

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale for developing the study programme

In 2003, in the Strategic Framework for Health Development in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Health accepted that the lack of opportunity for appropriate education had lowered the quality of its practitioners. In the same report, the Ministry suggested re-training to upgrade the skills of existing practitioners and to maintain their competence through professional development to ensure high quality health care provision. It has also been recommended that the occupational therapy professional education should be conducted by the Universities. In response, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya commenced a lateral-entry, degree-level study programme in Occupational Therapy for those who are already in service.

In 2022, Department of Disability Studies, University of Kelaniya commenced a direct entry internal degree programme in occupational therapy.

The curriculum of the Bachelor of Science Honours in Occupational Therapy (BScOT) external degree programme has been revised considering the developments in global occupational therapy practice to enable holders of the Diploma in Occupational Therapy, awarded by the School of Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy of Sri Lanka (run by the Ministry of Health), to upgrade their qualification. The study programme is intended to fill the gap that exists between the course content of the two-year Diploma programme and the BSc degree programmes currently offered by the University of Kelaniya. The proposed BSc (OT) course will be conducted by the Faculty of Medicine through the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education of the University of Kelaniya, as an external degree programme with strong learner support for face-to-face learning.

The curriculum includes theoretical and self-directed learning, clinical practice experience, and research and skill development in a variety of settings that include medical and rehabilitation exposure at the institutional level as well as at the community level.

2. ADMISSION CRITERIA AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF STUDENTS

2.1 Admission criteria

In order to be eligible for entry to the study programme leading to the qualification of Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy), applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

1. Possess a Diploma in Occupational Therapy from the School of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka¹ and registration with the Sri Lanka Medical Council,

and

2 Have at least three years of clinical (or related) experience working as an Occupational Therapist during the 5-year period immediately preceding the closing date for applications. Related experience may include work within the area of Occupational Therapy in a recognized institution.

and

3 Be successful at the interview and English test conducted by the University.

4. All applicants will be required to take a test of English competency conducted by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Those who are successful will be called for an interview.

2.2 Method of selection

Applicants who fulfil the admission criteria and pass the test of English Competency will be interviewed and will be selected based on work experience and evidence of continuing professional development.

The annual intake will be limited to not more than 30 students.

Before final registration on the course, selected applicants will need to provide written consent from the Director of his / her institution that he / she can be released for clinical practice in the identified departments, with cover-up arrangements from among the other occupational therapists within the workplace or from the course.

3. DETAILS OF STUDY PROGRAMME

3.1 Programme aims and learning outcomes

The overall aim of the programme is to upgrade the therapists' knowledge and skills in order to provide a more comprehensive service of a better quality, to people with physical and/or mental disabilities, both in the hospital and community setting. It also aims to enhance the ability of therapists to develop research methods to evaluate current practice, introduce new techniques and new approaches to professional practice relevant to Sri Lanka, and to share and contribute their professional experience globally.

¹ Students must have three passes in one sitting at the GCE (AL) examination in order to be eligible for admission to this training programme. This requirement has been in place since about 1980.

At the end of the programme and on qualifying, graduates will be able to:

- demonstrate specific knowledge, skills and attitudes required for the competent practice of Occupational Therapy.
- demonstrate skills in self-directed learning and positive attitudes towards continuing professional and personal development.
- identify Individuals needing Occupational Therapy Intervention with greater accuracy and efficiency, whilst understanding and recognizing the limitations as well as the scope of OT practice.
- consolidate and demonstrate skills in assessing people with physical and/or mental disabilities and gain further knowledge in the assessment of people with physical and/or mental disabilities.
- consolidate and demonstrate skills in planning and implementing intervention programmes as appropriate and gain further knowledge in providing intervention to people with physical and/or mental disabilities.
- monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of intervention programmes and modify or terminate such programmes, as necessary.
- use appropriate methods of recording and communicating details of assessment, interventions, progress and outcomes, both for individuals and at the service provision level.
- promote good health and wellbeing and prevent illness and disability related to their area of knowledge, through educational and awareness activities for a range of participants in work and community settings.
- demonstrate an understanding of the current evidence base of the profession of Occupational Therapy and an ability to contribute to the evidence base of the profession, both within Sri Lanka and beyond.
- respect the rights of all individuals and abide by the code of professional ethics.
- work as an effective and contributing member of a multi-disciplinary team.
- contribute towards policy making in areas relevant to OT practice

3.2 Structure of the study programme

3.2.1 The course unit system

The BScOT programme is organized as a course unit system, with evaluation on grade point average. As the degree leads up to a professional qualification, all units are compulsory and there are no optional course units. Each course unit is assigned a credit value where one credit is equivalent to 50 notional hours, except for research data collection, clinicals and field work where one credit is equivalent to 100 notional hours.

