



Important information and additional costs to consider when choosing your course

- **MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration)**

Recruitment Process

Helping your application succeed

Experience

Experience of interacting with members of the public from a range of backgrounds in different settings is essential when applying to the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration). It is important to be able to understand and explain how your experiences relate to the activities and qualities which are required of occupational therapists. The NHS values are key the selection process. This is to ensure we recruit the right students with the right values, to ensure the delivery of excellent patient care. All aspects of the interview are aligned with the core values of the NHS constitution. These NHS values are:

- Working together for patients
- Respect and dignity
- Commitment to quality of care
- Compassion
- Improving lives
- Everyone counts

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/about/our-values/nhs-constitutional-values-hub-0>

For further information on the standards required of students in the allied health professions please take a look at the Health and Care professions code of conduct and ethics.

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/>

There are many ways you can gain experience - this might be as part of a programme of study or in a paid or voluntary capacity and doesn't always need to be within a care setting. Interacting with people with different life experiences will help you develop a deeper level of understanding of the diversity of the population who access health and social care. In your personal statement please reflect upon your learning from any of these experiences demonstrating an understanding of the occupational therapy profession and a genuine, reasoned commitment to studying the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) course.

Professional Requirements

Before enrolling you must fully declare on the forms provided during the admissions process:

- Unfiltered criminal convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings. For further information on unfiltered offences please see the Disclosure and Barring Service website.
- Involvement in disciplinary proceedings during paid or voluntary employment or education establishments
- Involvement with safeguarding proceedings, social services or related organisations

- Enrolment on a health or social work professional course at another University

In addition

Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Criminal Record Check

- You must undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal record check once you have accepted the offer of a place on the course and prior to enrolment week.
- If you have lived outside of the UK for more than six consecutive months in the last five years you must provide an overseas criminal record check.
- Where your DBS Enhanced Disclosure certificate contains any recorded information that you must present this to the Admissions Manager.

Additional costs

Additional costs are mandatory or optional costs which students will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete their course. Students will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Tuition Fee they are charged.

Essential

Occupational Health Screening

You must undertake occupational health screening to determine your suitability to undertake the course.

We take the safety of our community seriously and advise all students to attend university fully vaccinated (or have demonstrated immunity) against the following diseases:

- Meningitis
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Chickenpox
- Tuberculosis

AECC University College has unique multidisciplinary clinics which attract a variety of clinicians and patients, and we actively seek new opportunities for students off campus within the NHS and private sector to enrich their clinical learning. It is necessary for clinical staff, students, and public protection that everyone is protected in accordance with the UK Health Security Agency guidance. If you do not have any of the vaccinations listed above, you must contact your General Practitioner or family doctor to arrange for these as soon as possible. If you have had these vaccinations, you will be required to provide evidence of them or have blood tests to assess your immunity. Your General Practitioner or family doctor are normally able to provide a printout from your medical records.

At AECC University College, offers are subject to satisfactory screening in terms of your health and welfare before the start of your course.

This is to ensure that you are physically and mentally suited to a career in health. If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your General Practitioner (GP) or local healthcare provider.

- Students undertaking NHS placements will require extra vaccinations e.g. Hepatitis B (3 dose course), you can view more information on [our website](#).

Placements:

- The locality of placements can take students across Dorset and neighbouring counties. This will incur additional costs and students need to plan for this in their annual budget. Typically, these costs are for travel and, if necessary, accommodation to access placement. The amount of money involved will depend on the site of the placement, distance from home, and the type and length of placement. Costs of several hundred pounds can be expected, and exceptionally over £1000 per year. UK students may claim placement travel expenses, and costs towards any additional accommodation that may be required in order to access placements from the NHS support fund but these costs are reimbursed to a threshold. More information about this can be found at: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf>
- All applicants are required to undergo an Occupational Health Check, this is to ensure that you are physically and mentally suited to a career in health. If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your GP. The link to the questionnaire from our OH provider will be sent out in November, this forms the basis of the health screening so it is vital that all questions are answered as fully and honestly as possible. The questionnaire covers the issue of vaccinations, and it is important that students are aware that they will need to provide evidence of the vaccinations, immunity or have the full range of immunisations before they start in any clinic environment. Applicants must meet the costs of this check (**approx. £28.50**) and any subsequent costs, related to the pre-clearance stage. Any missed appointments will be charged to the student at the full price.
- More information can be found on [our website](#).

Disability support

If you are a disabled person or have a long-term health condition, you are advised to read the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) booklet: Health, disability and becoming a health and care professional

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/resources/guidance/health-disability-and-becoming-a-health-and-care-professional/>

We strongly recommend that you tell us about any long-term health conditions, learning difficulty or disability you may have. This is so we can assess whether we can deliver the course in such a way that you can meet the HCPC standards of proficiency and take part without disadvantage both in University and on placement.

Other important information

When students are considering applying for the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) they should be aware of the following:

- During practical classes students may be expected to practice physical examination and therapy skills using other students in their course group as subjects, and to act as a subject for other students. These are mixed gender groups. As well as physical contact with other students this also involves undressing down to underwear leaving the underwear on (short lycra shorts and tank tops may be worn). Students may purchase a treatment gown to wear, if they are uncomfortable wearing only their underwear/ shorts
- Students should discuss any concerns about this with us before making an application for the course or accepting an offer of a place. If the concerns relate to issues covered by the Equality Act 2010 (such as religion, disability, gender reassignment) we will be pleased to discuss with the student how reasonable adjustments can be made to enable them to study on the course; however the University College can only make adjustments where this will not interfere with the student's ability to demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for the course, and meet the requirements of relevant Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs). Please contact admissions@aecc.ac.uk
- Annually, students are required to complete a questionnaire about their health; if any issues are identified students may not be able to act as subjects in practical classes, as above.
- Students are required to declare any criminal records and changes in their criminal record as soon as they occur, i.e. if they have been cautioned, reprimanded, warned, charged or convicted in relation to **any** criminal activity.
- Students will be expected to dress appropriately for practical classes and when representing the University College in the local community and on placements.
- There are a number of items which students will be required or are recommended to purchase in order to get the maximum benefit from the course; see below under 'additional costs'.
- Students are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements

while enrolled at the University College. The Student Services team can offer advice and assistance in finding private rented accommodation in the area.

