Preparation for an uncertain world: professional agency and durability in mental health occupational therapy practice preparation

Table I: Profile of UK and SA graduates

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Graduate name** | **Context** | **Programme** | **Gender** | **Age range** | **First post setting** |
| Shamila | SA | 4 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Rural hospital |
| Nicky | SA | 4 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Psychiatric hospital |
| Celeste | SA | 4 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Rural hospital |
| Sybrand | SA | 4 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Psychiatric hospital (forensic)  |
| Tara | SA | 4 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | TB hospital |
| Leah | SA | 4 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Rural hospital |
| Sam | UK | 4 yr (in-service route)[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] | F | 25-35 | Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) – Crisis team |
| John | UK | 3 yr (full time) | M | 30-40 | Employment Rehab |
| Andrea | UK | 3 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Acute rehab (Male) |
| Sally | UK | 3 yr (full time) | F | 20-25 | Acute hospital |
| Peter | UK | In-service route | M | 30-40 | Forensic Medium secure (male) |
| Dawn | UK | in-service route | F | 30-40 | Community Mental Health Team  |

 Students on the in-service route study part-time whilst working as OT support staff

Table II: Example interview questions

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| --- |
| 1. What is your current role?
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| 1. Was this a new post for occupational therapy or had the service previously employed occupational therapists?
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| 1. What module(s) have you found helpful, or valuable in equipping you for your current work (as an occupational therapist) in mental health?
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| * 1. Ask for an example of a specific module
 |
| * 1. Delivery methods
 |
| * 1. Study regime
 |
| * 1. Assessment
 |
| * 1. Learning outcomes achieved
 |
| * 1. Feedback received on performance
 |
| 1. In what ways did your professional training helped prepare you for practice in mental health and in what ways did it not?
 |
| 1. What do you find challenging in your job?
 |
| 1. What in your job gives you the greatest satisfaction
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1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)