

## This information applies to the following course:

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

## Important information about your course

### Relevant experience and professional conduct

When applying to the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) course, it is essential that you have experience interacting with people from a variety of backgrounds and in different settings. Just as important is your ability to reflect on these experiences and explain how they have helped you develop the skills and qualities expected of an occupational therapist. The NHS values are central to our selection process. We aim to recruit students who not only have the right skills but also the right values to ensure the highest standards of patient care. The core values outlined in the NHS Constitution are:

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

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-constitution>

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.

Health education England offer range of on-line opportunities to enhance your understanding of careers in healthcare: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

### **Enhanced DBS Check and police checks**

Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance is a course requirement. DBS checks are required due to the nature of working with vulnerable groups, including children and adults, and are a requirement of the regulatory bodies governing courses. If you have lived outside the UK for six months or more in the last five years, you will also need to provide a police-check from the relevant country or countries. **You are responsible for covering the cost of your enhanced DBS Check and any Police Checks required.** These costs are non-refundable.

**Students must subscribe to the DBS update service** for the duration of the course so that DBS clearance can be confirmed as required.

Costs:

- Enhanced DBS Check: approx. £58.
- Police checks: Subject to local charges.
- DBS update service: currently £16 per annum, plus a £5 admin fee.

### **Applicants with criminal convictions**

Having a criminal record does not automatically stop you from studying at the university. However, the university is legally required to check that students who will take part in regulated activities, such as placements involving children or vulnerable adults, are suitable to do so, and also has a duty to protect the wider HSU student, staff and patient community.

Any unfiltered criminal convictions that you declare, or that are found through these checks, will be reviewed under the university's Criminal Convictions Procedure. You will be told the outcome. The university may withdraw an offer if a conviction is not considered suitable for the course, or if you do not take part in the checking process.

You should tell the university as soon as possible about any unfiltered convictions, cautions, reprimands, or warnings to avoid delays. More information about unfiltered offences is available on the [DBS website](#).

If you are subject to any cautions, reprimands, warnings, charges or conviction during your time as a student you must declare these to the university immediately.

### **Pre-enrolment health and vaccination screening**

You will be required to complete a Pre-enrolment Health and Vaccination Screening prior to enrolling for this course. This is to protect the health and safety of the HSU community, including the patients you will be working with, and to ensure the university can adequately support you in your studies. This is a mandatory process.

The screening involves an initial triage assessment with our approved independent Occupational Health provider. You will need to pay for the cost of your pre-enrolment health screening £28.50.

Any follow-up appointments required for the purposes of placement will be covered by the university, including any vaccinations that are needed. Missed appointments, second opinions requested by applicant or student will need to be covered by yourself. Students requiring additional vaccinations outside of the recommended schedule will need to cover those additional costs.

All students having NHS placements will need to provide evidence of having the following vaccinations, having a blood test to confirm immunity or having the vaccinations if needed:

- occupational Hepatitis B x4 doses
- MMR
- Varicella
- TB

All students are strongly advised to be immunised against Covid-19, Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and the seasonal flu are up to date.

If the screening highlights any health concerns which may impact your ability to participate in your course or chosen career, we will contact you to discuss this. In limited circumstances it may be necessary to withdraw your offer.

### **Annual health questionnaire**

Students are also required to complete an annual questionnaire about their health; if any issues are identified students may not be able to act as subjects in practical classes.

## **Guidance for Applicants with a Disability or Health Condition**

We are keen to support students who wish to share a disability or health condition and encourage you to discuss this with us at the earliest opportunity so we can support you throughout your enrolment and student journey. At this time, our buildings have certain areas that may pose challenges for students with mobility needs. If you have any specific accessibility requirements or would like information or guidance, please contact us at [studentservices@aecc.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@aecc.ac.uk). Please see our [Student Services pages](#) for more information.

If you have a disability or 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 during timetabled teaching and on placement.

## **Other declarations**

You must also share with us if any of the following apply:

- Involvement in disciplinary proceedings during paid or voluntary employment or within education establishments.
- Involvement with safeguarding proceedings, social services, or related organisations.
- Enrolment on a health or social work professional course at another University.

