

# Innovation through Collaboration:

The partnership of two institutions for the delivery in Greece of a degree in **Occupational Therapy** from the United Kingdom.

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# **Innovation:** *A constant need for OT in Greece*

- 1)** [uncountable] **innovation (in something)** the introduction of new things, ideas or ways of doing something
- 2)** [countable] **innovation (in something)** a new idea, way of doing something, etc. that has been introduced or discovered



*Oxford Dictionary*

## Collaboration in theory: *A path to cover the need for further development of OT in Greece*

[uncountable, countable] **collaboration.** the act of working with another person or group of people to create or produce something .

- *It was a collaboration that produced extremely useful results.*
- *A piece of work produced by two or more people or groups of people working together*

*Oxford Dictionary*



## **Collaboration Applied:** *Part of the solution The partnership of two institutions (1)*

An interesting example of collaboration:

- of academics from Greece and UK
- in the accommodation/ assimilation of an educational programme of Occupational Therapy in Greece

An example of the objectives of Horizon 2020 on innovation and education: *“Develop scientific citizenship by promoting innovative pedagogies in science education, attracting more young people towards science”.*



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## Collaboration Applied: *European & Greek legislation*

- Since 2010 degrees offered from private colleges in Greece in cooperation with European Universities receive full recognition, according to the **directives 36/2005 of the European Communities Council**.
- In **2012 the Greek Ministry of Education** assimilated the European legislation and graduates of private colleges that that have professional qualifications in the UK are eligible to apply for transference of those qualifications in any other country that is member of the European Union.



# The need for **innovation** in OT in Greece

- There is no legal commitment by Greek occupational therapists to undertake **lifelong learning or continuing professional development**.
- But the demands of the profession are increased making occupational therapists to be always up-to-date in scientific developments. **There is a growing need for OTs in Greece.**
- Until 2013 in Greece there was only one programme of studies in Occupational Therapy.
- For many years there was stated the need for the creation of a second department of Occupational Therapy in a higher educational Institution.(eg. Professionals & Government).
- Also the development of **postgraduate programmes in OT in Greece** is necessary





World



Europe

## Scottish-Greek Collaboration



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Queen Margaret University,  
Edinburgh, Scotland UK.



Metropolitan College, Greece



Athens Campus



Thessaloniki Campus



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# The Collaborators : *Queen Margaret University (1)*



- Established in 1875
- Dedicated to delivering professional learning and specialising in research; value to the community and enhances people's lives"
- 4000+ students (FTE)/500 staff.
- Expertise: health and rehabilitation; sustainable business and creativity and culture.
- **Occupational Therapy Teaching team** with **75** years tradition in education with experienced academics, clinicians and researchers who work together to improve OTs' delivery of services and effectiveness of OT.



# The Collaborators : *Queen Margaret University (2)*

## *OT Tuning*



involved

- development of subject specific competences and cycle level descriptors in relation to mutual professional and academic recognition.
- QMU used Tuning OT competencies (along with other benchmarks) to underpin their OT programme.



# The Collaborators : AMC Metropolitan College



- Established in 1982 (Athens Peireas & Thessaloniki )
- Continuous development with new collaborations in Greece and Europe.
- The largest private postsecondary organisational group in Greece with over 7500 students nationwide. AKMI Educational Organisation is the largest education organisation in Greece. [www.metropolitan.edu.gr](http://www.metropolitan.edu.gr)
- AMC has received its operating license by the Greek Ministry for Education and its institutional status in line with the newly introduced legislation.
- AMC is also accredited by the British Accreditation Council and a member of the Hellenic Colleges Association.



# The Collaborators : AMC Metropolitan College



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# The Greek OT teaching team

- 12 Occupational Therapists
- All with postgraduate studies in UK or USA
- 2 with a second Bsc. in a relevant field to OT.
- All have clinical experience 5- 25 years .
  - 3 had more than 15 years teaching experience in Higher Education
  - 3 had more than 5 years and less than 15 years in Higher Education.
- 6 did not have previous experience but staff development seminars helped them a lot .
- Additional members at the team (2 experienced physiotherapists & 1 psychologist) .





