

Occupational Therapy

Volume 1, Issue 24, Winter Newsletter 2011

Proposed Changes for Fieldwork Placement for 2012

The main reason for the proposed changes for fieldwork is the logistic of four days fieldwork placement for our first year OT students has been difficult in many ways (eg., clashes with classes, labs, and/or tutorials).

In the table below are the proposed fieldwork placement changes for Year 2012:

	Previous fieldwork days (2011 and before)	Proposed change in 2012 and after
Year 1	One day per week for four weeks or one week block for four days	Two days per week during Easter break (preferred option) – students attend on Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday and Friday or Any two days per week on the last week of 1st semester (21–25 May)
Year 2 May Block	Four days per week for three weeks	Five days per week for three weeks
Year 2 Oct Block	Four days per week for three weeks	No placement
Year 3	Five days per week for five weeks	Five days per week for six weeks
Year 4	Five days per week for ten weeks	Same as 2011

We would like to receive any comments you may have and if you can also advise us if you agree with the proposed changes by no later than **4 pm Friday 5 August, 2011**.

Please email your comments to:

Sylvie Smith: Sylvie.smith@monash.edu

Mong-Lin Yu: mong-lin.yu@monash.edu

Following receipt of your comments, we will be sending out our letters requesting fieldwork placements for 2012 by the end of August, the final Fieldwork Education Timetable and the Fieldwork Response Forms.

Fieldwork Placements Requirement for 2012

In 2012, we will require approximately the following fieldwork placements:

- Year 1: 90 placements;
- Year 2: 75 placements;
- Year 3: 70 placements; and
- Year 4: 55 placements.

Thank you to all the agencies for our OT student placement offers in 2011. We appreciate your continued support, and look forward to working with you again in 2012.

New Graduates

We are delighted to share our pride and the joy of our 2010 graduating class of 55 students. Nearly all have been employed as occupational therapists, many in facilities where they have undertaken placements. Thank you to your contribution to their successful graduation and we welcome them into the profession.

Students 2011

This year, we continue to have a large cohort of 77 students enrolling in first year occupational therapy program. The entry cut-off score for 2011 entry was 79.6. This cohort includes a mixed combination of high school entry and mature aged students, and five international students from Hong Kong, Vietnam, Taiwan and Malaysia. We have some course transfer students and one international exchange 3rd year student from Tel Aviv.

Thanks and Goodbye

Our course coordinator Rebecca Allen and personal assistant/administrative coordinator Pamela Sayers left after six year of service to the department in December 2010. We would like to say thank you to both of them for their enormous contribution to the development of the program at Monash. Dr Ted Brown and Dr Helen Bourke-Taylor are taking the course coordination role.



MONASH University



Dr Chi-Wen Chien (Will) and his supervisors Associate Professor Ted Brown and Dr Rachael McDonald.

First PhD Graduates

History was made on 26 May, 2011 with the two first PhD graduates, Dr Chi-Wen Chien (Will) and Dr Lisa O'Brien from the Department of Occupational Therapy at Peninsula.

Dr Chi-Wen Chien

Dr Chi-Wen Chien (Will) is the first international PhD graduate of Occupational Therapy Department, Monash University. Will enrolled in his Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Occupational Therapy, Monash University, in 2007. Associate Professor Ted Brown was the primary supervisor and Dr Rachael McDonald was the associate supervisor for his doctoral research. The title of Will's PhD thesis was 'The Assessment of Children's Hand Skills (ACHS): Theoretical Framework, Development, and Validation.' Will is now completing a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Queensland in the Division of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Dr Lisa O'Brien

Dr Lisa O'Brien enrolled in her Doctor of Philosophy in the Monash University Department of Occupational Therapy in 2007 on a part time basis. Associate Professor Ted Brown was Lisa's primary supervisor and Associate Professor Louise Farnworth was her associate supervisor for her doctoral research. The title of Lisa's thesis was 'Adherence to acute hand therapy treatment: Application of a multi-dimensional model.' Lisa continues to work part time at the Alfred Hospital as a hand therapist and part time as a lecturer in the Monash Department of Occupational Therapy.



Dr Lisa O'Brien and her supervisors Associate Professor Louise Farnworth and Associate Professor Ted Brown.

Participatory Community Practice news

In June this year, 17 participatory community based projects were completed by Monash University Occupational Therapy students, bringing to total 66 projects completed so far through this program in partnerships with over 40 community agencies. Examples from this years projects include: Amy Marshall and Hannah Maynard developed 'The Bright Futures Learning Through Play Program' for children performing significantly below the rest of the state on the AEDI, a measure of preschool developmental outcomes. Natalie Little designed and produced a low cost, evidence based resource for schools to use within their school readiness programs to assist parents in developing their children's fine motor skills in readiness for school. The resource entitled, "Helping little hands achieve" is targeted a vulnerable families with limited resources. Matthew White and Kush Kumar worked with occupational therapists at the Victorian Rehabilitation Centre to develop to pilot stage a Visual Evaluation Scale for Pain and Anxiety-CRPS. Angela Ferrarin and Ligal Aldabah, worked with the occupational therapists at Biala on the Mornington Peninsula to developed a resource manual to increase the knowledge and confidence of all Biala staff to appropriately respond to children's sensory needs. For further information about these projects, please contact the PCP coordinator, Lisa Knightbridge.

Fieldwork survey

We would like to thank our clinical educators for their participation in the year one fieldwork survey. Seventy-five survey forms were posted, and 21 forms were completed and returned with invaluable feedback provided to Monash University Department of Occupational Therapy.

Generally, the responses were very positive toward the Monash University Fieldwork program. Strengths and comments indicated in the survey in relation to the first year placements are summarised as follow:

Strengths:

- Students are well prepared and well behaved.
- Information package gives plenty of notice in regards to student placement.

Comments:

- The SPEF-R is too lengthy and unsuitable for year one placements.
- A four continuous day placement is preferred as opposed to a one day per week for four-weeks placement.

The Department of Occupational Therapy, Monash University, will strive to maintain these strengths and develop strategies to address the comments to improve our fieldwork education and provide better support to our clinical educators. There are a number of changes in fieldwork that have been discussed at the Course Advisory Committee, some that are likely to be implemented in 2012. This includes potential changes to the 1st, 2nd and the 3rd year placements.

Workshop in August

Transition from rehabilitation to community living for people with acquired brain injury: An interdisciplinary approach

Friday 19 August 2011, 9.30 to 4.30, at Monash University, Peninsula Campus, McMahons Rd, Frankston

Workshop content will include:

- Understanding ABI and long term support needs in community living;
- Discharge planning from rehabilitation to the community;
- Social community;
- Physical activity and participation;
- Managing challenging behaviour within community settings;
- Supporting people with complex care needs; and
- Maximising social inclusion and role participation.

Presenters: Sue Sloan (Osborn, Sloan & Associates); Dianne Winkler (The Summer Foundation); Libby Callaway (Monash University and Neuroskills Pty Ltd); Jan Mackey (Applied Communication Skills); and Sue Vincent (Neurological Rehabilitation Group)