



*"Balancing the demands of full-time work and home while studying was a challenge but I was supported by my manager and Personal Tutor"-Caroline*

## How do I become an Occupational Therapy Associate Practitioner?

Associate Practitioner pathways are a new way of being able to work as an occupational therapy assistant and attend the University of Brighton part time to complete a foundation degree. The occupational therapy assistant roles are advertised on NHSJobs.com at various times of the year as availability arises. Once an individual has an occupational therapy assistant position with East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, they will be expected to apply to the University of Brighton with support from the Occupational Therapy Practice Educator for a place on the Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care course.

The Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care is not automatically included as part of the occupational therapy assistant role. The associate practitioner pathway supports you to complete the university course within two years. The course is designed to attend university one day a week with a minimum of one day a week protected learning time in supervised practice. This course has a 50% theory and 50% practice structure.

Once completed, you will be eligible to apply for a Band 4 position as occupational therapy associate practitioner.



*"In my new role as a Band 4 Associate Practitioner, I have more autonomy to manage my own caseload and to work unsupervised unless I request help. Successful completion of the AP/Foundation Degree also allows me to apply for Occupational Therapy Bachelor Degree course if I wish. I would recommend it as a stand-alone qualification or as a pathway to a Degree".*

### SUPPORT

You can expect to be appointed a mentor and a supervisor whilst training. Your mentor will help you with managing your new job and university demands whereas your supervisor will support you in the workplace. You can also choose to attend the occupational therapy apprenticeship forums for further support such as time management and well being.



## Associate Practitioner Pathway

