



Bournemouth  
University

# Faculty of Health & Social Sciences

## BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy



Download our free  
Open Day app

#BUopenday  
#belongatbu

# Welcome to Today's Talk

- **Applying to University & Funding**
- **Occupational Therapy Programmes**
- **What is Occupational Therapy and where can OT's work?**
- **Making Your BU Application Strong**
- **The OT Programme here in Bournemouth**
- **Questions?**

**What is OT  
all about?**

**What we are  
looking for?**

# Applying through UCAS



## UCAS Provide:

- **Information & support**
- **Course Search**
- **Help with Application**
- **Tracking your Application**



# Finance Support from 2017

## From September 2017 the finance support is changing:

- Tuition fees will no longer be paid by the NHS / HEE
- You won't receive an NHS bursary or grant. You'll be able to access the same financial loan support as other non-NHS students
- A tuition fee loan from Student Finance England
- A maintenance loan of up to £10,410p/a

You won't repay your loan until you're earning **£21,000**  
For band 5 this would be **£5.25\*** a month

New loan will provide you with 33% more money\* = **more disposable income**

# UK Occupational Therapy Programmes

- **Legally Regulated Profession**
  - All OT Programmes **must** be approved by the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC)
  - On qualification, you can only apply to register as an OT if you have attended an approved programme
  - BU runs an approved OT programme
- **Accredited OT Programme**
  - Universities can also **choose** to be accredited by the College of Occupational Therapists which automatically includes accreditation by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists
  - BU runs an accredited OT programme



# What is Occupational Therapy?

OTs enable individuals to maximise their physical, emotional, cognitive, social and functional potential (COT 1999)



Clients can have physical, mental health, social or learning disabilities – or no disability at all. We use **activity** as our treatment medium

# Where Can OTs Work?



**What is your own  
experience?**

# Areas of Work for OTs

- **Acute & Community  
General Hospitals**
  - **Accident & Emergency**
  - **In-Patient Wards**
  - **Outpatient  
Departments**
- **Acute & Community  
Mental Health Services**
- **Local Authority Social  
Services....**

**Traditional  
settings**

**But that's  
not all....**



# Areas of Work for OTs

- **Residential / Nursing Homes**
- **Learning Disability & Autism Services**
- **Drug & Alcohol Services**
- **GP Practices & Health Centres**
- **Wheelchair Services**
- **Schools**
- **Hospice Palliative Care**

**Other settings...**

**We work in such a broad variety of settings**

# Areas of Work for OTs

- **Forensic / Prison Services**
- **Leisure Centres**
- **Homeless Services**
- **Refugee & Asylum Seeker Services**
- **Private Practice / Industry**
- **Charities & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector**
- **Job Centres / Vocational Rehabilitation...**

**Newer, less-traditional settings**

**Where can't we work?!**

# Career Opportunities in OT after Qualifying



- Professional Development - CPD
- Postgraduate study – MSc / PhD / EdD
- NHS Graduate Training Scheme
- International work
- Research (UKOTRF)
- Independent practice
- Working with COT and specialist sections
- Working with Government



# What are BU looking for in an OT?

- Academic ability
- Sensitivity & compassion
- Tolerance & respect
- Creativity and imagination
- Problem-solving skills
- Ability to work autonomously
- Ability to work in teams
- Previous work or 'life' experience

**Not a lot then....!**

**Common  
sense**

**Emotional  
intelligence**



# Entry Requirements for OT (2017)

- **A-Level: 128 points in preferred subjects (General Studies not included)**
  - **Biology / Human Biology / PE**
  - **Sociology / Psychology**
  - **Health & Social Care**
- **BTEC Extended Diploma in specific subjects**
- **Access to HE Diploma with 60 credits (at least 45 at level 3 and remainder at level 2). Minimum of 24 level 3 credits must be at distinction level**
- **Other, equivalent entry qualifications**
  - **OU Programmes (in preferred subjects)**
  - **Foundation Degrees (in preferred subjects)**

