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Foreword from Paul Hartwell

Welcome to the latest Practice Based Learning Newsletter. I only realised as I started to assemble it that it has turned into a bumper issue. I hope that it contains a range of useful and interesting resources to support you in your roles.

Thank you all for your support and efforts over the past year. Over the past year you have supported us to provide in the region of 300 placements to our Occupational Therapy Students. I have personally enjoyed meeting many of you whilst visiting students on placements and during educator training courses and refreshers. Your support is very much appreciated and is a key part of why we retained our position as the best rated Occupational Therapy Programme in the UK. Full details can be found in the following link:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/search/undergraduate/occupational-therapy>

The past year has not been without challenges within the University and I know from conversations with you all that many of these have been replicated in practice. I stepped in alongside Helen Langford to co-lead the Practice Education Team earlier this year following some staffing gaps. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Helen and to have been able to collaborate and work as colleagues with you all in practice. Helen will move into a different role as Deputy Programme Manager for the BSc Occupational Therapy Programme in September. Following this I will lead the Practice Education Team with support from the Team. I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming year and please do get in touch if you have any questions or wish to raise anything with me.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter in future then please get in touch at hcareotpracedu@cardiff.ac.uk

Best Wishes



Paul Hartwell

If you have an idea for an article and would like to collaborate with the Practice Education Team then please get in touch via hcareotpracedu@cardiff.ac.uk

Meet the Team



Paul Hartwell – hartwellp@cardiff.ac.uk

Paul joined Cardiff University in April 2021 and became part of the Practice Education Team. Having jointly led the Practice Education Team with Helen Langford for much of 2022 Paul will be taking on the Lead Role from September. Paul has worked throughout the UK since qualifying in 2005 but spent the last 10 years in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. Paul has a background in generalist / integrated roles and dementia care. Most recently, he worked as Lead Therapist for an Integrated Team before joining the team on the Occupational Therapy Programme.



Helen Langford – langfordh@cardiff.ac.uk

Helen joined Cardiff University in November 2019 and is a Cardiff University alumni. After completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy Helen has worked for Cygnet Healthcare and specialised in female mental health. Having worked in the private sector for several years she is keen to support educators in similar settings. Having jointly led the Practice Education team with Paul Hartwell for much of 2022, Helen will be transitioning to a new role in the University this autumn and will be Deputy Programme Manager for the BSc Occupational Therapy Programme.



Rachel Rowlands - rowlandsra@cardiff.ac.uk

Rachel left her previous vocation as a primary school teacher in 2014 to retrain as an occupational therapist. After graduating from the Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy, she worked briefly in mental health, first in an acute locked ward, and then a dementia unit. Rachel then moved to a community occupational therapy role within an aids and adaptations team in South Wales, whilst also undertaking her MSc in Occupation and Health. She joined the Cardiff University Occupational Therapy Programme, and the Practice Education Team in September 2019.



Andy McCluskey - McCluskeyAJ1@cardiff.ac.uk

Andy left his role as the Traumatic Brain Injury Practitioner at UHW in April 2022 to begin lecturing at Cardiff University. Since starting with Cardiff university Andy has been involved with the Practice Education Team. Andy has experience working in varied neuro settings in both Cardiff and Bristol including Neurosurgery, Neuro-rehab and Neuropsychiatry. Andy has also worked as an independent practitioner with The OT Centre. Andy completed his PGDip in Occupational Therapy at Cardiff University in 2009 and has completed his MSc in Advanced Practice.



Lucy Wells - wellsl4@cardiff.ac.uk

Having left the NHS at the end of 2020, Lucy worked independently as a Consultant Occupational Therapist for adults with Neurodevelopmental Conditions and / or mental health issues. She moved to Cardiff with her family in 2017 and worked as a Band 7 Highly Specialist Occupational Therapist for the Cardiff & Vale Integrated Autism Service (NHS and Social Care) until December 2020. Prior to that, Lucy worked for Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Trust for 13 years in adult mental health, older adult mental health, community rehabilitation, and the Sheffield Adult Autism & Neurodevelopmental Service. Lucy specialises in mental health and neurodevelopmental conditions (ASD, ADHD, DCD, etc.) in people aged 16 years upwards.