Additional costs

Additional costs are mandatory or optional costs which students will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete their course. Students will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Tuition Fee they are charged.

Essential

- Students must complete any mandatory training as a requirement before going on placement.
- Practice Placements will incur costs and students need to plan for this in their annual budget. Typically, these costs are for travel and, if necessary, accommodation to access placement. The amount of money involved will depend on the site of the placement, distance from home, and the type and length of placement. Costs of several hundred pounds can be expected, and exceptionally over £1000 per year. Students may claim placement travel expenses, and costs towards any additional accommodation that may be required in order to access placements. You are required to successfully complete 1000 hours of practice placement. Over the two years of the programme you will complete six assessed practice placements. You will need to budget for the additional costs of placement which may include travel and / or accommodation costs.
- Currently, the NHS provides some reimbursement of additional placement costs to eligible students through the learning support fund. More information about this can be found at: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund/about-learning-support-fund> Students will be required to practice clinical skills using each other as models, and so will need clothing which is suitable for practical sessions whilst in University College. It is important that you are appropriately dressed for these sessions. You will require loose clothing that you can move easily in but ensure that you remain appropriately covered:
 1. A pair of shorts
 2. Tracksuit /jogging bottoms
 3. Plain Polo Shirt or vest top
 4. Trainers or shoes with non-slip soles
- The following items of uniform will be provided by the University College: x1 polo shirt, x1 tunic top, x1 pair of trousers and x1 fleece all with AECC University logo and student title. A name badge will also be provided with the University Logo.
- You will also need to provide 1 pair of flat black shoes with a nonslip rubber sole. If you wish to wear a head covering such as a hijab it must be black and will need to be provided by yourself. You may wish to purchase additional items of uniform and you will need to replace any lost or damaged items from the University's official supplier. Approximate costs of these are: £12 for either tops or trousers.

- All applicants are required to undergo an Occupational Health Check, this is to ensure that you are physically and mentally suited to a career in health. If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your GP. The link to the questionnaire will be sent out in September, this forms the basis of the health screening so it is vital that all questions are answered as fully and honestly as possible. The questionnaire covers the issue of vaccinations and it is important that students are aware that they will need to have a full range of immunisations before they start in a clinic environment. Applicants must meet the costs of this check (approx. £28.50) and any subsequent immunisations that are required are paid for by the student.
- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check at the start of your course, you will complete an enhanced criminal record check through the Disclosure and Barring Services. This needs to be paid for by you. If you suspend your studies for a year or more you will also have to pay for a new criminal records check. Occasionally placement providers request an additional check if the certificate is more than one year old. If this is the case, you will need to pay for the additional check.
- Purchase a practical kit (approximate cost £80 - £150 depending on the kit option which is chosen).
- Some assignments require the submission of a printed paper copy. The cost of this is the students' responsibility and will vary depending on the length of the assignment. There are no photocopying or printing credits provided.
- Should a student fail any assessments and be offered an opportunity to repeat a unit or units there will be a fee payable as set out below (fees quoted at 2022-23 prices): *
- Home students: £1,540 per unit (20 credits)
- EU/Overseas students: £2,500 per unit (20 credits)

* If a student is only sitting elements of unit due to exceptional personal circumstances, accepted by the Assessment Board, this is not considered a Repeat Unit and fees do not apply. This may impact maintenance loans from the Student Loan Company and students are advised to contact the Student Finance team on studentfinance@aecc.ac.uk for further information.

Recommended

- It is recommended that students purchase a tablet or computer/laptop for their personal use, as this will enhance their learning by giving them immediate access to our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Optional

- Teaching materials are made available in electronic format on the Virtual Learning Environment. If students wish to have a printed copy they may print these materials at their own cost.

- Core texts are available in the library but there are limited numbers and most students buy some but not necessarily all text books.
- We are unable to offer any storage facilities for personal belongings of students except for a limited number of lockers. Students can rent a locker from the AECC Students' Union (ASU) on payment of a single fee of £10.
- There may be other costs for activities that will enhance students' time here but are not directly related to their programme. For example, there is an annual fee (currently £70) to join our gym (gym membership is a requirement to join some ASU/University College sports societies). Some ASU-organised social events and activities through ASU Societies will be at an additional cost.
- On successful completion of the course students have the option to attend the graduation ceremony. Students choosing to attend must meet the cost of hiring academic dress for the ceremony; wearing of academic dress at the ceremony is compulsory. The academic dress is provided by an external company. In 2022 the hire cost was £38. There are no other charges to the graduate for the graduation ceremony. However, additional tickets for family members and friends are chargeable per head, you will be advised of the price before you graduate.
- You will be provided with transcripts for each year of study along with a diploma supplement and degree certificate upon completion of your course of study. If you require a replacement of any of these documents there will be a fee payable as set out below:
 - Transcript (per academic year): £10
 - Degree Certificate: £40
 - Diploma Supplement: £10

Where 2022-23 prices are quoted these costs are not expected to increase by any substantial amount for 2023-24.