**Higher level study** (degree equivalent) **within last 5 years**

**We'll also be looking for** GCSE in Math & English at grade C or above

# Entry Requirements for OT (2016)

- **A-Level: 320 points in preferred subjects (General Studies not included)**
  - **Biology / Human Biology / PE**
  - **Sociology / Psychology**
  - **Health & Social Care**
- **BTEC Extended Diploma in specific subjects**
- **Access to HE Diploma with 60 credits at level 3 and remainder at level 2. Minimum of 24 level 3 credits must be at distinction level**
- **Other, equivalent entry qualifications**
  - **OU Programmes (in preferred subjects)**
  - **Foundation Degrees (in preferred subjects)**

**Higher level study** (degree equivalent) **within last 5 years**

**We'll also be looking for** GCSE in Math & English at grade C or above

# Additional Entry Requirements

## **All Offers are Conditional on Satisfactory Checks**

- **Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)**
- **Strong References**
- **Occupational Health Clearance (which includes the requirement for certain immunisations prior to attending your first placement)**

**Disability is not a bar to entry (see HCPC guidance for students)**

**We'll also be looking for a strong Personal Statement**

# How to Gain a Place at BU

- Make sure you know that OT is the career for you
- **ONLY apply for OT**
- Only apply if you can demonstrate that you have the skills to make you an asset to the profession
- Demonstrate your commitment through contact with voluntary work / OT Units
- **Show us your passion for the profession in your Personal Statement**

**Visit OT  
Units and  
speak to OTs**

**Read as  
much as  
possible  
about OT**



# Applying to BU for Occupational Therapy

- Competition for places is keen – we have about 12 applicants for every place
- Make your Personal Statement strong - but write it yourself!
- If you are invited for interview, we will ask you to write a short essay to bring with you on the day
- We will ask you to attend a group interview as well as an individual interview



# Succeeding at Interview

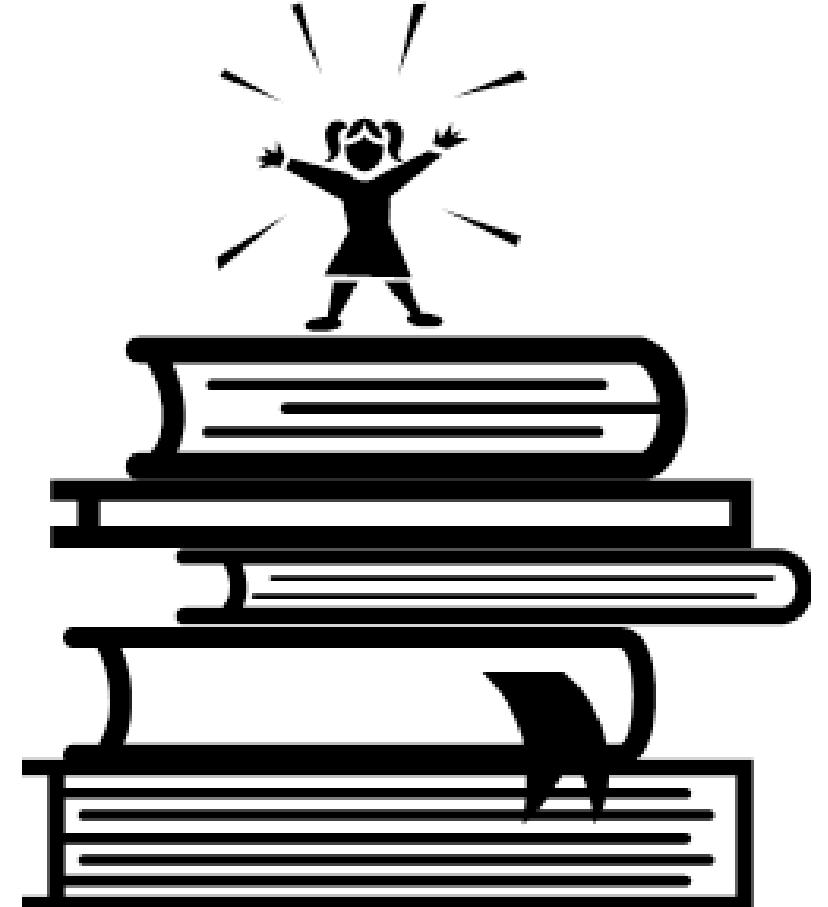
- **Arrive on time!**
  - Complete the prepared essay and make sure you have time to edit it
- **During the Group Interview**
  - Try to be relaxed and friendly even though you may be a little stressed
  - Work as a group – we are looking for team-working skills not show-offs
- **During the Individual Interview**
  - Show us your passion for OT
  - Use examples to illustrate the skills and qualities you believe will make you a good OT



# OT Programme at BU

Is it the right course for you?

