



## Student Occupational Health Social Work

Working with our occupational health provider, Optima Health, Staffordshire University wants to ensure that you have any support you need to fulfil the requirements of your course and that you are fully protected before going to your practice learning environments. All assessments are based on the Higher Education Occupational Physicians/Practitioners Standards (HEOPS) which were developed in recognition of the requirements of the professional bodies that award registration status and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), whilst also meeting the criteria in the Equality Act 2010 which ensures patient/service user safety.

### FIT FOR COURSE HEALTH SCREENING

#### **What is the 'Fit for Course' screening?**

Staffordshire University is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all students and where possible all reasonable adjustments will be provided to enable successful completion of your chosen course. However, the University does need to ensure that you will also be able to fulfil the requirements of the relevant regulatory body, Social Work England (SWE) and be medically suitable to work within your chosen field. This screening is to ensure we are aware of any disabilities or health conditions which could affect your ability to complete your course and progress to future employment.

#### **How does the 'Fit for Course' process work?**

2-3 months prior to the start of your course you will receive an email from Optima Health giving you instructions to log in to their online portal and complete an online health screening form. This should be completed within 48 hours of receiving the email.

Your responses will then be clinically reviewed by an Occupational Health Nurse and if necessary, follow up telephone, video or face to face appointments will be made. At this appointment the Occupational Health Nurse will discuss any health conditions you have disclosed, both past and present. Occasionally there may a requirement to refer you to the Occupational Health Physician prior to any decision of fitness being made.

### **What information will I need to give?**

You will need to disclose all physical and mental health conditions, **both past and present**. This information will then be assessed for any disabilities or health conditions which could be relevant to your course, registration, or future employment.

### **What happens if I do not disclose all my medical information?**

You have a duty to provide all relevant, truthful, and accurate information to the occupational health provider and no information should be withheld. Any failure to do so may result in the offer of a place being withdrawn or reconsideration of your fitness to continue with your course.

### **Who will my information be shared with?**

You can be assured that the information you provide will remain confidential to the staff of our student occupational health provider, Optima Health. However, after full discussions with yourself, they will advise the University of the functional effects of any disability/health condition if this is relevant to your own health & safety, educational needs and/or service user safety. They will also advise on the need to consider reasonable adjustments and/or additional support.

### **What happens if any health conditions are considered relevant to completion of my course and future employment?**

Our student occupational health provider, Optima Health, will fully discuss with you the outcome of their assessment, including what adjustments/support they feel would be needed to enable you to undertake your chosen course. They will then ask for your consent to share these findings with the University. On receipt of this information the University will consider if it is possible to accommodate the recommendations and may contact you to discuss this in more detail.

Staffordshire University is committed to providing equality of opportunity for disabled students and where possible all reasonable support will be provided to enable completion of your chosen course.

### **What happens once my health screening form has been completed?**

Once you have been passed as 'Fit for Course' and any adjustments/recommendations have been agreed by the University, and you have met any other conditions of your offer, you will receive an email inviting you to complete online enrolment. You are then ready to start your course!

We hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any other questions, please contact us at [PLH@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:PLH@staffs.ac.uk).