem one practice placement. Subsequent failure of another practice placement will result in the award of MSc Health Studies.
- If a student fails a placement on the grounds of professional suitability, they will be denied a resit/retrieval attempt.

Students will be eligible for the award of the **MSc in Health Studies** when they have successfully passed all modules specified for the programme with the exception of the professional practice placements:

- The award of MSc in Health Studies does not carry eligibility for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council

Borderline cases

- Marks from the modules OCT7005M (*Contributing to Communities*) and OCT7007M (*Management, Innovation and Creativity: Occupational Therapy*) will be used for classification in borderline cases.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- College of Occupational Therapists (2014, and currently under review)
- Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Education and Training (HCPC, 2014, see <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/1000295EStandardsofeducationandtraining-fromSeptember2009.pdf>)
- Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency (HCPC, 2013 see <http://www.hpc->

[uk.org/assets/documents/10000512Standards_of_Proficiency_Occupational_Therapists.pdf](http://www.wfo.org/assets/documents/10000512Standards_of_Proficiency_Occupational_Therapists.pdf))

- World Federation of Occupational Therapists minimum standards for the education of occupational therapists (2016)
- Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) subject benchmark statement for occupational therapy (QAA, 2001) which although outdated will need to be taken into account.
- The Tuning project by European Network for Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (2007). See http://tuningacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/RefOccupationalTherapy_EU_EN.pdf
- All modules will be at level 7 Masters framework apart from practice placement modules. Therefore the programme will follow the guidance set out for Master's degree characteristics by the QAA (2008, 2010). See: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Documents/Masters-Degree-Characteristics-2010.pdf>

Date written / revised: June 2018

Programme originally approved: 18/10/17