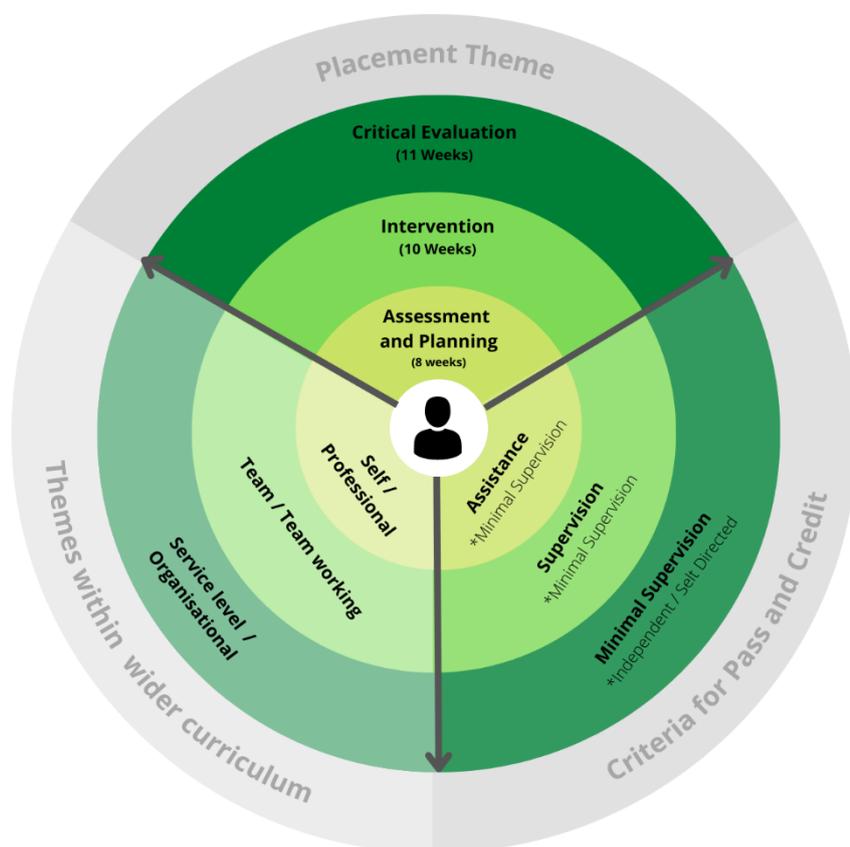


Edwina Maguire - Maguiree3@cardiff.ac.uk

Edwina joined Cardiff University in January 2022 as an Associate Lecturer. Edwina qualified from Exeter University in 2008 and has worked for Cardiff and Vale for 14 years. Edwina has worked in Hand Therapy since 2012 and continues to do so whilst working with Cardiff University. Edwina also works privately with the OT Practice. Edwina has a MSc in Hand Therapy and is an accredited Hand Therapist through BAHT.

Cardiff University Model for Practice Based Learning

We have been developing ways to communicate and conceptualise Practice Based Learning within Occupational Therapy at Cardiff University. We are pleased to be able to share the following model with you. Please contact us if you have any questions.



Cardiff University Model for Occupational Therapy Practice Based Learning

The BSc and MSc (Pre-registration) Occupational Therapy Programmes both follow a 3 placement structure containing over 1000 hours of clinical experience. The placements incrementally focus on stages of the occupational therapy process and are connected to academic work reflecting a broadening understanding of the profession. Whilst the placements are not graded the level required to pass or achieve a credit increases with each successive placement.

Contact: hcareotpracedu@cardiff.ac.uk

RCOT Virtual Placement Café <https://www.rcot.co.uk/virtual-placement-cafe>

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists have introduced a new forum to support Practice Educators.

“We’re bringing together people who support placements for pre-registration learners, to network and discuss ways of developing quality, sustainable opportunities.

The Placement Café aims to provide a space for practice educators and those who support OT placements to:

- *meet with peers*
- *share your good practice*
- *problem-solve your challenges*
- *bring your innovative ideas to life.*

We’ve held multiple successful drop-in sessions so far. See what other attendees had to say about it:

Kathryn Styles, Research Delivery Officer and Occupational Therapist: “Really helpful tips at the Placement Café this morning. Loved the idea of themed breakout rooms as a place to connect with those exploring similar ideas.”

Claire Hedley, AHP Practice Education Lead, NHS Education for Scotland: “This is well worth your time. Lots of great networking and idea sharing!”

Carolyn Hay, RCOT, Pre-registration Education Manager: “I am excited that our Placement Café has been so well received.”

The Café is held on the second Monday, 2–3pm and fourth Wednesday, 8.30–9.30am of every month. You can drop in at any time during the cafes.

