



Apprenticeships

# APPRENTICESHIPS

at Devon Partnership NHS Trust

*Supporting you to live well*



## Fact Sheet

### Occupational Therapist Level 6

#### Who is the programme suitable for?

You will need to be in a therapy facing role and work closely with an Occupational Therapist, who will act as your mentor and assessor. Where there is a question about a candidate's suitability for the programme due to their role, we will seek advice from the university on whether they feel the candidate will be able to meet the requirements and expectations of the programme.

#### Overview of the role

Occupational therapy is a rewarding career which requires a highly developed knowledge and professional skill-set to enable you to work across a range of settings and environments. Occupational Therapists work with individuals from birth to end of life including those with physical and mental health conditions, injury, learning disabilities, long-term conditions, palliative care needs and with those who find themselves displaced from their societies.

Your primary goal as an occupational therapist is to enable people to participate in meaningful occupations and activities of everyday life. Occupations include things people need to, want to and are expected to do such as self-care, leisure or work. Through therapeutic use of 'occupation' an understanding of the relationship between the human body and mind, what a person needs/wants to do, their beliefs and the physical and social environment, you will enable people who face disease, disability and/or social challenges to live a more fulfilling and meaningful life.

You will use skills in clinical reasoning, critical analysis, and research based evidence in your practice. You will use a person-centred approach to support people to carry out everyday occupations and routines such as dressing, eating, catching the bus to work or other activities that are important to them.

Occupational therapists also work with families, carers, employers and organisations that support the person as well as communities where people have become marginalised and require support to build a meaningful life.

You can work in a variety of settings including health, social care, education and other private and voluntary sector organisations.

### **Topics covered include:**

- Professional practice of occupational therapy
- Professional values and behaviours
- Leadership, management and partnership working
- Communication and information

Full details of the standards can be found on the [Institute of Apprenticeships](#) website.

### **What qualifications will you achieve?**

- BSc (Hons) Applied Occupational Therapy degree (Level 6) accredited by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT).
- By the end of the apprenticeship, you'll be eligible to apply for registration by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) which is required to practice as a registered Occupational Therapist.

### **Entry /Eligibility Criteria**

- Employed for a minimum of 30 hours a week by the organisation on a substantial contract and undertaking a relevant job role.
- Evidence of recent study (within 3 years) to A level standard (level 3) alongside a profile of longstanding relevant experience. Applicants with previous study at Level 4 or higher will be considered on an individual basis.
- All applicants require Maths and English to GCSE grade 4/C or above or equivalent in English and Maths or Level 2 Functional Skills.
- Due to the current eligibility criteria for Government funded apprenticeship schemes, we are currently only able to accept applications from candidates who have been resident in the UK for the last 3 years, and who are not already in any form of Government funded education.
- If internal you will need your manager's approval.

### **Duration**

48 months from induction date to EPA gateway

### **Frequency of programmes**

Annually Autumn

### **How is the programme delivered?**

Scheduled learning is delivered through online or face-to-face teaching, which comprises a minimum of 20% off the job training throughout the programme. This includes methods such as

lectures, seminars, group work projects, workshops and tutorials. Currently this looks like 2 days study outside of work per week during term time.

The rest of the course consists of work-based learning within the workplace. While working full-time, you will build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your skills and competencies.

Apprentices will also undertake three blocks of placement learning, where you will complete 1000 hours of assessed placement activity, in a clinical setting outside of their workplace. The placements will include; Physical Health (Secondary Care) and Mental Health/Learning Disabilities and will be within inpatient units and within the community.

Assessment takes the form of a mix of module assessments including a written exam, essays, presentations, and oral examinations. The apprenticeship will then be concluded by an end point assessment supported by the portfolio of evidence collated over the four years.

Hours – Apprentices need to work a minimum of 30 hours a week.

### **How are you assessed?**

You will undertake an End Point Assessment which will include a demonstration of practice (three stations) and a professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence.

### **Career progression**

On successful completion of the qualification and End Point Assessment you will be offered a Band 5 Occupational Therapist role within Devon Partnership Trust. This may not necessarily be in your current work area, as it will depend on vacancies at that time. As you near the end of your programme options will be discussed with you and a preference exercise will take place.

Once in post as a newly qualified Occupational Therapist you will then undertake the Trust Preceptorship programme – as for all newly qualified professionals joining the organisation.

With significant experience, you could become a Consultant Occupational Therapist in a senior clinical leadership role with the highest level of clinical responsibility. Consultant Occupational Therapists work in a range of clinical practice areas, including mental health and learning disabilities. They have a wider role in influencing and driving strategic and organisational development.

With further training it's also possible to work as a high-intensity therapist as part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service. You could move into related roles such as care manager within primary care, industry or business.

### **Training Provider(s)**

University of the West of England (UWE)

## How do I apply?

### **For External applicants**

You must first gain a job in a therapeutic role such as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, Health Care Assistant, Technical Instructor or Employment Specialist within the Trust, these are advertised via NHS jobs or our own [recruitment site](#).

### **For Internal Applicants**

Contact:

[dpt.apprenticeships@nhs.net](mailto:dpt.apprenticeships@nhs.net)

If you have more specific questions regarding what the apprenticeship entails, please contact

[dpt.apprenticeships@nhs.net](mailto:dpt.apprenticeships@nhs.net)