Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)

School of Primary Health Care
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)

Graduates of the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) program at Monash University will have access to a wide range of career opportunities in health and human services and become part of an international community of occupational therapy practitioners.

The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in their activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists achieve this outcome by enabling people to do things that will enhance their ability to participate or by modifying the environment to better support participation.

Occupational therapists have a broad education that equips them with skills and knowledge to work collaboratively with individuals or groups of people who have an impairment of body structure or function due to a health condition, and who experience barriers to participation.

Occupational therapists believe that participation can be supported or restricted by physical, social, attitudinal and legislative environments. Therefore, occupational therapy practice may be directed to changing aspects of the environment to enhance participation.

– World Federation of Occupational Therapists

Career opportunities

A degree in occupational therapy provides a breadth of employment opportunities, working with individuals, groups, organisations or communities. Occupational therapists work in many settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centres, private practice, community health centres, early intervention centres, social services, schools, government agencies, industrial and commercial organisations, mental health services, homes, and supported housing.

Speciality areas include early intervention, education, occupational health and safety, case management, mental health, disability, community-based practice, paediatrics, aged care, vocational employment rehabilitation, assistive technology, equipment services, acute care and many others. Occupational therapists may work individually or as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team. Job prospects for new graduates are good. Many new graduates obtain employment within a few months of graduating.

Course objectives

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) course at Monash University prepares graduates to practice as entry-level occupational therapy practitioners.

The curriculum focuses on:

■ the interrelationships of occupation with health and wellbeing and the nature of occupational performance and participation as the core body of knowledge supporting the practice of occupational therapy;

■ practices centred on the client’s expressed occupational desires, wishes, needs and goals; and

■ practice that is evidence-based.

Course structure

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) uses a combination of traditional and scenario-based learning and teaching methods. Students will develop expertise in working cooperatively to seek out information and applying their learning to situations relevant to occupational therapy practice. The curriculum incorporates knowledge from the disciplines of occupational science (the study of humans as occupational beings), as well as biomedical, behavioural and social sciences.

Each year of the course includes a fieldwork placement in a metropolitan or regional location. Students complete a total of 1000 hours of fieldwork education, as required by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT).
Duration of the course

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) is a four year full-time course.

Electives

Students are able to complete one 6 credit point elective from a wide range of elective options, including some specialist areas of occupational therapy practice.

Research Pathways

At the end of second year, high-achieving students will be invited to apply for a research pathway, units of which are taken in the third and fourth years of the course. Assessment is by completion of a research proposal and a 10,000-15,000 word thesis. Students selected to follow a research pathway will not only have individualised tuition from an academic supervisor but also the opportunity to work with a ‘host’ organisation engaging in research and fieldwork activities. Places in the research pathway are competitive and strictly limited.

Campus

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) is only offered at the Peninsula campus of Monash University.

Professional accreditation

The program is accredited by the Occupational Therapy Council (Australia & New Zealand) Ltd (OTC) and the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT).

Professional registration

All students will be required to be registered through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia. This will be organised through the University. There are no fees for student registration.

See: www.ahpra.gov.au/registration

Admission process

Course prerequisites

Satisfactory completion of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), including the prerequisites: VCE units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 30 in English (ESL) or 25 in any other English.

Recommended subjects

It is recommended (but not required) that students undertake VCE units 3 and 4 in at least two of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Health and Human Development, Psychology or Physical Education.

Middleband statement

A study score of at least 30 in any two of Biology, Chemistry, Health and Human Development, Geography, Physical Education or Psychology – an aggregate two points higher.

Credit provision or recognition of prior learning

Applicants applying for advanced standing must clearly demonstrate to the course coordinator that the content of previous University level studies is at least equivalent to the course components for which they are seeking credit.

University-wide undergraduate admissions application procedure

www.monash.edu/admissions/

Occupational therapy domestic admissions application procedure

www.monash.edu/study/coursefinder/course/M3001/domestic-requirements.html

Pathways into Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)

There are several pathways into the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours). Please see details of these pathways via the following link: www.med.monash.edu/ot/mature-age-student-requirements

International students

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) is available to international students. Four year full-time degree. (CRICOS code: 063700F).