3.2.2 Notation of course units

An alpha numeric code is used to identify each course unit. The code consists of five digits prefixed by a set of four letters. All courses on this study programme will carry the letters OCTE (to denote Occupational Therapy) and E to denote that it is an external degree programme. With regards to the 5 digits of the course code, the 1st and 2nd digit denote the year (3 & 4). and the semester (6, 7, 8 and 9) of study. The 3rd and 4th digits together from the specific number assigned to that course unit for that year of study, whereas the 5th digit signifies the credit value.

3.2.3 Composition of the programme

‘Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) will be a programme of 120 credits. Therapists will be awarded 60 credits through accreditation of prior learning on the Diploma in Occupational Therapy and experiential learning as an Occupational Therapist, as set out below.

3.2.4 Accreditation of prior and experiential learning

Accreditation of prior learning will be based on the Diploma in Occupational Therapy awarded by the School of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy of the Ministry of Health. The units on this study programme (which takes 2 years for completion on a full-time basis), the number of hours of learning activities per unit and their equivalent credit values are shown below. One credit is equivalent to 50 notional hours, except for research data collection, clinicals and field work where one credit is equivalent to 100 notional hours. Therapists will be awarded an additional 15 credits for the 3 years of professional experience, which will be evaluated during the upgrade programme.

Year 1 of Diploma in Occupational Therapy

	SUBJECT	Theory (h)		Practical (h)	Demos tration	Total	Credits
		Lect ure	Self-Study				
1	Anatomy	60	60	60	70	250	5
2	Physiology	60	60		30	150	3
3	Kinesiology & Physical Education	30	35	45	40	150	3
4	Psychology & Sociology	60	40			100	3
5	Therapy of Occupational Therapy						
	a) Physical	80	45		100	225	4
	b) Psychiatry	80	45		100	225	4
6	Occupational Therapy Skills		15	60	25	100	2
7	Clinical Practice					300	4

Total

28

Year 2 of Diploma in Occupational Therapy

	SUBJECT	Theory (h)		Practical (h)	Demonstration	Total (h)	Credits
		Lecture	Self-Study				
1	Section 1 a) Pathology, medical and surgical conditions b) Occupational therapy for Physical conditions	100 40	40 50	 60	60 50	200 200	5 4
2	Section 2 a) Psychiatry b) Occupational Therapy for Psychiatric Conditions	60 40	40 50	 60	 50	100 200	3 4
3	Section 3 Techniques in Occupational Therapy	40	140	60	140	380	4
4	Section 4 Communication & Management	20	20		10	50	1
5	Clinical Practice					900	11

Total

32

3.2.5 Structure of proposed Diploma-to-Degree upgrade programme

The total number of additional credits to earn the degree is 60. Each course unit has assessments attached to it and therapist must pass all course units in order to qualify with a BSc OT (For details about assessment and progression requirements see section 5 and 7 of this document).

Course code	Course title	Lectures (h)	Clinical/ Practical (h)	Tutor directed study (h)	Credits
Year 1					
OCTE 36010	Computer Literacy*		30		-
OCTE 36024	Occupational Health & Wellbeing	30	60		4
OCTE 36034	Frames of reference and context of Occupational Therapy Practice	30	60		4
OCTE 36044	Knowledge and skills for practice	30	60		4
OCTE 37054	Applied Occupational Therapy in mental health	30	60		4

OCTE 37064	Applied Occupational Therapy primarily in Developmental and Neurological Disorders	45	30		4
OCTE 37074	Evidence based practice and Research Methodology	45	30		4
					Year 2
OCTE 46086	Occupational Therapy Practice		30	250	6
OCTE 48095	Research Project Poster			200	5
OCTE 4810x	Research project dissertation	15		360	10
OCTE 4811z	Work experience **				15
Total credits for GPA					60

*not considered for GPA

** Therapists will be awarded 15 credits for their 3 years of professional experience, which will be evaluated during the upgrade programme as a separate course unit.

