This course is for occupational therapists and physiotherapists wanting to continue their professional development and develop evidence-based practice. Each module can be tailored to your own areas of interest within the area of hand therapy.

If you want to deepen your understanding of the value of hand therapy, this Master's may be for you. It has been acknowledged internationally that we need to be able to justify the benefits treatment interventions through research. Master's level study is essential if you want to gain the skills to evaluate your interventions, build professional confidence and seek out (and develop) existing theories which inform your practice.

The School of Health Sciences and Social Care is one of the largest schools in the University, and attracts funding from a range of national and international sources. School research and teaching is recognised by the Government as being amongst the top University Health and Social Schools in the country.

The School's postgraduate courses emphasise the importance of interdisciplinary and integrated education for professionals.
MSc in HAND THERAPY

Based on a sound approach to adult education, the course invites students to bring issues from practice to analyse in class. Each module is designed to gradually develop the skills of reflective practice and scientific evaluation.

This programme is a post-qualification Masters Degree (MSc) for occupational therapists and physiotherapists. The programme’s overall aim is to provide professional and personal development for occupational therapists and physiotherapists by offering a Master’s level qualification in hand therapy.

This advanced academic course is one of the few in the UK specialising in hand therapy, and it has been especially designed to meet your needs as a practising therapist.

The programme also offers the option of a postgraduate Certificate/Postgraduate Diploma without the requirements to continue to Masters.

Key features:

- Encourages a theoretical underpinning of occupation, occupational therapy and research.
- Formulates advanced skills to evaluate research outcomes to inform evidenced-based practice
- Facilitates reflective practice
- Meets the education and research needs of hand therapists who wish to enhance their current practice by developing critical thinking to evaluate interventions.
- Provides tailored learning experiences in a supportive academic environment
- A modular programme that can be studied full-time, part-time or as an associate student. (Associate enrolment: studying a one off-module this is very appropriate for continuing professional development.)
- Brunel University has worked with the British Association of Hand Therapy (BAHT) to equate the two specific hand therapy modules to 7 BAHT points towards an Accredited Hand Therapist (BAHT).

Course Details

The Master of Science degree in Hand Therapy prepares participants to become proficient in evaluating and questioning their practice and facilitating advanced understand of hand therapy. This was the first campus-based degree of this kind in the UK.

This course will broaden and deepen your knowledge and understanding of the value of occupational therapy in today’s changing world. Each module’s content is embedded in practice and overall the programme aims to develop your skills in analysing evidence, implementing and evaluating occupational therapy research.

The course does not further clinical skills, or lead to registration from the UK professional governing bodies, but rather focuses on developing the practitioner’s ability to conduct and evaluate occupational therapy research and practice.

Following the completion of the taught modules of the programme, students are expected to undertake a research project for the dissertation relevant to Hand Therapy.

The course consists of six taught modules plus the dissertation. The taught modules are 15 and 30 credits and the dissertation is 60 credits. The taught modules are delivered over the two, 12 week teaching terms on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The course can be completed full time (2/days a week) over one full academic year or part time.

- Hand Therapy 1
- Hand Therapy 2
- Communicating and Utilising Evidence in Practice
- Research Methods (Exploring the need for research, the range of research methods and designs.)
- Research design (proposal development) OR Principles and Practice of Evidence Based Health Care
- Optional Modules (select from a range of modules from the School, for example: Neuroscience Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, Occupational Therapy for Active Ageing, Occupational therapy for Children, Young People and Families).

Dissertation

This is an in-depth study of hand therapy that reflects your interests. We have a very large staff team that are highly skilled in post graduate research supervision.

The dissertation is the major element of a Master’s Degree. It provides you with the opportunity to integrate and apply the concepts and principles developed throughout the course within your own particular area of work. It encourages exploration and investigation of your own particular area of interest and expertise, and it is intended that the topics selected will reflect the negotiated needs for development in your own clinical area. The time allocated will consist of library-based, tutorial and practical work, and you are expected to work towards completing the requirements of the dissertation in your own time. Full time students shall normally submit the dissertation by the end of the academic year following completion of the taught modules.
What support will I get from the University for my dissertation?

You will be allocated a supervisor who will provide 10 hours of support during your time on the dissertation. Supervisors can be accessed by telephone, email, and through face-to-face tutorial. The University also runs an optional week of seminars in May of each year.

Other information

We are very fortunate to be able to provide this high quality programme as Brunel has one of the largest occupational therapy staff groups in the world so the expertise is there to teach and supervise research at Masters and Doctoral levels.