Upcoming meeting dates 2022

- *Monday 12 September – 2.00-3.00pm*
- *Wednesday 28 September – 8.30-9.30am*

Please use these details to access the Café:

[Placement Café Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 895 2232 6909 Passcode: 605799

[Discover our five-minute reflection resource as an additional tool for your Placement Café.](#)

Student Numbers and Commissioning 2022 / 2023

This September sees a range of changes to Occupational Therapy Education in Wales in collaboration with HEIW. Entire new programmes will be starting in Swansea University and the University of South Wales (USW). In Cardiff, we have seen our last intake into the PGDip Programme and our new MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-reg) programme will start this Autumn.

Cardiff University will continue to work with providers across all of South Wales in relation to the HEIW commissioned numbers for existing cohorts. However, the new BSc and MSc cohorts will be commissioned from Health Boards predominantly in the South East. Cardiff University will see slightly reduced numbers on the BSc programme which will reduce from 88 last year to the mid 60s in the coming year.

We are in regular contact with the programmes in Swansea and USW to ensure that we work together as smoothly as possible. The All Wales Placement Plan is a document created by HEIW which stipulates each organisation's commissioned numbers for the incoming cohorts. This has been sent to all organisations for whom this is relevant to.

The allocation schedule was sent out to all lead coordinators earlier this year. One of the requirements of the new tender is for students to be informed of their placement details 8 weeks before the start of a placement. We have incorporated this into the allocation schedule for the next academic year. As you're aware, the allocation process is a complex process however here are some of the pertinent points of the schedule -

22 weeks before the placement starts – Lead coordinators are sent an email reminding them of the placement dates and their commissioned numbers (where appropriate). If you would like to provide a placement then please contact your coordinator with the details.

20 weeks before the placement starts – Lead coordinators return the placement details

11 weeks before the placement starts – We aim to inform educators whether a student has been allocated

8 weeks before the placement starts – We aim to inform students of their placement details. Students are then encouraged to contact their educator to arrange their pre-placement visit.

Contact Tutors

All members of the Occupational Therapy Programme Team act as a contact tutor on occasions to support students during their placements. You can use the links below to find out more about the different tutors, their backgrounds and interests. Please note that due to staff changes and some staff on short term contracts this list may occasionally change.

At present we are still being asked to offer a virtual visit at the halfway point in the first instance. However, please be aware that you can request a face to face visit if you feel that it is needed to support the student placement.

Current Occupational Therapy Staff / Contact Tutors

Dr Alison Seymour - Professional Head of Occupational Therapy / Programme Manager PgDip OT

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39336-seymour-alison>

Debra Gibbon

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39276-gibbon-debra>

Maria Clarke

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39283-clarke-maria>

Professor Teena Clouston

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39309-clouston-teena>

Nina Cogger

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39285-cogger-nina>

Lara Cowpe

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/546248-Cowpe-Lara>

Paul Hartwell

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/2575716->

Deb Hearle – Deputy Head of School, School of Healthcare Sciences

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39262-hearle-deb>

Dr Heather Hurst - Programme Manager Pre-Reg MSc

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/525019-hurst-heather>

Edwina Maguire - Associate Lecturer

- New team member - awaiting profile

Helen Langford

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/1717880-helen-langford>

Andy McCluskey

- New team member - awaiting profile

Gareth Morgan

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39235-morgan-gareth>

Dr Catherine Purcell

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/1250113-purcell-catherine>

Dr Carly Reagon

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39237-reagon-carly>

Rachel Rowlands

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/2401102->

Dr Dikaos Sakellariou

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39337-sakellariou-dikaos>

Ruth Squire

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39341-squire-ruth>

Lucy Wells

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/2594975->

Dr Steven Whitcombe

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/39342-whitcombe-steve>

Educator Training Dates 2022 / 2023

Members of our Practice Education Team have been working over recent months to update and refresh our educator training. One of the main aims has been to ensure that we maximise the opportunities to engage in discussion and activity during the synchronous on-line sessions. We look forward to revealing the new training this autumn.

Dates for the following year can be found below. Please note that in response to feedback from teams we have tried to vary the days on which training is offered. We are also in discussion with USW to work together on Practice Educator training to minimise potential duplication.

You can access the document with booking links below:

[Educator Training 2022 - 2023](#)

New Educator Training

- Thursday 15th September 2022 1-4pm
- Wednesday 22nd March 2023 1-4pm

This training is for educators who have not completed any previous educator training. This training takes place in two parts:

- Part 1 – attendees need to complete online e-learning modules (details available on the link above). You can access these materials when you book on.
- Part 2 - online virtual session with member of university practice education team – book using the link in the document above.

Refresher Educator Training

It is advised that existing educators complete refresher training at least once every 3 years. Please select the topic from the list below and use the related link to book on to these virtual sessions.

