



# Master of Occupational Therapy



**Domestic fee:** \$8,622 (first year)

**International fee:** \$28,640 (first year)

Compulsory student levy >  
StudyLink >

If you already hold a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma, then your costs are only for the Level 9 project or thesis.

Location	Online with a compulsory block course per year
Duration	Two years full time; eight years part-time
Delivery	Online with one compulsory block course in Dunedin (two to three days) at the beginning of the research process.

Credits	180
Level	9
Start	February and July
Apply	By 31 January or 1 July (domestic); 1 January or 31 May (international)

Are you keen to develop your professional practice and research skills to a very high level? Do you want to gain an in-depth understanding of a specific aspect of occupational therapy knowledge?

The Master of Occupational Therapy is a qualification of excellence which will provide you with the knowledge and skills that are relevant for international practice. With appropriate experience, you may enter higher positions of responsibility in occupational therapy or become involved in areas of policy or research. Alternatively, you could pursue an academic career in occupational therapy education or apply for enrolment into PhD programmes to take you to the top of your field.

With a strong practice and research focus, this programme will enable you to build a broad range of knowledge to justify your practice. Gain the confidence to not only share current research in your practice area with other members of health teams, but to systematically plan and carry out detailed research to internationally-recognised standards. Choose to complete your qualification through coursework and a smaller project or by the research thesis option.

Both domestic and international students will study online and have the opportunity to interact regularly through a weekly online group forum. This gives everyone the chance to fit their study around other commitments. Domestic and international students will also enjoy the chance to interact with each other at the compulsory Masters School held in Dunedin in February and July.

Please note: If you already hold a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma, then your costs are only for the Level 9 project or thesis.

## Entry requirements

To enter the first year of the Masters:

> You must hold a Diploma OR Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from a World Federation of

Occupational Therapists (WFOT) approved programme (OR equivalent), OR a Certificate of Registration (New Zealand).

- > If you hold a Diploma or Certificate of Registration, you must also provide evidence of commitment to further education and two confidential referees attesting to your ability to manage postgraduate study.
- > You must provide evidence of registration as an occupational therapist (Annual Practising Certificate), although this can be waived in certain circumstances.

To enter the second year of the Masters of Occupational Therapy:

- > You must hold a Postgraduate Certificate in Occupational Therapy or Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy Practice OR equivalent, with a B grade average across a total of 60 credits
- > You must have successfully completed a Research course
- > OR you must have successfully completed a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy with Honours endorsed second class, OR equivalent.

To enter both the first or second year:

- > International students will be individually assessed to ensure they meet entry requirements.
- > If English is not your first language, you must provide:
  - > New Zealand University Entrance OR
  - > Overall Academic IELTS 6.5 with no individual band score lower than 6.5 (achieved in one test completed in the last two years), OR
  - > Acceptable alternative evidence of the required IELTS (see here for NZQA proficiency table and here for list of recognised proficiency tests).

If you need to improve your English Language skills, we offer a wide range of English programmes.

Additional documentation

You must supply certified copies of proof of identity, academic records, proof of residency (where appropriate) and curriculum vitae.

Selection procedure

Applications for this programme are screened by the Masters Coordinator against the entry criteria. Should the number of applicants who meet the entry requirements exceed the available places, applicants will be placed on a waiting list in date order.

Additional costs

You must have access to a personal computer, printer and internet connection. You will make extensive use of websites and the electronic library so must budget for the cost of printing reference material, as well as ordering inter-library loans.

You will also need to consider the costs of carrying out your research which could include payment for transcription, copying and posting out of surveys. You are expected to attend a three day Master's School (once a year) and are responsible for any costs associated with this including transport, accommodation and food.

Domestic students: You will study

The Master of Occupational Therapy has a strong practice and research focus. Draw on advanced knowledge to critically evaluate current professional trends in occupational therapy and critique service delivery from a sound theoretical basis. Your involvement in research and scholarship should contribute to a broad understanding of occupational therapy practice in New Zealand.

