

Master of Occupational Therapy

Fieldwork/ Practice Education



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is fieldwork?

Answer: Fieldwork also known as “clinical placements” or “practice education” is when students work with clients applying learnt content under supervision from a qualified health professional usually an occupational therapist.

Question: What is required before I can start fieldwork?

Answer: Students must meet compliance requirements set by the placement provider. At a minimum, students must have a current and valid Blue Card, NSW Working with Children Check, National Police Check, hepatitis B and other mandatory vaccinations, and current Provide First Aid (HLTAID003), Provide CPR (HLTAID001) accreditation and complete both QLD health and NSW health mandatory training. If the student is not compliant, they will not be able to attend placement and this will impact on their progression in the program.

Question: Am I expected to look for fieldwork opportunities as a student?

Answer: When students enrol in the Master of OT program practical education experience is embedded in the program and organised by the university. The faculty employs a range of staff who are responsible for organising fieldwork for students. Students do **not** look for fieldwork themselves and are NOT to contact OTs directly to ask them to take students.

Question: When does fieldwork occur?

Answer: Practice education is spread throughout the program and ranges from a few hours of fieldwork to block placements lasting several weeks or months. There is a total of 3 block placements. One occurs during your first year and the other two occur in your final year.

Question: Where does fieldwork occur?

Answer: Students are placed in a public, not for profit and / or private health or human services facility in and around Brisbane metropolitan, Gold Coast, Northern New South Wales area and in other states.

Question: Do I get to choose where I go for my fieldwork?

Answer: Students will get the opportunity to express their areas of clinical interest when placement offers are received by the university from practice education / fieldwork supervisors however, while every effort will be made to accommodate student interest, this is **not always** possible or practical. Furthermore, mandatory requirements as set out by WFOT and explained above must be met which may impact on the choice of placement for a student.

Question: Do I have to pay for fieldwork?

Answer: No, you do not have to pay the university or Practice Education Provider anything for going on placement. You are however responsible for paying for your own transport (fuel, tolls, parking fees) to get there and paying for your accommodation and living expenses in circumstances where your fieldwork is not accessible from your usual place of residence.

Question: What are the types of fieldwork that I am expected to do?

Answer: Prior to graduation MOT students are required to take up a variety of placements, in accordance with WFOT and OT Council requirements.



Range of personal factors

- **Examples:**
- Children & Adults &, or Older Persons
- Diverse genders & sexuality
- Indigenous & non-indigenous,
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups



Range of delivery systems

- **Examples:**
- Public hospital, Private hospital, & NGO
- Inpatient & community or Acute & non-acute
- Mental health & Physical health delivery systems
- Education settings for example schools



Range of occupation focused interventions

- **Examples:**
- Individual & Group interventions
- Community &, or Population focused interventions