The Monash University International Call Centre address for international course enquiries is study@monash.edu.au

For more information, please check the Undergraduate/Postgraduate Course Guide for International Students or visit: www.monash.edu/intoff/AGOV.html

This guide contains important information regarding Australian Government requirements and conditions for study in Australia, living costs, course fees, health insurance, working while you study, work rights for your husband or wife and schooling for your children.

Information about visa applications can be obtained from:

www.immi.gov.au/students/
and

Your application for a student visa will be assessed according to the visa criteria applicable to your assessment level. Your assessment level is determined by the passport you hold and the education sector for which you are seeking a student visa.

www.immi.gov.au/students

Indigenous access

The Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit offers two admission schemes designed to assist indigenous students in gaining entry to Monash University pathways and courses.

The Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit Website: www.monash.edu/study/life/indigenous/pathways.html
Special Admission Schemes

The Monash University Special Admissions Scheme allows granting of extra consideration for course entry to applicants who meet the scheme’s selection criteria and who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

Further information is available from: www.monash.edu/access/admissions.html

To apply for Special Year 12 Consideration, applicants must complete the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) – Special Year 12 Consideration application form found on the VTAC website.

Successful applicants

Students must complete a National Police Check and a Working With Children Check before undertaking fieldwork placements. Failure to hold a satisfactory check will result in students being unable to complete the course.

Application procedures

Current year 12 and non-year 12 applicants

Application for entry to the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) is through VTAC:

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)
40 Park Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205, Australia
Telephone: +61 3 1300 364 133
Web: www.vtac.edu.au

Health requirements and police checks

Students will be required to comply with the Faculty Immunisation and Infection Risk Policy, recommendations and procedures, to enable them to proceed through the course with an acceptably low-level of risk and meet health service requirements.

It is recommended that all students accept responsibility for having up-to-date immunisations before commencing the course. Recommended immunisations include diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B.

Prospective students are provided with detailed written information and, as appropriate, counselling about the effect that HIV or hepatitis B infection may have on the ability of healthcare workers to practice their profession.

Monash University is required to inform placement organisations of the immunisation status of all students. If a student does not satisfy the placement organisation’s immunisation requirements, it may refuse to accept the student for a placement.

A student who is unable to complete all compulsory placements cannot meet the requirements for successful completion of the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours).

A satisfactory Police Check and Working With Children Check is required for each student.

A current police check must be completed at the beginning of each year of the course.

Fieldwork

Participation in fieldwork education is integral to learning and is a requirement of the program in all years. All students are required to complete one of their fieldwork placements in a regional location. Students will be required to meet the costs of fieldwork, including:

- Standard First Aid course;
- routine immunisation;
- State and National police criminal record checks;
- travel and accommodation costs; and
- Working With Children Check

Additional information

Prospective students are advised that there may be additional costs associated with the course for text books and course support material, first aid course, uniforms for clinical attachments, travel, accommodation, living costs associated with rural fieldwork placements, a Police Check and precautionary procedures (such as immunisations) that are required prior to commencing the course.

Further information

Occupational Therapy
School of Primary Health Care
Monash University
PO Box 527
Frankston, Victoria 3199
Australia
Telephone: 1800 MONASH (1800 666 274)

Submit an enquiry at: register.monash.edu.au/enquiry
Web: www.med.monash.edu/occupationaltherapy

facebook.com/Monash.University
twitter.com/Monash_FMNHS

Photographs courtesy of Monash University.

Disclaimer: The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication. Monash University reserves the right to alter fees, regulations and procedures should the need arise. The inclusion of course details in this brochure in no way creates an obligation on the part of the University to teach it in any given year, or in the manner described. The University reserves the right to discontinue or vary courses at any time without notice. Students should always check with the relevant faculty officers when planning their courses and consult other information such as handbooks and websites for the most current information.