- **Cardiff University Placement Processes & Use of Learning Contracts**
Link to book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/135525160403>
Tuesday 15th November 2022 1pm – 4pm
- **Supporting Struggling Students & Giving Constructive Feedback**
Link to book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/135524014977>
Wednesday 11th January 2023 1pm – 4pm
- **Alternative Placements and Supervision Models**
Link to book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/135337623475>
Thursday 18th May 2023 1pm – 4pm
- **Supporting Students with Reasonable Adjustments and Additional Learning Needs**
Link to book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/168557611353>
Wednesday 12th July 2023 1pm – 4pm

Update to Credit System

We have been reviewing and revisiting the system around recognition for credits earned on placements. When Cardiff University moved away from graded placements a number of years ago they introduced a credit system to recognise students who performed over and above the expectations for the placement.

The Pass / fail / credit system utilised the former marking criteria and set the pass mark in the same place. This increases with each subsequent placement. The level for a credit was set at one level above this and increases in the same manner.

A student who achieved credits in 3 out of the 4 placements at the time would earn a 'Certificate of excellence'. In more recent years the programme moved from 4 to a 3-placement model. As a result the students needed a 'perfect' record to achieve a certificate.

We recognise that this has placed pressure on students and sometimes on educators which is not always helpful for learning. As of this coming year we have therefore introduced broader recognition for students who excel in Practice Based Learning.

The existing certificate will remain but there will be two new awards as described below:

Certificate of Excellence in Practice Education for achieving a Credit in 3 placements by the end of the programme.

Certificate of Merit in Practice Education for achieving a Credit in 2 placements by the end of the programme.

Certificate of Recognition in Practice Education for Achieving a Credit in 1 placement by the end of the programme.

We hope that this will support and motivate students and educators when engaging in placements. Please get in touch if you have any questions or feedback.

Occupational Therapy Practice Based Learning Newsletter

Cardiff University

October 2021

Placement Dates 2022 / 2023

	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	July 23	Aug 23
BSc 2020 (80)		Critical Evaluation 11 weeks 03.10.22 – 16.12.22										
BSc 2021 (87)					Intervention 10 weeks 16.01.23 – 24.03.23							
BSc 2022 (66)									Assessment and planning 8 weeks 24.04.23 – 16.06.23			
PG Dip 2021 (30)							Critical Evaluation 12 weeks 06.03.23 – 26.05.23					
Pre-reg MSc 2022 (22)						Assessment and planning 8 weeks 06.02.23 – 31.03.23				Intervention 10 weeks 19.06.23 – 25.08.23		

Changing roles – Lara Cowpe

It has been an incredible three years for occupational therapy practice education. Not only have we navigated a pandemic and all the challenges that threw our way, we have gone from strength to strength. A new platform was launched to host the student placement paperwork, a new forum for sharing practice and advice between the university and lead coordinators was established in the form of the Lead Coordinators meetings, a new Educator Training programme AND a new placement schedule was put in place. All of these changes on their own would have been enough but to have these take place one after the other, while ensuring that all students had a placement during the pandemic, is a major achievement. This is down to the hard work of the academic and placement support team as well as yourselves, our placement lead coordinators, heads of service and educators and of course, our students. Collaboration has been key.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all as Lead for practice education and while there have been difficult moments, it has been made so much easier knowing that we are working together to overcome challenges and provide the best placement experience that we can for our students. Just when we think we have had it all, something else comes along. That is the excitement and challenge of practice education. Practice Education underpins our programmes here at Cardiff University, it is integral and one of the things students focus on and I am so very proud of what we have all achieved, together.

Thank you so much for everything you do to support student education. I am sure we will meet again in future. For now, I leave you in the very capable hands of Paul Hartwell and the rest of the practice education team as I take on a new role as Programme Manager for BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy programme in 2023.

Best Wishes, Lara

Have you considered further study?

There are many reasons to consider further study as a practicing occupational therapist.

Increasingly, many Band 7 and above posts require applicants to have or be working towards a Master's level qualification. You may also wish to study to deepen your existing knowledge and build additional skills.

Cardiff University run an MSc Course for registered Occupational Therapists. You can find out more information via the links below:

Full time: [Occupational Therapy \(MSc\) \(full time\) \(18 months\) - Study - Cardiff University](#)

Part time: [Occupational Therapy \(MSc\) \(part time\) \(3 years\) - Study - Cardiff University](#)

Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss further and we can put you in touch with the MSc team.

Newsletter Contributions

If you have a question or have something to share within the newsletter please email hcareotpracedu@cardiff.ac.uk We would love to hear from you. The chances are that someone else may be thinking the same or would benefit from hearing your experience.