



## Faculty of Health & Wellbeing

### Occupational Therapy (OT) - Innovation & Entrepreneurship module

Innovation & Entrepreneurship is a year 3 module which takes place in the final term of the Occupational Therapy programme. It has been developed with a teamworking, innovation and creativity emphasis, in response to the changing face of health and social care. Whereas in previous times, students completing a degree in Occupational Therapy would traditionally have found themselves employed by health and social care organisations such as the NHS or Local Authority social services, the health sector now requires 'a more flexible workforce that is able to respond to the changing patterns of service and embraces research and innovation to enable it to adapt to the changing demands of public health, healthcare and care services'. (Mandate from the Government to Health Education England, April 14 - April 15).

The module aims to alert students to the changing needs of Occupational Therapy services and prepare students for an adaptable and employable future through a blend of taught content, mentoring and business planning techniques.

Over a period of six weeks, students work in small groups (max six) and reflect upon their recent placements in order to develop a business proposal for an innovative idea for either a new service delivery, an innovative new role or an innovative piece of equipment. In order to assist the development of the idea, students receive support for their proposal through taught content which focuses on commissioning practices within healthcare delivery, CV writing, and business and finance planning. With a strong focus on business and entrepreneurial practices, the students also receive ongoing support for the development of their idea through academic mentoring and from the Career Development team which uses the 'XING' tool to introduce the business processes required to theoretically launch their idea.

The module culminates in the student groups presenting their final idea via a pitch to a Dragon's Den-style panel which is comprised of industry-related, business and enterprise experts. Assessment for the module relates to students' participation in the team development of the idea – each student is required to contribute the equivalent of 3500 words towards the final business plan as well as an individual 1500-word reflection on the module, focusing on their contribution to the group.

This module itself demonstrates innovation within learning and teaching within the faculty of Health & Wellbeing. It regularly brings students out of their comfort-zone, introducing the students to a more business-facing, commercially focused environment. It rapidly requires the students to be **innovative** in their idea generation and development practices, become **effective communicators** - able to successfully work in collaboration with others in order to present ideas and concepts in an **informed** manner whilst developing an effective, **professional** relationship with a mentor. The process of self-reflection which underpins the module assessment encourages the students to further develop their **self-awareness**, a skill which is developed throughout the Occupational Therapy degree programme. On completing the module and their degree it is hoped that students will embark on their career in Occupational Therapy, not just technically-skilled but prepared and **adaptable**, with the employability and entrepreneurship skills required in a changing healthcare landscape.