The intend learning outcomes and contents of each course unit, sources of information and supplementary reading lists, as well as the mode of evaluation of each course nit is set out in Section 7.

3.2.6 PROGRAMME DELIVERY AND LEARNER SUPPORT

Each of the course units comprises a minimum of 4 credits. Each credit represents 50 hours of lectures or 100 hours of practical or tutor directed clinical practice or a combination of the two. Most modules will consist of lectures and practical work, such as clinical seminars, presentations, video-based learning and tutorials, relevant to the module. Students will have the opportunity to practice knowledge and skills gained in the theoretical components of study by attending schools with facilities for children with physical and mental disabilities, vocational training institutes, hospitals and community settings as relevant, in the Occupational Therapy Practice course unit (See section 7)

In order to enable Occupational Therapists from throughout Sri Lanka to benefit from this programme it is anticipated that a greater percentage of study will be tutor directed.

3.2.7 Clinical and field placements

The minimum number of clinical practice hours which students must attend to qualify for professional registration as an Occupational Therapist in Sri Lanka is 1000. For working therapists

an additional 250 hours of practical training is required for the upgrade. This is broadly in line with international recommendations regarding the number of clinical training hours. The following hospitals and units will be used for training:

1. National Hospital of Sri Lanka
 - a. Department of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation
 - b. Institute of Neurology
 - c. Neurotrauma Unit
 - d. Burns Unit
 - e. Plastic Surgery Unit
 - f. University Psychiatry Unit
2. Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama
3. Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Hospital, Ragama
4. Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital, Colombo
5. Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila
6. National Hospital, Kandy
7. National Hospital, Galle
8. National Institute of Mental Health, Angoda
9. Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya
10. Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa
11. Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala
12. Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura
13. Teaching Hospital, Badulla
14. Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura
15. Teaching Hospital, Jaffna
16. General Hospital, Matara
17. Rehabilitation Hospital, Digana
18. Schools in the state and private sectors
19. Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes
20. Community Occupational Therapy Programmes

3.2.8 Attendance

All lectures, practicals and field visits etc., are compulsory and therapists must demonstrate documented 80% attendance at these to be eligible to sit for assessments in the relevant module. Therapists not completing the required number of clinical practice hours will not be eligible to graduate. Therapists who are unable to attend clinical practice for health reasons for more than 3 days, must produce medical evidence of their situation.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

5.1 Assessment of Programme Course Units

The examinations of the programme course units are usually held at the completion of the particular strand. There will normally be one assessment course unit. This may take a number of forms e.g. written examinations, video based examinations, written coursework: case studies, essays, data analysis, presentations, group work, project work, viva voce, project work and clinical examinations. Then methods of evaluation will be notified at the commencement of each course unit.

The assessment of the research project will be based on a dissertation and a poster presentation. The Research Proposal component in Evidence based practice and Research Methodology (OCTE 37074), Research Project Poster (OCTE 48095) and Research project dissertation (OCTE 4810x) will be conducted and assessed as group assignments. Each group will be comprised of two (02) students. The mark allocation for assessment will be as follows.

Evidence based practice and Research Methodology (OCTE 37074)		Research Project Poster (OCTE 48095) and Research project dissertation (OCTE 4810x)	
Research Proposal (Proposal presentation Viva)	Individual mark - 40%	Research Project Poster and Viva	Individual mark - 50%
	Group mark-20 %		Group mark-50%
Research Proposal (Written)	Group mark -40%	Research project dissertation	Group mark-100%

5.2 Submission of assignments

Therapists will be notified of the date and time for submitting each piece of coursework on the day the coursework is assigned. Work should be handed to the course secretary and a stamped receipt obtained. In exceptional cases, an extension maybe given but this should be discussed with the course coordinator in advance of the submission date. Coursework which is submitted late is subjected to the following penalties.

- Handed in up to 24 hours later than set date and time: deduction of 10% of the allocated mark
- Handed in up to 1 week later than set date and time: deduction of 20% of the allocated mark

If an assignment is handed in more than a week later than its due date, 30% of the allocated mark will be deducted, but the acceptance of such a piece of coursework is at the discretion of the course coordinator with the covering approval of the Board of Study. The work may not be accepted if the same assignment has already been marked and returned to other Therapists.