Your service will benefit. Every module assignment can be focussed on a topic you or your manager want to investigate.

The assignments are practically useful; write an evidenced based protocol or care pathway for your clients, plan how to improve the effectiveness of your service, evaluate and debate research in order to decide if the evidence is worth incorporating into practice, or take a topic you want to focus on and study it with your manager or tutorial support.

We are now in a more competitive job market where postgraduate qualifications are highly valued. Postgraduate study is commonly part of the band 7 post requirements in the UK. We recognise that it can be a daunting prospect to begin a Masters alongside a very busy workload. However once started students find the experience inspiring and they move from strength to strength.

You don't have to do the part time or full time course. If you are already in the UK you can do just one or two modules on our MSc Hand therapy. You will be on your way to post graduate study and this will give you a chance to test the water. You can do a second module if you choose. If you then want to continue you will be given exemption for the modules done, less the fees and you will have already reduced the taught workload from six to four modules.

Frequently asked questions

I have a PGDip from another university. Do I have to do all six modules and the dissertation in order to get a MSc?

No, we will give you advanced credit through our APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning) scheme as long as your prior learning is in the last five years and relevant. You can claim up to 50% in advanced taught credits towards your award at Brunel.

How can I justify this programme to my managers, who will fund only professional development that is directly relevant to my work?

The programme is student centred and professionally focused. Student evaluations each year demonstrate the direct application of the programme to wide range of student's professional roles and responsibilities.

Modes of study

Full time mode

Term 1

- Hand Therapy I (30 credits),
- Optional module from the MSc programmes within the School of Health Sciences and Social care (15 credits)
- Research Methods (15 credits)
- Principles and Practice of Evidenced Based healthcare (15 credits) OR Research Design (15 credits)

Term 2

- Hand Therapy II (30 credits),
- Communicating and Utilising Evidence in Practice (15 credits)
- Research Methods (15 credits), continued
- Principles and Practice of Evidenced Based Healthcare (15 credits), continued OR Research Design (15 credits), continued.

Term 3

- Dissertation

Dissertation

Students will undertake a dissertation project which is a major element of the Masters Degree. This project will be completed in the specialist area of Hand Therapy. Dissertation supervisors will be staff members who are skilled researchers.
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure and the University will take all reasonable action to deliver these services in accordance with the descriptions set out in it. However, the University reserves the right to vary these services, using all reasonable efforts to offer a suitable alternative. All costs, rates and prices stated in this brochure are subject to amendment and should be taken as a guide only.

For Further Information About This Postgraduate Degree:

Anna Pratt
School of Health Sciences and Social Care,
Brunel University, Uxbridge,
Middlesex, UB8 3PH, UK.
Phone: 01895 268742
Email: anna.pratt@brunel.ac.uk

To receive a copy of Brunel’s postgraduate prospectus:

Course Enquiries,
Brunel University, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH
Telephone: +44 (0) 1895 265599
Email: marketing@brunel.ac.uk

To Apply:

Please submit your application via our website at
www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/B990PHANDTH
and choose ‘Apply’ from the right hand sidebar. You will need to create a login and password.

Home/EU Applicants
Please forward copies of any additional documents to the Admissions Office below quoting your application reference number.
Admissions, Brunel University.
Uxbridge, UB8 3PH
Telephone: +44 (0)1895 265265
E-mail: admissions@brunel.ac.uk

International Applicants
Please forward copies of any additional documents to the Admissions Office below quoting your application reference number.
Brunel International (Admissions),
Brunel University, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH
Telephone: +44 (0)1895 265519
Email: brunel-international@brunel.ac.uk

How to find us...

www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/health

…for a practical, imaginative approach…

Brunel University is named after the celebrated nineteenth century engineering genius, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, famous for a range of ambitious and highly innovative projects. The ethos of our world-renowned namesake is reflected in the design of our degree courses which combine academic rigour with a practical, entrepreneurial and imaginative approach. And all our courses are underpinned by our research.

…a modern, self-contained campus within a 45-minute tube journey of London…

All our up to the minute facilities are located on a single campus which means that everything is close at hand; as are Central London and Heathrow Airport.

…and for excellent student support.

Brunel Graduate School organises a range of activities and generic training sessions specifically for postgraduate students.

Students with disabilities are also well looked after at Brunel, for further details, visit www.brunel.ac.uk/life/welfare.

www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/health