Your path to Occupational Therapy. (CK July 2017)

You’re studying for a degree but would like to become an Occupational Therapist.

How do I become an Occupational Therapist?

The first step is to take an accredited course at third level. Registration is currently with The Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI).

University College Limerick: MSc Occupational Therapy: 2 years. An undergraduate degree, 2.2 honours or higher, with preference given to applicants with related subjects such as health, psychology, sociology, anatomy or human biology. Relevant work experience in health and social care will also be considered. Candidates should have completed at least 2 visits to a range of occupational therapy areas prior to interview. Please note that meeting the minimum criteria for entry onto the programme does not guarantee that an interview or a place will be offered. Interviews. Course Starts: September 2017.

NUI, Galway: BSc 4-years. Apply through the CAO by February 1st.

Trinity College Dublin: BSc 4-years. Apply through the CAO by February 1st. Mature students contact Admissions.

University College Cork: BSc 4-years. Apply through the CAO by February 1st.

What other options are there?

To use your qualification gained abroad in Ireland it must first be validated by CORU http://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/Jobs/Validation/

The Health Professionals Council regulate this industry in the UK and have a list of approved courses for registration on their website. More information can be found on the College of Occupational Therapists website which also includes a handbook of courses online.

The following 2-year accelerated courses enable graduates of other disciplines to obtain a qualification in Occupational Therapy (this list may not be exhaustive – please check appropriate websites).

Glasgow Caledonian University: MSc Occupational Therapy. First or 2.1 degree in health, behavioural or social sciences with basic knowledge of statistics. A degree with relevant pre-professional experience. Must complete a module before start of course. For closing and late applications go to website.

Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh: PGDip/MSc Occupational Therapy. An honours degree. . For closing date and late applications visit website.

University of Brighton: PGDip/MSc Occupational Therapy (Health through Occupation). Degree and/or experience.

Knowledge and understanding of occupational therapy. Work experience in health or social care preferred but not essential. Application and closing date available online.

http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/occupational-therapy-pre-registration-msc MSc Occupational Therapy. A first or upper second class honours degree from any discipline with strong applicants demonstrating a science profile and evidence of informed insight into the profession of occupational therapy. Applicants with a lower second class honours degree who have extensive experience of working in a health or social care setting will also be considered. Check website for application and closing dates.

University of Derby: MSc Occupational Therapy [pre-registration] – honours degree of 2.1 or above and you will need to have a range of skills that demonstrate your commitment, enthusiasm and professional suitability for a career in occupational therapy. You will require relevant experience and evidence that you will be able to manage the academic demands of Masters level study. Visit website for application and closing dates.

University of Cumbria: MSc Occupational Therapy – 1st or 2nd class honours degree in a relevant subject. If you have an unrelated first degree, but also experience in occupational therapy, your application will be considered. Candidates will need to show post-qualification academic performance, a range of continuing professional development (CPD), and relevant professional experience. Require a clear understanding of the work of an occupational therapist, so it is useful if you have undertaken some work experience or shadowing. Visit website for application dates.
Leeds Beckett University: MSc Occupational Therapy. You will require a honours degree, normally a 2:1, relevant to occupational therapy. You will also require a good understanding of the occupational therapy profession and occupational therapy practice along with an understanding of health and social care. Applicants will also be required to pass medical screening and agree to a Criminal Records Bureau check. Applications for 2015 now closed. Check website for future applications.

London South Bank University: PGDip/MSc Occupational Therapy. To apply, you must have an honours degree in any subject area and relevant experience of working in health, social care or a related area. For degrees starting in September 2017, applications online. Interview and written experience.

University of Northumbria, Newcastle: MSc Occupational Therapy. 1st or 2.1 honours in a health subject or related subject to occupational therapy. Applications now open for 2018 admission. Visit website for future application dates.

University of Teeside, Middlesbrough: PgDip/MSc Occupational Therapy. Applicants should normally have a 2.1 honours degree. Applicants are advised to contact the Admissions Tutor for further information before applying. Apply now for January 2018 start

University of East Anglia, Norwich: MSc Occupational Therapy. Degree at grade 2:1 or above. We recommended that you submit your application for September 2017 entry by 31 July 2017. Visit website for future application information.

It is also possible to apply for a second undergraduate degree in the UK. Applications for the courses through UCAS before 15th January. http://www.ucas.com/

Where can I get help with the application form and interview?

A Careers staff member can give you feedback on your application form (tip – fill out a photocopy of the form first) at a 45 minute appointment, we also have a file and books on writing personal statements. Some of the universities giving courses have tips on their websites. These include:

- Before attending your interview you should visit at least two occupational therapists to help you appreciate the demands and role of an occupational therapist.
- Some type of experience working/caring for people with a disability or disadvantaged, either paid or voluntary would benefit applicants.

Useful Contacts

www.dit.ie/careers Career Development Centre
www.aoti.ie Association of Occupational Therapists in Ireland
www.baot.co.uk/ British Association of Occupational Therapists
www.hpc-uk.org Health Professionals Council
www.nhs.uk Career Development Centre NUIG for sharing this information with us.

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The CDC does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information.