

Fitness to Practise Statement

1. Programme Name(s): MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification)

2. Professional Fitness to Practise Requirements

The MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification) programme provides innovative Occupational Therapy education to develop excellent graduates who enable the individual and the wider community to optimise their health and wellbeing, through occupation, at local, national and international levels. We achieve this through:

- Working as a cohesive team of therapists
- Developing client-centred therapists with the capability to manage changing environments.
- Facilitating lifelong learning throughout the Occupational Therapy profession
- Producing research that facilitates change and has a positive impact on the wider community.

The aim of the MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification) programme is to prepare graduates who will contribute to the development of Occupational Therapy in Ireland and worldwide through their ability to act as competent, reflective and innovative practitioners by drawing upon their expertise and knowledge of evidence- based practice and research.

The Professional Fitness to Practise policy presented in this appendix is in alignment with World Federation of Occupational Therapists Standards, the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland and CORU (Occupational Therapists Registration Board) regulations.

3. Professional Competencies

Based on the accrediting bodies – Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland and CORU, Occupational Therapists Registration Board– for the MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification) at UL, the following is a list of professional competencies linked to the UL fitness to practise policy professional competencies. The domains below are identified by CORU.

1. Professional Autonomy and Accountability
2. Communication, Collaborative Practice and Team working
3. Safety and Quality
4. Professional Development
5. Professional Knowledge and Skills

Issues that might impair a student's fitness to practise are wide-ranging and can arise at any time throughout the student's programme of study. Specific issues may be temporary in nature and can be dealt with informally by advising the student on how best to address conduct, competence or health issues so that fitness to practise issues are managed in a timely and professional manner.

*Subject to final approval at Academic Council- May 2023

AOTI Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. <https://www.aoti.ie/publications/>

CORU Occupational Therapists Registration Board: Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Education and Training Programmes.

<https://coru.ie/health-and-social-care-professionals/education/criteria-and-standards-of-proficiency/>

CORU Occupational Therapists Registration Board: Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics.

<https://coru.ie/health-and-social-care-professionals/codes-of-professional-conduct-and-ethics/>

4. Health Requirements

Professional settings and practice will generally require the student to maintain a level of good health to ensure the student and service users are not adversely affected by any health condition that may arise. As part of a general health protection, the University and/or the external placement provider may require students to undergo health screening or other forms of health assessment.

Students undertaking programmes with a vaccine and/or health requirement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the University, as may be updated from time to time.

In addition, students undertaking programmes with an external placement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider, as may be updated from time to time.

All requirements are listed in the Table below.

Any restriction and supporting justification on students with disabilities enrolling on this programme and seeking to avail of accommodations provide by Disability Support Services should also be listed below in the table below.

<i>Vaccination and/or health requirements of the University in relation to this programme of study</i>	<i>Vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider in relation to this programme of study</i>	<i>Restriction and supporting justification on students with disabilities enrolling on this programme</i>
	Available at this link: SAH Health Screening and Immunisation Protocol 2022-23	