

# Using The 'Apprenticeship Model' Of Research Supervision In Occupational Therapy Students



## What are the aims of this project?

This project aims to investigate how undergraduate research can be embedded more effectively within the Occupational Therapy curriculum and utilised by academic staff.

The key objectives are:

- Investigate how an apprenticeship model might enhance the research experience of Occupational Therapy (OT) students and improve their choice of research topic
- Investigate how dissemination of research findings can be enhanced more effectively through partnerships with OT graduates and by academic staff using the accumulative evidence base available.

The anticipated outcomes will be enhanced personal development and motivation of staff and SHU/OT graduates through engaging in more meaningful research activity and improved teaching and learning opportunities.

## What is the background / rationale?

The Occupational Therapy group are concerned at the limited range of current student projects and the difficulties some students experience with the dissertation module and supervision due to their inexperience and limited knowledge. Staff research expertise/interests also needs to be more closely linked to the curriculum to increase opportunities to publish. This is difficult if academic staff have limited personal research opportunities due to teaching constraints. With the course revalidation occurring, this an opportune time to reconsider how supervision and support is provided and how staff and students can collaborate before and after graduation.

## What are the benefits to student learning?

The benefits to the student will be:

- Staff guidance in choosing a relevant research topic related to ongoing research themes that staff are engaged in
- Collaborating with peers who are involved in research within the same theme
- Less educational and social isolation at level 6 after two years of collaborative enquiry based group learning
- Increased motivation
- Increased opportunities for continuing personal development after graduation involving dissemination of their research findings

The benefits to staff will be:

- Increased motivation as a result of engaging in supervision that relates to their research interests
- Increased opportunities for developing publications with other OT staff and /or graduates using the research data/ outcomes available within the team
- Increasing research activity within the subject group.

## How will this project be evaluated?

By the end of 2008/09 academic year the project team will have produced an action report from which some or all of the recommendations will be implemented the following year.

This report will be reviewed by the whole Occupational therapy subject group as part of their ongoing course review and evaluation process and findings will be disseminated through various SHU events.

### Project Leader

Melanie Bryer

Email: [m.j.bryer@shu.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.bryer@shu.ac.uk)

Telephone: 0114 225 2222