

Postgraduate Programme Specification

MSc (Pre-Registration) Occupational Therapy

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (Pre-Registration)		
Final Award	Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (Pre-Registration)		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Department	Allied Health Professions		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	N/A		
Accreditations (PSRB)	Health and Care Professions Council Royal College of Occupational Therapists		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2026	To: August 2031

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME

The overall aim of the MSc (Pre-Registration) Occupational Therapy programme is to provide an excellent educational experience, which will develop graduates who are fit for award, fit for practice and fit for purpose. On successful completion graduates will be able to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and membership of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT).

The MSc (pre-registration) Occupational Therapy Programme aims to provide an accelerated route for occupational therapy education, for students who hold a previous degree. It aims to draw on their existing knowledge and transferable skills to complement their emerging knowledge of occupational therapy.

The overarching aim of the programme is to prepare occupational therapy graduates who can confidently and competently contribute to contemporary practice. The programme develops graduates who understand and are committed to the transformative nature of occupation for optimal health and wellbeing.

The MSc (Pre-Registration) Occupational Therapy programme at GCU aims to develop graduates who will:

- Possess the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes to work as competent practitioners.
- Understand the complexity and transformative nature of human occupation and are committed to occupational justice for individuals, communities and society.
- Be prepared to meet the challenges of complex and demanding environments.
- Be confident, flexible, and able to lead and innovate change across a range of settings.
- Have a strong professional identity, with the ability to work autonomously, collaboratively and inter-professionally.

The curriculum is structured using a spiral design that integrates theoretical, practical, and evidence-based learning across both years:

- Year 1 - Focuses on developing a foundational understanding of core occupational therapy and occupational science concepts, alongside the skills and attributes needed for safe, ethical, and competent practice. It also builds students' critical thinking and ability to understand and apply evidence in practice.
- Year 2 - Emphasises advancing critical thinking and complex reasoning, exploring broader influences on practice. It prepares students for professional roles by integrating theory, evidence, and practical skills to deliver occupation-focused approaches in diverse and complex settings.

By the end of the programme, graduates will be equipped to contribute meaningfully to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, while advancing the profession of occupational therapy.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding:

- A1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the inhibiting and facilitating factors related to human occupation, performance and function, in relation to aspects of person, environment and occupation.
- A2 Demonstrate a critical understanding of theories, approaches and models of practice used in contemporary occupational therapy practice.
- A3 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the philosophical basis and contribution of occupational therapy as part of the health and social care team.
- A4 Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the range of influences on sustainable occupational therapy services delivery across a range of practice contexts.
- A5 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the research process and evidence-based practice.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding:

- B1 Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply core concepts related to occupation, occupational performance, activity and participation.
- B2 Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply the occupational therapy process across diverse practice contexts under the supervision of a practice educator.
- B3 Demonstrate readiness for professional registration as an occupational therapist on completion of the programme.
- B4 Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply principles of equity, diversity and belonging to support person centred and culturally responsive practice.
- B5 Demonstrate the ability to reflect on the diverse concepts and contexts of health and wellbeing and associated challenges to occupation, participation and engagement.
- B6 Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and debate theoretical frameworks and approaches to intervention in occupational therapy.
- B7 Demonstrate an awareness of professional, interprofessional and collaborative practice skills as applied within both local and global contexts.
- B8 Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and apply legislation, policy and guidelines relevant to practice.
- B9 Demonstrate the ability to engage with techniques of enquiry and apply the research process.

C: Generic cognitive skills:

- C1 Demonstrate the ability to critically apply, evaluate and synthesise evidence used to guide practice.
- C2 Demonstrate the ability to engage in debate driven by professional practice curiosity to develop original and creative responses to problems and issues both locally and globally.
- C3 Demonstrate the ability to engage in critical thinking, problem solving and reflection to develop knowledge, skills and professional practice.
- C4 Demonstrate the ability to evaluate insights of an occupational perspective in a range of practice settings.
- C5 Demonstrate the ability to critically engage in complex decision making, drawing on ethical, moral and professional reasoning abilities.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills:

- D1 Demonstrate the use of adaptive and effective communication with diverse individuals, groups, and communities.
- D2 Recognise the importance of professional ethics, confidentiality, consent, compliance, safe information handling and recording of information.
- D3 Demonstrate effective skills in digital literacy and understand how technological advances can enhance occupational therapy practice.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others:

- E1 Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the continuum of care within a range of practice contexts from a uni-professional and interprofessional perspective.
- E2 Demonstrate the ability to exercise autonomy and initiative in professional and equivalent activities.
- E3 Demonstrate the ability to plan, monitor, review and evaluate own learning and development.
- E4 Demonstrate leadership and initiative to contribute to change and development.
- E5 Practise in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities.
- E6 Manage complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements on practice issues that are informed by interprofessional collaboration.
- E7 Demonstrate the ability to contribute to the supervision, support, and development of others.
- E8 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of maintaining personal health and wellbeing and apply strategies to support safe, effective, and sustainable professional practice.