The Master of Occupational Therapy has two options in terms of pathways. If you are enrolling from a bachelor's degree, you are required to complete either two Level 8 courses offered in the Postgraduate Certificate programme followed by Masters by research thesis level 9; or four Level 8 courses offered in the Postgraduate Diploma programme followed by the Masters by project level 9.

## Year one

Complete 60 credits Level 8 courses. This may be within the structure of a Postgraduate Certificate offered by Otago Polytechnic or another university.

OR

Complete 120 credits Level 8 courses. This may be within the structure of a Postgraduate Diploma offered by Otago Polytechnic or another university.

## Year two

## Masters by project

Includes two courses (Level 8) of 30 credits each and one 60 credit project (Level 9)

OR

## Masters by thesis

One course equivalent to 120 credits (Level 9).

Please note: Most people complete this qualification on a part-time basis, alongside full-time employment.

International students: You will study

If you are an international student interested in studying with us, please contact the School of Occupational Therapy by emailing [info@op.ac.nz](mailto:info@op.ac.nz)

## Your workload

### Domestic students - Level 8

At Level 8, each course is worth 30 credits equating to approximately 300 study hours. If you are completing one course a semester, you should allocate approximately 18-19 hours per week for attendance at fortnightly teleconferences, online discussions and reading, as well as research for your assessments.

### Domestic students - Level 9

At Level 9, you will have selected either the Research Project OR the Research Thesis. For either option, you will need to be guided by the number of hours - with the project being approximately 600 hours and the thesis 1,200 hours.

## Domestic students: Qualification structure

### Year one

Please consult the Postgraduate Certificate in Occupational Therapy Practice or Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy Practice information sheet.

## Elective programmes

(Coursework option= select 180 credits/ Thesis option= select 120 credits)

SMS Code	Course Name	Level	OP Credits
MO438001	Reasoning in Fast Paced Environments	8	30
MO435001	Research for Practice	8	30
MO408004	Negotiated Study	8	30
MO408005	Negotiated Study	8	30
MO421002	Supervision for Helping Professions	8	30
MO440001	Cognitive Approaches Across the Life Span	8	30
MO424003	Motivation and Behavioural Change	8	30
MO439001	Therapeutic Use of Self	8	30

MO429002	Using Sensory Processing Principles with Diverse Populations	8	30
MO431002	Specialty Practice	8	30
MO434002	Vocational Rehabilitation	8	30
MO437001	Low Vision Rehabilitation	8	30
MO441001	Adventure Therapy	8	30
MO442001	Trauma Informed Care	8	30

## Year Two

Postgraduate academic staff

Jackie Herkt - Academic Leader/Acting Postgraduate Programme Lead

Jackie.herkt@op.ac.nz

Helen Jeffery - Senior Lecturer

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Debbie Davie - Administrator, Postgraduate Programmes

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Dr. Linda Robertson - Associate Professor/Research Coordinator

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Sian Griffiths - Principal Lecturer/Honours Coordinator

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Prof. Mary Butler - Professor/Masters Coordinator

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Rita Robinson - Principal Lecturer

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For more details, please visit our staff page.

## Examples of thesis titles

- > Should I stay or should I go? Factors influencing retention of occupational therapists working in mental health services New Zealand
- > Occupational therapists understanding of autonomy for people with dementia when making placement decisions

## Examples of Masters' projects

- > Changing the delivery of chronic pain management education: an action research study
- > Social Media and Mental Health: A Narrative Literature Review
- > Occupational Therapy in Primary Palliative Care; Understanding the here and now
- > Self-regulation, scooters and low vision: The practice of self-regulation by older adults with low vision when they use a mobility scooter

## Student loans/allowances

Student loans and allowances are for domestic students only. For information about student loans and allowances please visit the Studylink website. It is important to apply for your student loan/allowance at the same time as you apply for this programme, due to the length of time Studylink take to process.

Loan/allowance applications can be cancelled at any time if you decide to withdraw your programme application or if it is unsuccessful.

## Recognition of prior learning

If you have extensive knowledge and skills due to practical experience in this area, enquire about our recognition of prior learning process at Capable NZ. You may have already gained credits towards this qualification.

## Disclaimer

While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to

amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.

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