

Additional Costs Related to Practice Placements

MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration)

Students on the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) programme should be aware of additional costs associated with preparing for and attending practice placements. The information below provides an overview of these costs, along with information on available financial support for placement-related expenses.

All costs are indicative and may vary depending on individual requirements and prices at the time they are incurred

Enhanced DBS Check:

An Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is completed as part of the University admissions and enrolment process. The DBS clearance obtained through this process is also used to meet practice placement requirements.

Current approximate cost: £80

First Aid at Work Training:

First Aid at Work training covers Basic Life Support, including CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training. Students are required to complete this training before undertaking practice placements.

The course is currently available through **St Mary's University Short Courses** at a student rate of **approximately £120 and is valid for three years**.

Uniform / Placement Clothing -

Uniform requirements vary depending on the placement setting. Some placements, particularly community-based settings, may not require a uniform. Students will be advised about the appropriate dress requirements for their individual placement in good time before starting the placement.

Where a uniform is required, students can wear either a white healthcare tunic or a plain white polo shirt, together with the appropriate trousers. Students will be advised whether black or green trousers are required once their placement has been allocated.

There are various healthcare uniform providers such as:

<https://www.alexandra.co.uk/>

<https://www.uniforms4healthcare.com/>

<https://grahamegardner.co.uk/>

Allow approximately £100-£150 for placement clothing, depending on the number and type of items required.

Vaccinations and Evidence of Immunity:

Students must meet the required immunisation requirements before undertaking practice placements.

Immunisation	Requirement	Current indicative cost
TB (Tuberculosis)	Students must have a visible BCG scar and provide evidence of this, or evidence of BCG vaccination.	Approx. £60 scar check / £125 BCG vaccination
MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)	Students must have evidence of two vaccinations for measles, mumps and rubella, or a blood test showing antibodies. If immunity cannot be confirmed by medical records, a blood test must be undertaken to confirm immunity and evidence provided.	Approx. £90 for vaccination
Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster)	If medical records confirm that a student has previously had chickenpox and is therefore immune, evidence must be provided. If immunity cannot be confirmed by medical records (or NHS childhood Red Book notes), a blood test is required. If the blood test result is negative, the Varicella Zoster vaccination will be required and evidence must be provided.	Approx. £150 for vaccination
Hepatitis B	Students must have three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccination followed by a surface antibodies test to check immunity levels.	£40-£45 per dose + £60-£85 blood test
Tetanus & Polio	Students must have a current booster within the last 10 years or five documented vaccinations giving long-term immunity. Documentation must include the vaccination dates.	Approx. £42 for combined tetanus, diphtheria & polio vaccination

COVID-19 vaccination: It is recommended that students are vaccinated against COVID-19 for their own protection and that of vulnerable patients. However, COVID-19 vaccination is no longer compulsory.

Seasonal flu vaccination: As one of the programme's practice placements takes place during the winter months, typically between January and March, students are advised to consider having the seasonal flu vaccination for their own protection and that of vulnerable patients.

Students who already have the required vaccination records and evidence of immunity may have considerably lower costs. Where several vaccinations and blood tests are required, total costs could be £500 or more.

Plan ahead for Hepatitis B: The vaccination requires three doses followed by an immunity blood test. Students are encouraged to begin this process early to ensure the requirements can be completed before placement.

Vaccination Form

Students are required to complete the Vaccination Form and provide the relevant evidence of their vaccination history and immunity as requested on the form.

Form Link: [Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy vaccination form - Intellistack](#)

Accessing vaccinations and blood tests

Students are advised to check with their GP first. At some GP practices, registered patients may be able to access these services free of charge or at a discounted cost.

Other options for accessing vaccinations and blood tests include:

- [Superdrug Health Clinics – vaccinations and price list](#)
- [Superdrug Health Clinics – blood tests](#)
- Maple Leaf Pharmacy Travel Clinic, Twickenham Green
- The York Medical Practice Travel Clinic, Oak Lane, Twickenham
- [iVaccine, Sheen](#)
- [Williams Chemist – vaccination price list, Brentford](#)
- [London Vaccination Centre – various locations](#)
- [MASTA Travel Clinics – Find a Clinic](#)
- [Boots – Travel Vaccinations](#)
- [All Health Matters – vaccination information and services, Brentford](#) – see ‘Occupational Vaccines’ for vaccination information and prices.

Students may also use their own travel clinic or pharmacy where these services are available. The providers listed above are helpful suggestions only. Students should check current services, availability and prices directly with the individual provider before booking.

Travel to Practice Placements

Students are responsible for arranging travel to and from their allocated practice placements.

Placements take place across a range of locations and services, so travel costs will vary depending on the **placement location, distance travelled and mode of transport**. It is therefore not possible to provide a standard travel cost, and students should plan for potential travel expenses throughout their practice placements.

For home students the NHS Learning Support Fund now provides a ‘float’ available before going on placement to help with travel costs; as well as travel re-imbursement after placement. Please apply with 6 months of course commencement.

Temporary Accommodation for Placements

In some circumstances, the location of an allocated placement may mean that students need to arrange temporary accommodation closer to the placement.

Where this is required, accommodation costs will vary depending on the location and individual arrangements.

Financial Support for Placement-Related Costs

Eligible home students may be able to access financial support towards certain placement-related expenses through the **NHS Learning Support Fund (NHS LSF)**, subject to current eligibility and reimbursement criteria.

The NHS LSF includes **Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses (TDAE)**, through which eligible students may be able to claim reimbursement towards excess placement travel and temporary accommodation costs.

[NHS Learning Support Fund \(NHS LSF\)](#)

[Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses \(TDAE\)](#)

Separate University arrangements may be available for **international students for eligible placement travel expenses**. Further information about the relevant process will be provided during the programme.

Please note

All costs shown are indicative and based on current prices. Actual costs may vary depending on individual requirements and any changes in prices at the time the costs are incurred.

For any queries regarding vaccination requirements, completing the vaccination form, or to discuss available financial support for placement-related costs, please contact Vanessa Starkey Ralph at vanessa.starkeyralph@stmarys.ac.uk