

## Whakaora Ngangahau | Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (level 7)

### Work Augmented Learning pathway

#### Thinking about supporting kaimahi | staff to engage in this programme?

This information sheet is for prospective employers and managers embarking on supporting kaimahi | staff in the occupational therapy Work Augmented Learning programme.

- **What is whakaora ngangahau | occupational therapy?**

Whakaora ngangahau | occupational therapy is a registered health profession under the Health Professions Competence Assurance act. Kaiwhakaora ngangahau | occupational therapists work alongside people to enable them to do the things they need and want to do to lead a satisfying life, however that may look for them. Occupational therapists work in health services (in hospitals and community, physical health settings and mental health settings), correction services, hauora services, NGOs, GP practices, schools and many other places.

- **Who is delivering this programme?**

This is an Otago Polytechnic programme, that has been successfully running in Ōtepoti |Dunedin and Kirikiriroa |Hamilton for several years. For the Work Augmented Learning pathway, Otago Polytechnic work with other regions to ensure regionally specific learning content. This includes the integration of a te ao Māori lens in the programme, and marae-based learning opportunities.

- **How long is the programme?**

This is a 3-year programme, however, ākongā | learners can take up to a maximum of 6 years to complete if they need to.

- **What will the ākongā | learner need to engage in this programme?**

Ākongā will need to be able to attend:

- One day a week on campus (for 32 weeks in year 1, and 28 weeks in years 2 and 3)
- One 3-hour online hui per teaching week (as above). This will be in an evening.
- Fieldwork placements (4 full weeks in year 1, and 8 full weeks in year 2 and year 3)
- Two additional days for fieldwork in year 1 and in year 3.
- Noho marae (Friday – Sunday) 4 times in year 1, and 2 times in year 2 and year 3.
- Spend around 4 hours per week engaged in online learning, along with some self-directed learning.

- **How might the financial side of things be managed?**

You may choose to fully support ākonga through paid release from mahi | work (which works out to be approximately 0.37 FTE for full time kaimahi over the 3 years).

You may also elect to assist with study fees, details are available on the Otago Polytechnic website. Ākonga may be eligible for the final year government fees free scheme.

We acknowledge that not all employers will be able to fully support ākonga financially, the attached table provides detail regarding different levels of support for you to consider.

- **What's in it for us?**

This is an opportunity for you to support people into and through tertiary education and on to membership of an allied health profession. Ultimately some of the health needs of the community will be better addressed through an increase of registered professionals in the region. Whakaora ngangahau | occupational therapy is an ideal profession to grow, given the breadth of places and populations we engage with and the holistic, pragmatic and grounded way we work with people.

In the workplace, you will likely notice development of professionalism, knowledge, confidence and people related skills in kaimahi as they work through the programme with us. Although they cannot “do” occupational therapy per se until they are registered, development of these professional skills will be of benefit to your service.

If you do not currently include occupational therapists on your team, this will enable you to learn more about the profession and how it might benefit your service should you choose to employ occupational therapists.

Additionally, there are two fieldwork experiences that might be appropriate for ākonga to achieve in your workplace – one is engaging in activities with tangata whaiora / whaikaha | service users and the other is a project developed with the service to benefit the service.

- **What if they need to move to a different job part way through the programme?**

If the job is within your organisation and meets the criteria for mahi then there are no adverse implications. There are protocols in place to support ākonga through transition to a different place of mahi if this is required.

- **What is my responsibility?**

The usual manager – kaimahi relationship will remain. This programme does not require kaimahi who are ākonga with us to do anything different in work. Mahi is used as a context for ākonga to observe / notice, and to reflect on what happens at work in relation to the concepts they are learning on a week-by-week basis. Ākonga will benefit from:

- opportunities to talk with colleagues at work, and with tāngata whaiora / whaikaha as they learn about specific concepts; the intention is that this is not intrusive or at odds with what is happening in the environment.
- opportunities to occasionally do targeted observations e.g. observe an interview or session.
- opportunities to implement some of their generic skills as they develop – these will be e.g. therapeutic communication skills, cultural safety. N.B. Ākonga will not be able to implement occupational therapy specific skills until they are registered.

All teaching and assessment are the responsibility of Otago Polytechnic.

- **Who can I talk to if there are any issues throughout the programme?**

A tripartite memorandum of cooperation has been developed outlining the relationship between manager, ākonga and Otago Polytechnic. This will enable an avenue of communication to check in regarding how things are progressing for ākonga and manager, and to work through any issues that may arise.

- **I still have some questions, who can I contact?**

We are happy to provide further information or to talk with you, please email [occupationaltherapy@op.ac.nz](mailto:occupationaltherapy@op.ac.nz)

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