

Role Emerging Occupational Therapy Placement – University of Lincoln

What is a role emerging placement?

A role emerging (extended scope) placement is defined as non-traditional placement at a site or within a service where there is not an established occupational therapist role. Students are placed in an organisation where there is not already an occupational therapist and tasked with exploring how the theory and philosophy of occupational therapy could potentially contribute to the placement setting. They then present their thoughts in a presentation to their onsite mentor, long arm supervisor and university link tutor in the final week of the placement.

Logistics of the placement

The role emerging placement is the 3rd of 4 placements that Pre-registration MSc Occupational Therapy students undertake through the University of Lincoln. Students are in the 2nd year of a 2-year course when they embark on the placement and will qualify as Occupational Therapists at the end of the year, subject to passing all course requirements.

The placement runs over 6 weeks in April/May (15th April – 24th May in 2024) and students are expected to complete 37.5 placement hours each week. This includes a half day study every week and students attend a whole day at university on the final Friday of the placement which is included in their placement hours.

Students do not carry a caseload or act as qualified occupational therapists whilst on the placement but can and should support the services they are placed within as appropriate. Previous role emerging projects have included students producing information packs for clients, referral and screening paperwork and setting up occupational therapy informed groups that continued to run after students had finished the placement.

Students can work from home as needed during the placement, in line with the organisational policies of their placement setting and are also likely to need time off site to carry out research related to their learning needs and end of placement presentation.

Support during the placement

LONG ARM SUPERVISOR: Students will be allocated a long arm supervisor for the duration of the placement. This is a qualified occupational therapist in another setting, who will provide weekly long arm supervision to support students with their Occupational Therapy reasoning throughout the placement. The long-arm supervisor will complete the assessment documentation for the placement and should meet with the student for a minimum of 1 hour once a week.

ON-SITE MENTOR: An on-site mentor should also be identified from within the placement setting. This is someone within the organisation who can be the student's point of contact and offer guidance on appropriate activities for the students to engage in whilst on the placement.

UNIVERSITY LINK TUTOR: The university link tutor is a contact from within the university team programme team who can offer support to students, long arm supervisors and on site mentors throughout the placement. They will complete a mid-point virtual meeting with students and long arm supervisors to support with the assessment of the students and will be present for the end of placement presentation. They are a point of contact should anyone involved in the placement have any concerns at any point during the placement.