

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Occupational Therapists enable people of all ages who have physical, mental, social or multiple problems to cope with and adapt to any aspect of their life with more confidence and ability. Occupational Therapists deal with a wide range of people and treatment programmes vary greatly according to individual needs. They help people improve their life through participation in an occupation.

Occupational Health is split into two areas; the Health and Social Care sector and the non-statutory sector. The Health and Social Care sector is provided by law through the National Health Service and is available to everyone. The non-statutory sector covers areas like private health care, charitable organisations and independent Occupational Therapists (who are often self-employed).

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

To work as an Occupational Therapist in the UK, the person must hold a recognised degree or a post-graduate diploma in Occupational Therapy and be registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC). This is a requirement for the non-statutory sector as well as the Health and Social Care sector.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

The title Occupational Therapist is protected by law, anyone practicing Occupational Therapy in the UK must be registered with the HPC. This register is on-line at <http://www.hpc-uk.org/index.asp>. Applicants who qualified outside the UK must submit an application to HPC international registration department who assess if their qualifications meet the standards of proficiency and are therefore equivalent to UK standards, Only EEA Nationals will be offered a period of adaptation training. To see more about HPC registration please see [Annex 1](#).

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

The job of Occupational Therapist meets the skills criteria. Caseworkers should check the overseas national is registered with the HPC. If the Occupational Therapist is in the UK undertaking a test of competence (see [Annex 1](#)), caseworkers should conditionally approve the permit by adapting paragraph P70H, pending the submission of the Occupational Therapist's registration number. If an EEA national is undertaking a period of adaptation caseworkers should contact policy for further guidance.

TWES

Training

This occupation does not meet the TWES criteria for training.

Work Experience

This job is suitable for work experience when the OSN is HPC registered.

SALARY

Agenda for Change is the principal pay structure for the NHS. All NHS salaries are based on a 37 ½ hour week.

Band Level	Agenda for Change
Band 5 (Occupational Therapist)	£20,225 - £26,123
Band 6 (Occupational Therapist Specialist)	£24,103 - £32,653
Band 7 (Occupational Therapist Advanced)	£29,091 - £38,352
Band 8a- 8b (Principal Occupational Therapist, Consultant Occupational Therapist)	£37,106 - £53,432

Earnings in the public sector can be used as a guide for pay in the private sector.

Occupational Therapists employed by local councils (Social Service Departments or Social Work departments) have their own pay scales. These are all determined by individual councils using a national framework (signal status framework). They may not reflect the Agenda for Change pay scales. Case workers should use the Agenda for Change pay scales as a general guide but should contact Policy Team for advice if the salary appears low.

ADVERTISING

The following publications are the main sources of advertising for vacancies for Occupational Therapist posts:

British Journal of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Therapy News

College of Occupational Therapists
106 -114 Borough High Street
Southwark
London
SE1 1LB
Tel: 020 7357 6480 / 020 7450 2341

Vacancy Lists published by trusts of The National Health Service (NHS) www.nhs.uk
& Occupational Therapist www.occupationaltherapist.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

The British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT)

106 - 114 Borough High Street
Southwark
London
SE1 1LB

Tel: 020 7357 6480, www.baot.org.uk

College of Occupational Therapists (COT)

106 - 114 Borough High Street

Southwark

London

SE1 1LB

Tel: 020 7357 6480

Web: www.cot.co.uk

The Health Professions Council (HPC)

Park House

184 Kennington Park Road

London

SE11 4BU

Tel: 020 7582 0866

Web: www.hpc-uk.org

NHS Careers

PO Box 376

Bristol

BS99 3EY

Tel: 0845 606 0655

Web: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Department of Health

Richmond House

79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NL

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Web: www.dh.gov.uk

Department of Health (Scotland)

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 556 8400

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland)

Castle Buildings

Starmont Estate

Belfast

BT4 3QS

Tel: 0289 9052 0500

Web: webmaster@hasspsni.gov.uk

National Assembly for Wales (Wales)

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff

CE99 1NA

Tel: 0845 010 5500

Web: www.wales.gov.uk

Annex 1

HPC registration

Registration with HPC should take between six weeks and a few months. To receive HPC registration an individual who has been trained in the UK must attend a Degree or Postgraduate Diploma/ Master's course that has been approved by the HPC. The list of approved courses can be found on-line at www.hpc-uk.org. The Occupational Therapist must also adhere to the usual ethical standards.

If the Occupational Therapist was trained overseas they must apply to the HPC international department, who will check the applicant's qualifications, work experience and ethics are equivalent to UK standards. The HPC can suggest that they undertake a test of competence if the applicant is already in the UK. This can include an interview or clinical test of competence and should only take a few days.

EEA nationals and Non-EEA nationals who are married to EEA nationals are covered by the EU's General System Directives 89/48/EEC and 92/51/EEC (this includes Romanian and Bulgarian nationals). The Directive requires the HPC to take the applicant's qualifications from their home country into account. The HPC will decide if any additional training is required. The HPC can advise that the applicant undertakes a period of adaptation. The HPC will not offer adaptation to any other non EEA applicant.