Top 5 reasons to be an occupational therapist in Queensland state schools

1. **Inspiring career choice**
   - Develop long-term relationships with students, education personnel and families.
   - Gain satisfaction by helping students to succeed at school, knowing that it will have a positive impact throughout their lives.

2. **Work-life balance**
   - Enjoy flexible, family-friendly work schedules including the option of taking leave in school holidays.
   - Take advantage of accrued time off and purchased leave options.

3. **Wide range of experiences and opportunities**
   - Work with students of all ages and diverse needs.
   - Choose between metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations.
   - Engage in a range of unique and innovative service delivery models.

4. **Develop professionally**
   - Advance your professional knowledge through regular professional development and learning activities, including mentoring and coaching.
   - Access up-to-date technology for professional development and knowledge sharing.
   - Enjoy collegial support and networking with fellow therapists.
   - Develop specialisation in your areas of interest.

5. **Work as a professional team member whilst maintaining autonomy**
   - Collaborate, build relationships and learn from a multi-disciplinary education team.
   - Enjoy acknowledgement for your contributions as a valued member of the school and wider community.

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**Employment requirements**

To work as an occupational therapist in Queensland state schools you will need:

- a qualification in occupational therapy from an accredited university.
- current registration to practise as an occupational therapist in Australia or the ability to gain registration.


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**Find out more**

For more information visit: [www.education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/therapy](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/therapy)

To search current vacancies visit: [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au)
Make a difference as an **occupational therapist**

### Occupational therapy in education

Working as an occupational therapist in Queensland state schools is a rewarding career choice that can make a real difference to the education outcomes of children with disabilities. As an occupational therapist working for the Department of Education, Training and Employment you will:

- **assess students’ development and the functional skills needed for studying, working and playing in their daily environment**
- **adapt equipment, the environment, or the use of technology to help students participate as independently as possible in the school program**
- **work as a member of the education team, adapting school activities to help students achieve their educational goals**
- **contribute to professional development, training and resource development for education teams and the wider school community**
- **work as part of a regional team visiting a range of schools to provide services to students**
- **liaise with other agencies in the community that provide services to children and young people with disabilities.**

Department of Education, Training and Employment occupational therapists use specialised knowledge of the foundation skills and abilities required for learning including:

- **movement and sensory skills such as hand skills, coordination, strength and endurance, sensory awareness and processing**
- **cognitive skills such as thinking, remembering, attending and problem-solving**
- **psychosocial skills such as sharing, interacting with others and developing friendships.**

### Real life stories

- **‘I find my job really enjoyable with lots of opportunity to grow. It gives me the flexibility to have a healthy work-life balance. I've also had very practical professional development opportunities and great mentorship support from my colleagues.’**
  
  *Pearce Hutchinson*

- **‘My job has a lot of variety. I'm always working with a range of children who have many different challenges. I get to work with lots of different teaching staff on a daily basis as well as other health professionals.’**
  
  *Jessica Fawdon*

- **‘If you're after a dynamic and diverse workplace then this is the job for you. I like the way my job requires me to challenge my professional skills. I like the fact that I'm supporting young people with significant needs. I like the sense of community.’**
  
  *Rebecca Lee*

### Rural opportunities

There are a number of special incentives available for occupational therapists working in rural locations including:

- **subsidised housing**
- **appointment and relocation expenses (travel and removal costs) in most circumstances**
- **locality allowances for service in specified rural and remote locations**
- **an additional week of annual leave in specific rural locations.**

- **‘My job has a lot of variety. I'm always working with a range of children who have many different challenges. I get to work with lots of different teaching staff on a daily basis as well as other health professionals.’**
  
  *Melissa Draper*