# Collaboration Applied: **AMC** & **QMU**

## *The Curriculum Design & Implementation*

- OTs from QMU and AMC had in depth discussion as to the design; competency based, modular, ECTS awarded, assessment philosophy and strategies.
- Cultural contextual editions made. Specifically modification of QMU Inter-professional modules to culturally relevant professional topics.
- Of Greek staff by QMU Staff: Curriculum understanding, teaching and learning philosophy, electronic resources, understanding UK marking systems, explaining moderation system.

# Collaboration Applied: **AMC** & **QMU**

UK degree delivered in a Greek partner organisation.

- AMC approached QMU to request collaboration.
- QMU OT programme is delivered since 2013 locally in Athens & since 2014 at Thessaloniki.
- Greek Students would graduate with comparable Scottish/UK degree qualification to “home” QMU students.

**BSc (Hon) Occupational Therapy – 480 SCOTCAT, 240 ECTS.**

Level and overall credits	Subsidiary Exit Points and Awards
Level 1: 120 Points	Certificate in Higher Education
Level 2: 120 Points	Diploma in Higher Education
Level 3: 120 Points	BSc Health Studies
Level 4: 120 Points	BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy



Level. Themes	OT Philosophy Theory and Practice				Understanding Human Occupation in Context			Inter-professional Education	SCQF/ECTS Points		Total
Level 1. OT Values and beliefs. Semester 1	Occupation Interaction and Performance. 10	Conceptual Foundations of OT.	Conceptual Foundations of OT.		Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 1.	Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 1.		Manual Handling & First Aid 10			
Level 1. OT Values and beliefs. Semester 2	Professional Practice Placement 1. 6 weeks. 20		Conceptual Foundations of OT. 30		Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 1. 30	Research Skills 10		MUSCULOSKELETAL ANATOMY: THEORY 10	120 SCQF 60ECTS Certificate in Higher Education		120/60
Level 2 Enabling Occupation. Semester 3	OT as an Enabling Profession				Research skills 2. 10	Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 2.	Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 2.	MUSCULOSKELETAL ANATOMY: PRACTICAL APPLICATION 10			
Level 2 Enabling Occupation. Semester 4	Professional Practice Placement 2. 8 weeks. 30		OT as an Enabling Profession	OT as an Enabling Profession 30	Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 2. 30			Health and Welfare (sociology) 10	120 SCQF 60ECTS Diploma in Higher Education		240/120
Level 3 Reflecting on Occupation. Semester 5	Contemporary Epistemologies of OT 10		OT Reflecting on Practice.		Research Skills 3	Participation Occupation Mind brain body and context 3. 10.		Inter-professional Education: delivering integrated care			
Level 3 Reflecting on Occupation. Semester 6	Professional Practice Placement 3. 6 weeks. 30		OT Reflecting on Practice 20		Research Skills 3. 20	<u>OPTION MODULES:</u> 1. Assistive technology adaptation 2. Working with Children 10		Inter-professional Education: delivering integrated care 20	120 SCQF 60ECTS BSc Health Studies		360/240
Level 4 Scholarship and Evaluation of Occupation. Semester 7.	Professional Practice Placement 4. 8 weeks. 30				Research Skills 4	Research Skills 4		Counseling & Group Work in Occupational therapy			
Level 4 Scholarship and Evaluation of Occupation. Semester 8.	Contemporary issues in OT	Contemporary issues in OT. 20	<u>OPTION MODULES:</u> Childhood studies OR Creative Studies 10		Research Skills 4	Research Skills 4 40		Counseling & Group Work in Occupational therapy 20	120 SCQF 60ECTS BSc(Hons) Occupational therapy		480/240



# Professional Clinical Placement

- Students must achieve 1000 hours on clinical placements during their studies (WFOT, 2002).

Year	Professional clinical placement	Duration	Days	Hours
1 <sup>st</sup>	Clinical placement 1	<u>6 weeks</u>	30	217
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Clinical placement 2	<u>8 weeks</u>	40	288
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Clinical placement 3	<u>6 weeks</u>	30	217
4 <sup>th</sup>	Clinical placement 4	<u>8 weeks</u>	40	288

# Professional Clinical Placement

Collaboration with 36 clinical educators from **31 different clinical sites:**

- 1) Orthopedic & Neurological
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Pediatric
- 4) Work Rehabilitation in Intellectual Disabilities

All clinical educators are trained by the AMC according to the principles set by QMU.





