



# How can I become an occupational therapist?

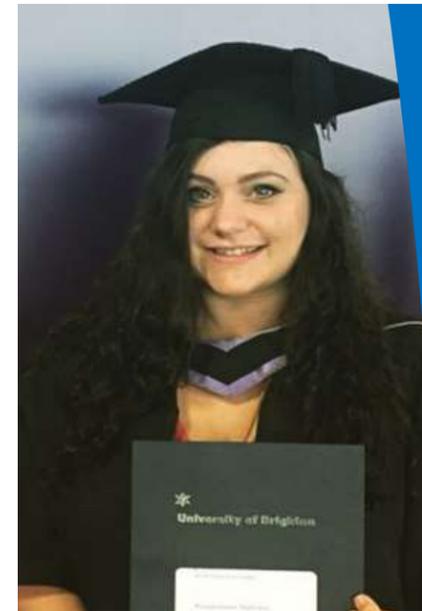
<https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-occupational-therapy/become-an-occupational-therapist/career-faqs>

Occupational therapy is a degree-level profession, so you would need to complete a programme of study at one of the [accredited higher education institutions](#) which offer occupational therapy courses in the UK. At the end of the study programme you are required to register with our regulator the [Health and Care Professions Council](#) (HCPC) to be able to practice as an occupational therapist.

The following training routes are available:

- full time BSc (Hons)
- part-time / in service BSc (Hons)
- full time/ part-time postgraduate e.g. MSc/ PG Dip

The Occupational Therapy Career Handbook also includes a full list of universities in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which offer the above training routes.



## WHERE TO STUDY LOCALLY?

Locally we have a four year part time BSc course at University of Brighton (Eastbourne campus) or a full time three year course at Canterbury Christ Church University (see links below).

[HTTPS://WWW.BRIGHTON.AC.UK/COURSES/STUDY/OCCUPATIONAL-TH](https://www.brighton.ac.uk/courses/study/occupational-therapy-bsc-hons.aspx)

[L-THERAPY-BSC-HONS.ASPX](https://www.brighton.ac.uk/courses/study/occupational-therapy-bsc-hons.aspx)

[HTTPS://CANTERBURY.AC.UK/STUDY-](https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/occupational-therapy-19-20.aspx)

[HERE/COURSES/UNDERGRADUATE/OCCUPATIONAL-THERAPY-19-20.ASPX](https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/occupational-therapy-19-20.aspx)



## Facts and Questions Sheet

### Entry Requirements

You would normally need to have at least five GCSE passes and at least two (usually three) 'A' levels to be accepted onto an occupational therapy degree programme. A science subject at 'A' Level is sometimes required. Approved Access courses, Vocational Certificate Education (VCE) and Scottish qualifications are acceptable alternatives to 'A' levels. To be eligible to apply for a place on the 2 year accelerated entry programme, you would need to have a previous degree.

Each university has its own entry requirements and these vary between degree programmes. The HEI listing on our occupational therapy programmes in the UK web page has links to each institution's relevant web page where you will find more information on individual courses and requirements. If you are unsure as to whether your qualifications will meet the entry criteria for a particular programme, please contact the appropriate admissions tutors, who are always happy to answer questions from prospective students.

### WHAT ABOUT EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR NEW OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATES? HOW MUCH DO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS EARN?

Employment prospects for new occupational therapists are generally good, although competition for jobs can vary across the UK. Ensuring your application stands out from the crowd is increasingly important and this can be achieved simply by preparing a really thoughtful application and demonstrating a commitment to the **profession**.



Unlike graduates with qualifications that are not specifically career-orientated, new occupational therapy graduates generally have the advantage of a structured career path with good long-term prospects

The average starting salary for a registered occupational therapist working in the UK is in excess of £21,000. A more experienced occupational therapist can earn around £40,000, and a consultant occupational therapist can earn between £66,000 and £82,000.

## Work Experience

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust recognises the value of work experience for students in gaining insight into NHS careers, informing their career choices and supporting their applications to further education.

We welcome applications from students at local schools and colleges in years 10 to 13, subject to departmental age restrictions. The minimum age for administrative work experience within the Trust is 15, and for clinical shadowing placements 16 to 19, according to department. There is no guarantee of a placement once an application has been submitted and there are some areas of the organisation which do not permit work experience students due to the sensitive nature of the department. Placements in clinical areas are strictly for observation and shadowing only. During busy times placements may not be available.



<https://www.esht.nhs.uk/working-for-us/work-experience/>