



Becoming a Fieldwork Site

MOT Program Overview

The Master of Occupational Therapy Program is a two-year full time program for students studying to become Occupational Therapists. Students coming into the program have already completed a Bachelor's degree and pre-requisite courses. As of 2017, there are 56 students enrolled in each year of the program—the need for fieldwork educators has never been greater!

What does being a Fieldwork Site mean?

During the two years of the MOT program, students complete a total of 31 weeks of physical dysfunction/mental health fieldwork education (5 fieldwork placements, two in year one and three in year two) in practice settings such as acute, outpatient, rehab, community, school, home, private practice, long term care, transitional care, complex care etc. As a Clinical Site you will offer clinical education experiences (placements) to Occupational Therapy students at your facility or in your practice area.

What are the benefits of becoming a Fieldwork Site?

- Professional growth for clinicians.
- Exposure to new ideas and evidence-based practice.
- Potential recruitment tool.
- Increased linkage with the Department of Occupational Therapy and the UBC community.

For more information

Please contact:

Donna Drynan
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, UBC
604-822-7415 | donna.drynan@ubc.ca | osot.ubc.ca

What are the requirements for becoming a Fieldwork Site affiliated with UBC?

A wide variety of fieldwork sites are welcomed from both public and private sectors. The most important requirement is to have one or more qualified occupational therapists who have full registration with the College of Occupational Therapists of BC who are willing to act as Fieldwork Educators for the student during the placement. Physical space for the student and an adequate caseload so that the student can have as much hands-on experience as possible are also important.

We want to enroll! How do we become a Fieldwork Site?

1. Contact the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at UBC (donna.drynan@ubc.ca)
2. Complete a site profile
3. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (or designate) will complete a site visit, if logistically possible.
4. Sign a UBC Affiliation Agreement.

FAQs

We'd like to take a student at our clinic/facility but all our therapists are part time. Is this a problem?

Not at all. Many of our students are supervised by more than one therapist and often having more than one supervisor enriches the learning experience for the student. The important thing is that the student has access to a supervisor at all times during the placement and that all supervisors have input into the evaluation. It is often useful to have one supervisor accept primary responsibility for the student, but this is not mandatory.

Will we be able to choose which students come to our facility?

No. In order to be equitable to all students and to ensure that each student has a varied and comprehensive program of fieldwork education experience during their program, placement sites are allocated by the department.

Are students expected to complete a project or do a presentation while on placement?

No. Although completion of a project or presentation is often a great learning experience for the student, this is not a requirement. If there is an opportunity to complete a relevant project or presentation this needs to be negotiated on an individual basis between the student and the site, in consultation with the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.

What is "HSPNet" and does our site need to use this system in order to take a student?

HSPNet is a province-wide student placement system used by many of the Health Authorities and educational institutions in BC. You do not need to belong to HSPNet to take a student.

Will all the students assigned to our facility come from the UBC program? In the past we have been approached by a student from an international program or from another province. If we are affiliated with UBC can we arrange our own placements with students from other countries or provinces?

In short: yes! Students from other countries wishing to come to BC for a fieldwork placement should have their university's fieldwork coordinator connect directly with clinicians to set up their placements. UBC is not involved in placing international students. Out-of-province students, however, cannot directly arrange their own fieldwork placements. Instead, UBC works with other Canadian institutions to place out-of-province students, in keeping with the process established by the Canadian University Fieldwork Educators Committee.

I've heard from another clinic/site that they offered a placement but were not assigned a student. What is the reason for this?

Usually this is because UBC received more offers than there were students for either a particular fieldwork area or geographic location. This is unlikely to happen in the future due to increased enrolment and our expanded need for placement sites.