

# BSc (HONS) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

CODE:  
CK704



**School of Clinical  
Therapies**

Department of  
Occupational Science  
and Occupational  
Therapy



**University College Cork, Ireland**  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



# A Tradition of Independent Thinking



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# Welcome



Prof. Jeanne Jackson  
Head of Department  
Occupational Science  
and Occupational  
Therapies at  
University College  
Cork

The values of the School are shared with those of UCC. The essential elements are those of leadership, excellence, accountability and collaboration. We aim to work to the highest standards and encourage initiative, creativity and innovation in all activities. We are committed to the intellectual growth, social formation and welfare of our students. We recognise the strength that we derive from diversity among our students and staff and we commit ourselves to a global focus in all of our activities.

## Mission:

To be a community of scholars committed to developing substantive knowledge about human occupation which is disseminated through scholarship, teaching, research and practice for the purpose of optimising occupational lives of individuals, groups, communities and societies.

# Programme Structure

## **BSc (HONS) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT)**

Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy was established in 2003 following the need to increase occupational therapy education places nationally in Ireland.

There has been an intake of approximately 25-30 undergraduate students annually since 2003; approximately 21 students have graduated each year since 2007.

The curriculum is based on standards set by the professional associations, the Association of Occupational Therapists in Ireland (AOTI) guided by the revised minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists from the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (2002).



## Key Features

- Self-directed, small-group, task-based learning
- Focus on Practice Education
- Emphasis on professionalism and teamwork
- Research focused

# Teaching and Learning

## TEACHING METHODS

The BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy is a four year, full-time course. The course is delivered through lectures, workshops, Practice Education and Task Based Learning tutorials.

*Task Based Learning* (TBL) is used to facilitate “inductive thought, creative thinking, problem solving, critical consideration and reflection” (Ryan et al., 2009). TBL is experiential and promotes learning by doing in real life context. Students are asked to complete an experiential task over a week and reflect on that task in a feedback session with peers. TBL allows students to develop the skills, knowledge and attitude necessary to become a professional OT.



# Curriculum at a Glance

## Year 1 Occupation & Health Across the Lifespan

Understanding People, Environments and Occupations  
 .....  
 Becoming a Healthcare Professional  
 .....  
 Creative Occupations & Health  
 .....  
 Topographical Anatomy  
 .....  
 Physiology  
 .....  
 2 Weeks Clinical Placement  
 .....  
 Psychology  
 .....

## Year 2 Children & Young People

Occupation Centred Practice with Children, Young People and Families  
 .....  
 Personal Professional Development  
 .....  
 Introduction to Research Methods  
 .....  
 Developmental Neuro-Anatomy  
 .....  
 Advanced Developmental Psychology  
 .....  
 8 Weeks Clinical Placement  
 .....

## Year 3 Adults & Older People

Occupation Centred Practice with Adults and Older Adults  
 .....  
 Becoming a Professional Practitioner  
 .....  
 Personal Professional Development  
 .....  
 Advanced Research Methods  
 .....  
 The Psychology of Aging  
 .....  
 10 Weeks Clinical Placement  
 .....

## Year 4 Integrating Knowledge

Advanced Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy; Occupation, Innovation and Integration  
 .....  
 Integrated Professional Practice  
 .....  
 Creating Leaders in OT  
 .....  
 Research Based Dissertation  
 .....  
 Innovative OT Practice  
 .....  
 10 Weeks Clinical Placement  
 .....

# Practice Education

## CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

*Practice Education* (clinical placement) comprises of 1,050 hours (30 weeks) placement spread throughout the programme in years 1, 2, 3, and 4 to facilitate the application of knowledge gained during the academic year.

Practice Education is delivered through a partnership between the University, the Health Service Executive, and voluntary and private sector providers. These placements will be throughout Southern Ireland. Students may need to travel and/or arrange short-term accommodation near the placement sites.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the ERASMUS programme which is a European student exchange programme offering students a possibility of studying or working abroad in another European country for a period of up to 3 months.

Our students have undertaken successful exchanges in Wales and Denmark.

### *Placement Partnerships:*

- Primary Community Care Centres
- Intellectual Disability Services
- School-Based Services
- Acute Care Settings
- Rehabilitation Settings
- Long-Term Care Services
- Private Practice



# Research - Structured & Supported



## STUDENT RESEARCH

UCC is an internationally competitive, research-led University and home to world-renowned research centres. A culture of research is fostered among our students from the start of their Occupational Therapy training.

