

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists Accreditation Package

Services to Accredited Pre-registration Education Providers: Academic year 2023–2024

The services and benefits listed below are included in the accreditation package.

Services and benefits to education provider, programme team and learners	
1	<p>Professional body accreditation, continuing approval and periodic re-approval of all pre-registration education programmes. Which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition by the professional body as a provider of accredited education programme(s). • Delegated authority to confer the approval of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). • Consideration of major or minor changes throughout the accredited period to ensure continued accreditation. • Ongoing annual monitoring of individual pre-registration programmes. • External quality assurance that the education provision in individual institutions is at the appropriate standard, using robust peer review processes aligned to institution's own procedures. • Advice on implementation of the RCOT Learning and development standards for pre-registration education (2019). • Recurring opportunity for programme(s) to reflect on, evaluate and review their own curriculum, content and direction with full involvement from their education provider's senior management, stakeholders and professional, statutory and regulatory bodies.
2	Inclusion of learner and graduate data used to guide and influence future workforce predictions in the UK.
3*	Access to an annually updated external examiners register, which holds the details and areas of expertise of relevant registered occupational therapist RCOT members who are willing to serve as external examiners for pre-registration programmes in occupational therapy.
4*	<p>Advice and guidance for newly appointed Professional Lead (Strategic Level) and Programme Lead (Operational Level), or appropriate programme team members, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written guide providing information on RCOT quality monitoring requests and timelines. • Providing a regular drop in meeting space to support enquiries and informal networking. • Approaching suitably experienced educators who may act as mentors. Contact details will be made available with their consent. • An induction and overview of quality and accreditation work of our work, the resources available to members and the expectations of programme accreditation.
5*	<p>Introductory information sharing for education providers considering developing occupational therapy pre-registration provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting offered to provide initial advice and guidance. • Approaching suitably experienced educators who may act as external experts. Contact details will be made available with their consent.
6*	<p>Membership of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Occupational Therapy Education Directors (COTED), • Practice Placement Tutor's Forum (PPTF), • Occupational Therapy Admissions Tutors' Forum (OTAF) • Occupational Therapy Integrated Degree Apprenticeship Forum (OTIDAF). <p>Although not formal RCOT boards or committees, these groups are supported by, and work collaboratively with RCOT. As an accredited provider of pre-registration education or where new programmes are under development, we would encourage your attendance at these supportive and informative forums.</p>

7	<p>Access to local mediation services and support in discussions regarding programme sustainability and feasibility with senior management and finance managers of education providers.</p> <p>Where RCOT staff are not available, details of experienced senior educators who may be able to offer support will be provided with their consent.</p>
8	<p>No cost attendance of RCOT officers and staff asked to present at, or participate in, education provider-based events such as research conferences, graduation events and study days etc. Opportunity to invite senior members of the professional body to attend institution/event to share influencing activity.</p>
9	<p>Education providers' subject librarians able to contact the RCOT Library and Information Service for information, guidance & catalogue access.</p>
10	<p>Inclusion of the education provider and the pre-registration accredited programme details in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Federation of Occupational Therapists web-based directory of internationally recognised programmes. • ChooseOT.co.uk • RCOT national recruitment initiatives and activity that encourage and promote prospective learners to apply for
11	<p>The opportunity to actively participate in the review, evaluation and reflection of the profession's Learning and development standards for pre-registration education, and accompanying processes, and WFOT Minimum standards for the education of occupational therapists.</p>
12	<p>Influence and implementation of national policy, reflecting the issues affecting learners across all pathways to becoming an occupational therapist, and ensuring their representation at national level.</p> <p>Disseminating strategic and operational advice to Professional Leads (strategic level) and Programme Leads (operational level).</p>
13	<p>Access for learners from each education provider to apply to join the RCOT Carnduff Learner Forum; a learner-led forum facilitating exploration of and discussions about issues impacting learners across all pre-registration pathways, with direct access to RCOT staff to inform the work they do to influence and help shape policy and processes.</p>
14	<p>Two free places to attend the RCOT Conference for RCOT member learners per education provider.</p>
15	<p>The opportunity to bid for a visit by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists' Patron, HRH The Princess Royal. RCOT's Brand and Marketing Directorate is responsible for co-ordinating and overseeing all royal visits undertaken by The Princess Royal as our Patron and, where a bid is successful, will support and advise you to ensure that your event is successful and meets royal protocol and HRH's requirements.</p>
16	<p>Supporting learners to establish a lifelong relationship with the professional body, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of the services and benefits offered tailored to learners wherever they are in the pre-registration journey • Advice and support to education providers and learners on how RCOT resources can add value to curriculum content • Supporting final year cohorts in the transition to becoming an occupational therapist and utilising the resources offered in professional body membership.

*NB – the services detailed above are available to Education Providers with accredited occupational therapy pre-registration programmes. For all new providers, on payment of the accreditation fee, they will receive access to member benefits marked with * until programme accreditation is complete, at which point all services will become available.

As an accredited provider of pre-registration education, the following opportunities are available to your learners (learners must be RCOT members in order to access these benefits)

A	<p>To nominate learners for the RCOT Research Foundation Early Researcher (pre-registration) Prize.</p> <p>An annual Early Researcher Prize will be awarded to a pre-registration occupational therapy learner for an outstanding research project completed in the final year of their degree programme. Learners are nominated by a member of the academic team at the learner's institution.</p>
B	<p>To apply for the RCOT Professional Practice Internship.</p> <p>This opportunity offers a pre-registration occupational therapy learner currently in their final year of study or a recent graduate (up to two years post-registration) the chance to develop their research related skills and awareness in public affairs by working alongside colleagues within the RCOT Practice and Innovation Directorate.</p>
C	<p>To apply for the RCOT Research and Innovation Internship.</p> <p>This opportunity offers a pre-registration occupational therapy student currently in their final year of study or a recent graduate (up to two years post-registration) the chance to develop their research-related skills and confidence by working alongside colleagues within the Practice and Innovation Directorate on live, real-world projects.</p>
D	<p>To apply for the annual RCOT Student Award for Entrepreneurship and Leadership.</p> <p>To provide support towards a pre-registration learner's entrepreneurial or leadership activity, for example: a project, community engagement activity or new service development with a focus on the relevance of the activity to occupational therapy and benefit to people who access services.</p>
E	<p>To apply for the annual Barbara Tyldesley Student Award</p> <p>To provide funding to support a UK pre-registration learner who is participating in an approved practice placement overseas, role emerging or research placement.</p>
F	<p>CPD, study days, training and networking opportunities regionally and nationally for learners and programme team staff including those related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online tools and resources to support practice education and research and innovation skills and knowledge. • Meeting HCPC CPD standards • Use of the Career development framework (RCOT 20xx) to plan and support career progression and transition • Latest RCOT Research and development strategy and research priorities for the profession in the UK. • Collaboratively developing and monitoring new pathways into the profession.