5.3 Grading System

Marks obtained in each strand will be graded according to the following grading system.

Range of marks	Grade	Grade Point
85-100	A+	4.00
70-84	A	4.00
65-69	A-	3.70
60-64	B+	3.30
55-59	B	3.00
50-54	B-	2.70
45-49	C+	2.30
40-44	C	2.00
35-39	C-	1.70
30-34	D+	1.30
25-29	D	1.00
00-24	E	0.00

5.4 Re-sit examinations and Progression requirements

The pass mark is 40%. Therapists will be required to pass all strands to graduate. A therapist who has obtained a Grade of C- or lower for a component of assessment will have to re-sit that component. In strands where there is more than one assessment component, if a therapist obtains an E Grade (<25%) for one component of assessment, they are required to retake the entire strand in order to graduate from the programme.

In the final calculation for degree classification, all re-sits due to fails at first attempt or missed first attempt due to invalid reason (as deemed by the board of study) will not be given (in calculation) more than 40 marks or C grade. A student who has failed at the first attempt or missed the first attempt due to an invalid reason (as deemed by the board of study) will not be awarded a class despite being eligible based on the cumulative GPA.

5.5 Grade Point Average

Grade Point Average (GPA) is the credit weighted arithmetic mean of the Grade Point Values, which is determined by dividing the total credit-weighted Grade Point Value by the total number of credits. For example, if the therapist completed one strand with two credits, three strands of 3 credits each, two strands of one credit each with Grades A, C, B, D, E, and A+ respectively, (s)he would have a GPA of,

$$= \frac{(2 \times 4.0) + (3 \times 2.0) + (3 \times 3.0) + (3 \times 1.0) + (1 \times 0.0) + (1 \times 4.0)}{2+3+3+3+1+1}$$

$$= \frac{30.0}{13} = 2.308 = 2.31$$

GPA shall be computed to the second decimal place, based on 60 credits for the upgrade programme.

The final GPA will not include course work completed during the Diploma programme.

5.6 Academic Misconduct

Therapists must conduct their studies honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is academic misconduct, for which the University may penalise a therapist. Specifically, it is academic misconduct for a therapist to:

- present copied, falsified or improperly obtained data as if it were the result of their own research, clinical work or other investigatory work;
- include in their work material that is the result of significant assistance from another person if that assistance was unacceptable according to the instructions or guidelines for that work;
- assist another student in the presentation of that student's individual work in a way that is unacceptable according to the instructions or guidelines for that work;
- cheat (dishonest conduct in assessment);
- Plagiarise (knowingly present the work or property of another person as if it were one's own.)

6. CRITERIA FOR DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

Upon completing the prescribed programme of study, practising therapists must handover their Diploma in Occupational Therapy certificate to the University of Kelaniya, before they can be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy).

6.1 Eligibility for the award of Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy degree

To be eligible for the award of the BSc OT degree (Level 6 of the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework 212), a practising therapist must have

1. Accumulated 120 credits (60 credits under general exemption and 60 credits to be accumulated during the programme).
2. Obtained at least a C grade in each course unit
3. Obtained a minimum GPA of 2.00
4. Completed the relevant requirements within a period of four consecutive academic years

6.2 Award of Honours

6.2.1 First Class Honours

1. Completed the relevant upgrade requirements,
2. Obtained at least B- grade in each course unit,
3. Obtained 'A' grade or better in more than **50%** of the total number of credits offered in BScOT course, and
4. Obtained a minimum GPA of 3.70
5. Completed the relevant requirements within a period of two consecutive academic years

6.2.2 Second Class (Upper division)

1. Completed the relevant upgrade requirements,
2. Obtained 'B' grade or better in more than **50%** of the total number of credits offered in the BScOT course, and
3. Obtained a minimum GPA of 3.30
4. Completed the relevant requirements within a period of two consecutive academic years

6.2.3 Second (lower division)

1. Completed the relevant upgrade requirements,
2. Obtained 'B' grade or better in more than **40%** of the total number of credits offered in the BScOT course, and
3. Obtained a minimum GPA of 3.00
4. Completed the relevant requirements within a period of two consecutive academic years