All students receive structured teaching in research methodologies. Students complete a research project in their final year with the support of principal investigators within the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

Increasingly, students present their research at national meetings and publish their work in peer-reviewed journals.

# The UCC Student Experience

A number of factors combine to make the student experience at UCC an enjoyable and memorable one, where students form lifelong friendships and develop new skills and talents.



## UCC CAMPUS

The UCC campus is one of the most beautiful in Europe - an idyllic garden campus on the banks of the river Lee, within walking distance of a historic city steeped in culture and tradition.

## STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

UCC has a large range of high-quality student accommodation within a short walk of campus.

## CORK CITY

Cork is Ireland's second largest city (population 300,000) and is a cosmopolitan, modern city with a vibrant café, restaurant and nightlife culture. Cork's international airport is only 6 km from campus and the city has well-developed rail and bus connections.



## SPORT AND LEISURE

UCC has outstanding sports facilities, including a 25 metre swimming pool, 72 acres of playing fields, athletic tracks, and a superb indoor Sports Centre (Mardyke Arena). UCC has over 55 sports clubs ranging from traditional team sports to adventure sports such as paragliding, kite surfing and parachuting.

Cork city is also an ideal city in which to run or cycle and many students go hiking and surfing at the weekends.



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

UCC has an extensive network of clubs and societies ranging from sports to music and theatre. The Clinical Therapies Society is run by occupational therapy students and speech and language therapy students.

The society aims to provide fun social and educational opportunities throughout the year for all students of the School of Clinical Therapies.



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Cork is gateway to some of Ireland's most scenic locations. Hike and cycle in our mountains, forests and glens; sail and surf around Ireland's spectacular coasts.

## CULTURE

Cork has a rich tradition of culture - architecture, theatre, music, art, literature and poetry and hosts the world-famous jazz, choral, film and folk festivals.

- Nominated by Lonely Planet as one of top 10 World Cities
- European Capital of Culture 2005



# Our Students

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UCC

UCC has a long history of international student admissions. Today, almost 3000 international students from 100 countries attend UCC. The University does everything possible to make the transition to Ireland and UCC a positive one.

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE

The International Education Office at UCC is a “one-stop shop” for international students providing information on all aspects of studying in UCC-programmes of study, application and immigration procedures and help with registration and orientation. The International Education Office also organises a variety of social events throughout the year.

The Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy welcomes international applications.

## MEET OUR STUDENTS

**How would you describe the course to prospective students?**

*The course helps us learn about living, gain an understanding of people and how the environment matters, personal reflections on everyday life; varied, hands-on, enjoyable, small classes, combination of theory & practice, develop personally and professionally, stimulating, interesting, challenging, every day is unique, creative activities.*

**What qualities are important for prospective Occupational Therapy students?**

*Interested in people, hard-working, empathic, understanding, patient, caring, able to interact with others, have a sense of adventure, open-minded, willing to give something a try, work as a team member, friendly, and want to make a difference.*

**How would you describe Occupational Therapy as a career?**

*At the end of my first year in studying Occupational Therapy at UCC, I can safely say that I am certain I have made the right choice. So far this course has been extremely interesting.*

*In year two, my practice placement was working for eight weeks with children who experience intellectual disability. This placement was enjoyable and rewarding as I had the opportunity to work closely with young children and their families within a multi-disciplinary team.*

# 10 Reasons to Study Occupational Therapy at UCC

**1.** We were one of the first universities in the world to design the curriculum according to the latest WFOT [2002] guidelines

**2.** A strong focus on occupation in keeping with international trends

**3.** Task and project-based learning – you develop knowledge, skills and attitudes through active learning and continuous assessment

**4.** Lifespan approach across the curriculum. UCC uniquely devotes one whole academic year to working with children and young people

**5.** Learn with other health science students – after all, you will be working together when you qualify

**6.** Small class size – great staff-student relationships – high level of support for your learning and development

**7.** Opportunities to travel abroad on your practice education placements

**8.** Award-winning staff group with varied clinical and research expertise

**9.** Vibrant research programme in the department

**10.** Opportunities for students to attend OT conferences and do postgraduate study

## School of Clinical Therapies

Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy



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### WEBSITE LINKS

Occupational Therapy Website:  
[www.ucc.ie/en/ot](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ot)  
Overview of the BSc in Occupational Therapy: [www.ucc.ie/en/ot/overviewundergraduate](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ot/overviewundergraduate)  
Grad Ireland Job Description: <http://gradireland.com/careers-advice/job-descriptions/occupational-therapist>  
Twitter: @UCC\_OSOT  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/osotucc](http://www.facebook.com/osotucc)