- What is the balance of coursework / exams?
- How much assessment by group-work?
- What does the Timetable look like?
- Fieldwork and practical learning?



# BU's Occupational Therapy Course

- **3 year Bachelor of Science with Honours - BSc (Hons)**
- **Full time (over two semesters)**
- **Blended learning including Problem Based Learning (PBL), online learning and self managed learning**
- **1200 hours in practice placements**
- **Inter-professional Education**





# Nature of the OT Programme

- The Programme gives an academic qualification [BSc (Hons)] as well as a professional qualification
- It is therefore a mix of practical and conventional academic work
- It integrates theoretical, campus-based learning with periods of practice placement



# The OT Programme

1st Year	Introduction Week	Becoming an OT	BU0	Becoming an OT	Winter Break	Exam Week	OT in Action 1		Spring Break	Exam Week	BU1 Placement				Exam Week	
		Skills for Therapy Practice		Skills for Therapy Practice			Analysing Occupational	Exam Week			Exam Week					
2nd Year	Mandatory Training	Reasoning for OT Parctice			Winter Break	Exam Week	Portfolio	Promoting Health and Wellbeing	Portfolio	Spring Break	Exam Week	BU2 Placement				Exam Week
		OT in Action 2										Exam Week	Exam Week			
3rd Year	BU3 Placement			Research for Therapy Practice	Winter Break	Exam Week	Service Improvement Project	BU4 Placement		Spring Break	Exam Week	Innovations in Occupational Therapy Practice				Exam Week
	Exam Week							Exam Week	Exam Week			Exam Week				

# Blended Learning & Teaching Methods

- **Problem Based Learning (PBL)**

- Facilitated, student –led seminars

- **Self Managed Learning**

- Reading / library study
- Online learning e.g. MyBU, discussion boards, blogs/wiki's, simulated communities

- **Early Introduction to Continuing Professional Development**

- Academic Advisers
- Portfolio development

- **Interactive, Fixed Resource Sessions**

- Lectures and seminars

- **Skills Sessions**

- Creative activity e.g. artwork, dance, drama
- Rehabilitation activity e.g. splinting, moving & handling, clinical assessment techniques
- Communication activity e.g. interviewing, motivational interviewing, de-escalation techniques

# Assessment in the OT Programme

**The Programme Accommodates a Variety of Learning Styles so that all students have a chance to shine...**

- **Essays and written research proposals**
- **Presentations and poster presentations**
- **Portfolios**
- **Individual and group assessment**
- **Assessment on practice placement**
- **Plus other methods as appropriate**



**The Assessments are criterion-based and are subject to internal and external moderation**

# Practice Placements

- **1000 hours of practice placement is the minimum required by HCPC / COT / WFOT – at BU we undertake 1,200 hours**
- **You will be allocated to various practice settings so that you have a broad experience of OT practice when you qualify**
- **Practice placements are often at some distance from the University and alternative accommodation is often required**
- **When on placement, you will work the same hours as your supervising Practice Placement Educator. This may mean working shifts and/or over the weekend**
- **You must make financial provision for travel and accommodation costs on placement**
- **You may have to make special care provision if you have children or other dependants**



# Practice Placement Locations





# New Finance Arrangements from 2017

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- You won't receive an NHS bursary or grant. You'll be able to access the same financial loan support as other non-NHS students
- A tuition fee loan from Student Finance England
- A maintenance loan of up to £8,200 p/a

You may have extra costs associated with practice placement (including the purchase of uniforms) and must budget for this within your student loan