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, Viva, OSCE)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis

- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-occupational-therapy-pre-registration-glasgow>

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %		Practical %
MMB930852	Occupational Therapy 1A: Exploring Occupation	Core	11	15	100		
MMB930853	Occupational Therapy 1B: Skills and Process	Core	11	15	100		
MMB930854	Occupational Therapy 1C: Occupational Performance	Core	11	30	CW1 30	CW2 70	
M2B930858	Practice Based Learning: Beginner Placement	Core	8	40			Pass/Fail (100%)
MMB930855	Occupational Therapy 2: Evidence Based Interventions	Core	11	15	100		
MMB130890	Interprofessional Collaborative Practice within Health and Social Care	Core	11	15	CW1 30	CW2 70	
M3B930860	Practice Based Learning: Intermediate Placement	Core	9	30			Pass/Fail (100%)
MMB930856	Occupational Therapy 3: Complex Reasoning	Core	11	15	100		
M3B930861	Practice Based Learning: Project Focused Placement	Core	9	30			Pass/Fail (100%)
MHB930859	Practice Based Learning: Competent Placement	Core	10	40			Pass/Fail (100%)
MMB930857	Occupational Therapy 4: Contemporary Practice	Core	11	15	100		
MMB724468	Dissertation	Core	11	60	100		

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here:

www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Social Care - achieved upon successful completion of 60 credits at SCQF Level 11 which must include the modules asterisked above (*)

Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Social Care - achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits at SCQF Level 11, which must include the modules asterisked above (* #)

Master of Science in Health and Social Care- achieved upon successful completion of 180 credits at SCQF Level 11 which must include the modules asterisked above (* # +)

Master of Science (pre-registration) in Occupational Therapy: Completion of all modules above. 180 credits at SCQF 11 + 140 Practice Based Learning module credits (Total: 320 credits). This award leads to eligibility to apply for professional registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

No exit award other than the award of MSc (Pre-Registration) in Occupational Therapy will confer eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies>

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Programme Specific Assessment Regulations for the following Health and Care Professions Council/General Dental Council/Scottish Social Services Council regulated awards:

- BA (Hons) Social Work
- BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Imaging
- BSc (Hons) Radiotherapy and Oncology
- BSc (Hons) Podiatry
- BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy
- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy
- BSc (Hons) Human Nutrition and Dietetics
- BSc Oral Health Sciences

- BSc Paramedic Science
- MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)
- MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration)
- MSc Social Work (Pre-qualification)
- MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-registration)

1. University Assessment Regulations apply except where there is a documented exception approved by the University Exceptions Sub-Committee. These Health and Life Sciences programme-specific regulations deviate from the University's standard regulations as outlined below (Approved December 2023).

2. Due to the time commitments and practice-based learning elements of the professional programmes hosted by the SHLS, students may not be registered on a second full-time degree programme while enrolled on any of the programmes listed above.

3. **Compensation (University Assessment Regulations, Section 13.2)**

In line with 13.2.6, compensation cannot be exercised in any module leading to the awards listed above.

4. **Aegrotat Awards (University Assessment Regulations, Section 23)**

Due to the requirements of the regulatory/professional bodies, any aegrotat award will be in alignment with the School's generic award structure (e.g. BSc Health & Social Care).

5. **External Examiner (Section 10, AQPP)**

Health and Care Professions Council regulated programmes will have at least one external examiner who is appropriately experienced and qualified and, unless other arrangements are agreed, will be from the relevant part of the Register.

Additional Assessment Regulations Specific to Practice Based Learning

1. All practice-based learning modules must be passed including elective placements.

2. Maximum Number of Attempts at a Module (University Assessment Regulations, Section 14)

Only two attempts are permitted for practice-based learning modules at all levels of the programme.

3. Module Pass Criteria (University Assessment Regulations, Section 13.1)

In the case of practice-based learning modules (i.e any module that includes hours accrued for practice-based learning including simulation) with multiple assessment components, all components must be passed at a minimum of 40% (UG) or 50% (TPG).

4. Unsuccessful at First Diet (University Assessment Regulations, Section 15)

Where a student has been unsuccessful at first diet on a practice-based learning module it may be necessary to interrupt progression to the following level of study (i.e., it may not be possible to carry practice-based learning module into the following year irrespective of the number of credits).

5. Attendance Requirements on Practice-Based Learning/Placements (Student Attendance and Engagement Policy)

Students must satisfactorily complete all requirements laid down by regulatory/professional bodies in relation to practice-based learning (e.g. number of placement days/ hours (as specified in the Programme Handbook).

For MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration), BSc Hons Occupational Therapy: students are expected to complete 100% of the required days / hours of practice-based learning for each placement, including simulation-based placements. Where a student has unauthorised absence of, or more than, 20% in any practice-based learning/placement, they may be required to retake the module with attendance.

Additional Subject- Specific Regulations (Occupational Therapy)

1. Students are required to complete a minimum of 1000 hours' successful placement experience. Failure to do so will require additional placements to be undertaken.
2. Failed practice education hours will not count towards the minimum hours required by the professional body.
3. Learners who fail a practice-based learning component on substantiated grounds of fitness to practise concerns must be denied a retrieval attempt.
4. Occupational Therapy external examiners will have oversight of all modules contributing to the professional qualification, this includes interprofessional education modules.
5. No more than one-third of the programme or part of the programme may be subject to RPL in accordance with the Royal College of Occupational Therapists Education Standards (2019). An exception to this requirement is an occupational therapy student who is transferring between education providers. In this instance, the student must meet the credit transfer requirements of GCU and be recommended as 'fit for the profession' by the original programme (releasing education provider should provide details of any issues regarding professional misconduct or fitness for the profession).
6. The minimum length of study is 2 years. The maximum period within which a student must complete the programme is 4 years. This period includes the successful completion of all assessments.

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)**Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.**

<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0	Programme Review October 2025	January 2026	September 2026