# The **AMC** students

**Student admissions process:** Interviews and application.

*A mix of high-school graduates or mature students who have BSc degrees from a Greek University.*

All student must have in English language an **IELTS** score :

- of 5 in order to enter year 1
- of 6 by 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

## **2015-2016 Athens:**

- **Year 1** 26 students
- **Year 2** 11 students (13 in year 1)
- **Year 3** 14 students (18 in year 1)



# Quality Assurance (QA): Validation

To ensure standards and quality of programme consistent with nationally accepted benchmarks and programme fulfils the University's mission:

*“To enhance the well-being of individuals and the communities we serve through socially and economically relevant education and research including a strong commitment to economic, social and environmental sustainability.”*

Achieved through peer group scrutiny and discussion. Teaching team prepares documentation to support the programme and they defend it.



# Queen Margaret University : Quality Assurance (QA)

The regulations, policies and procedures that govern the quality of the academic experience at QMU. Includes:

- Governance/regulations, quality enhancements, quality assurance, academic regulations, programme specifications, programme management, external examining, validation and review

(<http://www.qmu.ac.uk/quality/>)

## QMU/Collaborative Programmes QA.

Includes: Contract Development, Academic Links, Standard Collaborations Manual, Staff development.



# Metropolitan College: Quality Assurance (QA)

The Quality Department **monitors, evaluates and improves** all components of the educational process as well as the administrative services offered to students and aims at **instilling a quality ethos** with a sense of **ownership and accountability** in its academic community.

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# Metropolitan College: Quality Assurance (QA)

AMC has a variety of both formal and informal quality assurance mechanisms at all levels, involving staff and students, in order to ensure that there is a continuous process of quality assurance rather than a static procedure which takes places at particular periods of time.

Focus on **development** and **improvement** plans as a result of periodic reviews is at the heart of the quality process at AMC.





# Metropolitan College: Quality Assurance (QA)

## AMC Monitoring Mechanisms



- Weekly Reports sent to the Academic Directors
- A series of checklists designed by the Quality Department
- Programme Committees (PC) and Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCC)
- Annual Monitoring Reports



# Metropolitan College: Quality Assurance (QA)

## *MODERATION PROCESS*

- Marking process at AMC:
  - Marking and Double Marking
- Translation by professionals
- Internal Moderation at UK partner university
- External Examiners by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of studies



Feedback from moderation MUST be taken into account and suggestions must be incorporated into final assignment/module guide

# The QMU graduates in Greece (1)

- According to those directives all professional rights of the **citizens of the European Union** who are holders of degrees from recognized European universities (based in Member States) are equal and **have exactly the same professional rights**.
- The degrees that are awarded to all **Metropolitan graduates** after successful completion of their studies in Greece, are awarded directly by the collaborating accredited **UK Universities**.



# The QMU graduates in Greece (2)

- All graduates of the programme in Greece are entitled to apply (through international route) for professional qualifications in UK at the **Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC)**.



# Challenges of the programme

- Sensitivity to cultural differences. *(We have overcome most but we need to work more)*
- Acceptance of UK programme philosophy; by staff & students, OT community, general public *(After 3 years is an accepted programme with positive feedback from the OT community in Greece)*
- Distance for collaboration. *(Technology has helped very much)*
- Greek & British staff need to be open, flexible, motivated, especially when moderation is ; time intensive for QMU and AMC staff.





# Achievements of the programme

- Excellent collaborative relationship.
- Local OTs enthusiastic about programme.
- Good links established between QMU Module Moderators and AMC Module coordinators.
- Every year 3-4 seminars on various OT & inter-professional topics.
- Over 36 of clinical sites and educators for clinical placements of students
- Since 2013 full member of ENOTHE .
- The annual OT symposium held by the Metropolitan College



# AMC Annual Symposium of Occupational Therapy

1<sup>st</sup> : (2013)

*“Autism Spectrum Disorders”*



2<sup>nd</sup>: (2014)

*“Occupational Science & evidence Based Practice”*



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium of Occupational Therapy: *“Occupational Balance and Quality of Life”*







# Thank you !

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