Attend the finance talk for 2017 entry at 1.10pm and 2.30pm

**Students may also choose to become student members of COT – this is optional but highly recommended**



**Bournemouth  
University**

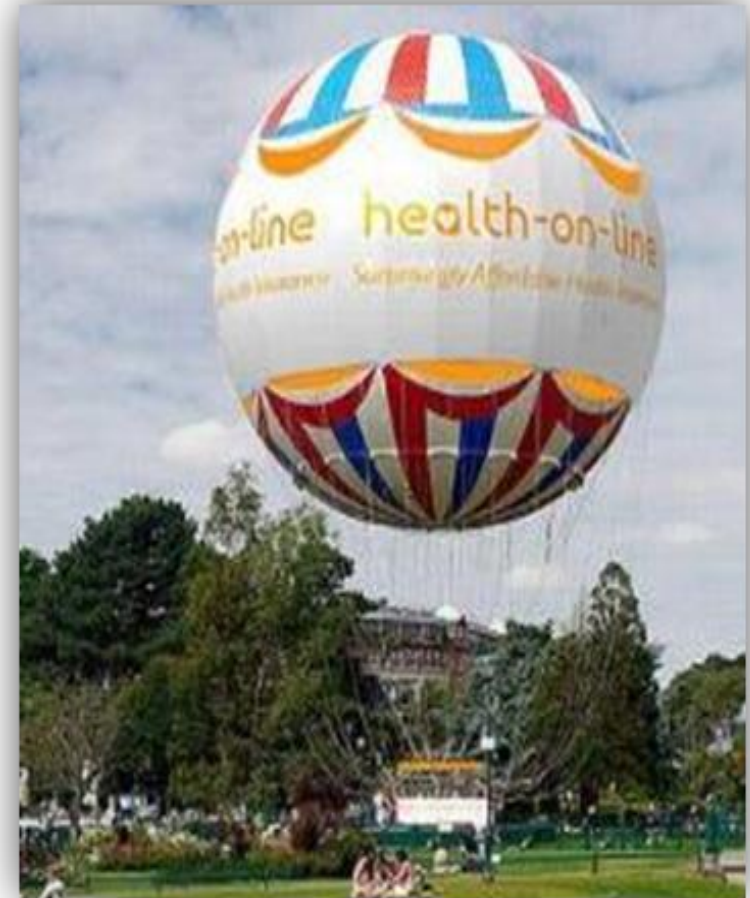


**Why Choose  
Bournemouth  
University to  
study OT?**

**BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy**

# Bournemouth is a Great Place to Live!

- Is there help with accommodation?
  - Yes. We have a dedicated accommodation team on the Lansdowne Campus who will help find you suitable and safe accommodation
  - We have a 24/7 support line
- Are there Halls of Residence?
  - Yes. And they are usually available to all first year students
  - All Halls have 24/7 staff on duty





# Bournemouth is a Great Place to Party!



Lively nightlife with lots of really interesting and enjoyable things to do

- Students' Union
- Beaches
- BIC
- Clubs, bars and societies

# Innovative, enthusiastic staff...

- **Student-centred and approachable**

An experienced staff team with a wealth of experience and an enthusiasm for teaching. The team have dynamic relationships with practice partners and are active on the national OT scene. Staff are also engaged in research and practice innovation.

- **Proud to be OT's**

# Successful students...

- **What do students think about Bournemouth?**

“I’m really enjoying the OT course because I find it both challenging and engaging. I’m really looking forward to the day I can spread my wings as a fully fledged OT.”

- **Katy Grant, former student**



# More Information

- For more advice on applying to join us here at BU

Email: [askBUenquiries@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:askBUenquiries@bournemouth.ac.uk)

<https://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/landing/careers-in-health-social-care/>

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/askBU](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/askBU)

- If you are mature, have caring commitments, are the first in your family to go to University or have any relevant experience, let us know!



**Bournemouth  
University**

**Whatever  
you bring**



**Whatever  
you like**



**Where  
you  
Belong**



**Whatever  
you do**



**Whoever  
you are**



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The university has consulted the latest available information in the production of this presentation for delivery in **June & July 2016**, but cannot be held liable for any errors.