## **Course delivery**

The course is delivered across 45 weeks and four days for each of the two academic years. Consequently, the course does not run to standard undergraduate term/semester dates. Short holiday periods and dedicated independent study periods are built in throughout the year.

For the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) course the pass mark is 50%.

## **Practical teaching**

In practical classes, students practise examination and treatment skills on each other in mixed-gender groups. This involves physical contact with other students. You will need to be appropriately and decently dressed, so that you and your peers feel comfortable and confident around each other.

If you have any concerns about this, you should contact the university before applying or accepting an offer. If your concerns relate to religion, disability, or another protected characteristic, the university will discuss reasonable adjustments where possible. Any adjustments must still allow you to meet the course requirements and professional standards.

For more information, please contact [admissions@hsu.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@hsu.ac.uk)

## **Clinical placements**

Students must complete any mandatory training as a requirement before going on placement.

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>

Students on community placements or placements that require travel between site locations, who are explicitly using their car to go from one location to another for care delivery (e.g. home visits, school visits) must have Business Car Insurance coverage. The NHS does not reimburse any costs associated with business insurance coverage.

During clinical placement, students will be expected to:

- Attend allocated placement sessions and complete all required placement hours or weeks of attendance (minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised, assessed placement).

- Work scheduled clinical shifts, which may include morning, afternoon, evening, and occasional weekend sessions depending on service need.
- Participate in academic teaching or supervision sessions that may take place outside clinical hours.
- Discuss any known commitments that could affect placement availability with the course team as early as possible.
- Seek approval from the appropriate course or clinical lead for any period of absence beyond normal sickness reporting processes.

Students on placement are expected to behave professionally at all times and follow university placement and clinical procedures. Appropriate dress and good personal hygiene are required when attending classes and while on placement.

### **Clinical uniform**

Students will be provided with a limited number of HSU branded top items, for the purposes of placement, free-of-charge. Additional items or replacements must be purchased from the University's official supplier at the student's own cost.

Students are expected to provide their own flat black shoes with a non-slip rubber sole, and their own dark shaded trousers for the purposes of placement. Students wishing to wear a head covering such as a hijab should provide a plain black version at their own cost.

### **Attendance**

Attendance for required mandatory training is essential to be eligible to go out on placements. Any non-engagement with academic units will be actioned as per the HSU student engagement policy.

Any absence required for an extended period should be discussed with the Course Leader.

International students studying under a Student visa are reminded that attendance and engagement requirements form part of the conditions of their immigration permission as well as the academic requirements of the course. The University is required to monitor attendance and participation and may need to report concerns regarding non-attendance, poor engagement, or prolonged absence to the relevant authorities. Students are therefore expected to attend all scheduled teaching, supervisory, and assessment-related activities and to inform the University promptly of any circumstances affecting their attendance.

## Additional costs summary

Students should be aware that there may be other course costs in addition to course fees. Potential costs you may need to consider are provided in the table below, but please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

**All fees are correct at the time of writing and may be subject to change.**

Item	Cost
<p><b>Accommodation &amp; Living Costs</b></p> <p>Students are responsible for making their own accommodation and living arrangements while studying at the University.</p> <p>Limited student accommodation is available to Bournemouth students on a first-come-first-served basis. Find out more at <a href="#">Accommodation   Health Sciences University</a></p> <p>HSU's Student Services team can provide information and guidance on finding suitable accommodation as an HSU student.</p>	<p>Costs vary depending on personal preferences, accommodation supplier and location.</p>
<p><b>Enhanced DBS Check and Police Checks</b></p> <p>You are responsible for covering the cost of your Enhanced DBS Check and any Police Checks required. These costs are non-refundable.</p> <p>Students must subscribe to the DBS update service for the duration of the course so that DBS clearance can be confirmed as required.</p>	<p>Enhanced DBS Check: approx. £58</p> <p>Police checks: Subject to local charges.</p> <p>DBS update service: currently £16 per annum, plus a £5 admin fee.</p>

<p><b>Health Screenings and Vaccinations</b></p> <p>You will need to pay for the cost of your pre-enrolment health and vaccination screening. Any follow-up appointments required for the purposes of placement will be covered by the university, including any vaccinations that are needed. Missed appointments, second opinions requested by applicant or student will need to be covered by yourself.</p> <p>All students attending NHS placements will need to provide evidence of having the following vaccinations, having a blood test to confirm immunity or having the vaccinations if needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• occupational Hepatitis B x4 doses</li> <li>• MMR</li> <li>• Varicella</li> <li>• TB</li> </ul> <p>All students are strongly advised to be immunised against Covid-19, Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and the seasonal flu are up to date.</p>	<p>Initial pre-enrolment health and vaccination screening provided by Innovate at a cost of £28.50.</p> <p>Additional costs may apply for second opinions or missed appointments without a valid reason.</p>
<p><b>Uniform and clothing</b></p> <p>Students will be provided with a limited number of HSU branded top items, for the purposes of placement, free-of-charge. Additional items or replacements must be purchased from the University’s official supplier at the student’s own cost.</p> <p>Students must provide their own:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flat black shoes with a non-slip rubber sole.</li> </ul>	<p>Costs subject to brand and supplier.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark shaded trousers for the purposes of placements</li> <li>• Loose clothing for practical sessions</li> <li>• Plain black head covering (if required)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Student Card</b></p> <p>You will be given an HSU Student Card at no charge at the point of registration. Replacement cards will be issued at cost to the student.</p>	<p>£10.00 (non-refundable) per replacement card.</p>
<p><b>Travel costs</b></p> <p>Students are expected to arrange and fund their own travel to and from university.</p>	<p>Costs vary depending on individual travel arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Placement costs</b></p> <p>Students may need to pay for additional travel and, if necessary, accommodation costs while attending placements. The amount of money involved will depend on the location, type, and length of placement.</p> <p>Students who use their own car to travel between site locations on community placements (e.g. to attend different clinics or make home visits) must have Business Car Insurance coverage in place.</p>	<p>Costs vary depending on individual placement and travel arrangements.</p> <p>Currently, the NHS provides some reimbursement of additional placement costs to eligible UK students through the learning support fund. More information about this can be found at: <a href="https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf">https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf</a></p> <p>The NHS does not reimburse any costs associated with business insurance coverage.</p>

<p><b>Teaching materials</b></p> <p>Teaching materials are 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 (see below).</p> <p>Core texts are available in the library but there are limited numbers, and most students buy some, but not necessarily all, textbooks. Applicants are advised not to purchase these in advance.</p>	<p>Costs vary depending on personal preferences.</p>
<p><b>Photocopying/printing</b></p> <p>Some assignments require the submission of a printed paper copy. Students must cover photocopying/printing costs except for necessary copying of patient records required in clinic.</p>	
<p><b>IT Equipment</b></p> <p>Students are advised to purchase their own laptop or tablet to support their studies.</p>	<p>Costs vary depending on personal preferences.</p>
<p><b>Gym membership</b></p> <p>Students may pay an annual fee to join our on-site gym (Bournemouth campus only). This is an optional cost but please note gym membership is a requirement for some HSUSU/Health Sciences University sports societies.</p>	<p>Current annual fee: £75</p>

<p><b>Social activities</b></p> <p>HSUSU organises social activities for HSU students. This includes a programme of activities during Welcome Week for new students to support the transition to university life, and other social events and activities throughout the year. Students are advised to allow a budget for social activity when budget planning.</p>	<p>Costs vary depending on personal interests and participation.</p>
<p><b>Lockers</b></p> <p>A limited number of lockers are available to rent from the University's Students' Union (HSUSU) for the storage of personal belongings.</p>	<p>Current cost £10 (non-refundable)</p>
<p><b>Graduation</b></p> <p>Students who successfully complete their course are invited to attend a graduation ceremony. This is optional.</p> <p>Graduates can attend the ceremony free of charge but must hire a gown from our approved supplier.</p> <p>Guest tickets for friends and family may be subject to a fee. Graduates will be notified of the cost and the number available to purchase ahead of the event.</p> <p>Any travel or accommodation costs associated with attending the ceremony must be covered by the graduate/guest.</p>	<p>Gown hire: approx. £39.</p> <p>Graduate tickets: Free</p> <p>Guest tickets: approx. £20 – 25.</p> <p>Travel/accommodation: Costs vary depending on personal preferences.</p>