

St Joseph's Specialist Trust, Cranleigh, Surrey

Graduate Therapy Assistant (Pathway to Therapy Careers)

36 hours per week, term time only (including 5 INSET days)

Actual salary range £23,337 - £25,632 per annum dependent on experience

(FTE £27,209 - £29,884 based on 36 hours / 52 weeks)

*Plus £1,000 Retention Bonus***



Are you graduating this year and considering a career in Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy or a related field?

This is an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on, practical experience within a specialist setting, working as part of a highly skilled, multidisciplinary Therapy team. This role is ideal for graduates looking to strengthen their experience before progressing onto a Masters or vocational therapy qualification.

At St Joseph's we take an embedded therapies approach, meaning you'll work directly in the classroom alongside education staff and therapists. You won't just observe – you'll actively support and deliver therapeutic interventions, giving you meaningful, relevant experience for future training and career progression.

We are also keen to support individuals who may wish to explore future apprenticeship pathways within therapies, making this a strong foundation for longer-term development.

About the role

You will work under the guidance of qualified therapists and teaching staff to support students with complex learning disabilities, autism and communication needs. This includes:

- Supporting individual and group therapeutic activities
- Working within classroom environments alongside therapists and teachers
- Helping students develop communication skills (including use of AAC such as iPads, Makaton and visual supports)
- Contributing to a consistent, supportive and structured learning environment

Some of our students are non-verbal and require creative, patient and adaptable approaches to communication and engagement.

Who this role would suit

- Final-year students or recent graduates in Psychology, Health & Social Care, Education or related fields
- Individuals aiming to pursue Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy or similar careers
- Those looking to build relevant clinical or therapeutic experience before postgraduate study
- Candidates with a positive, proactive attitude and a genuine interest in supporting young people with additional needs.

No prior therapy experience is required – we provide full training.

What we're looking for

Supporting our students can be both rewarding and challenging. You will need:

- Strong mental, emotional and physical resilience
- Empathy, resilience and patience
- A strong-team focused approach
- A genuine motivation to make a difference
- The ability to engage positively in a dynamic environment

You will be supported by a skilled and experienced team, with comprehensive training in areas such as safeguarding, autism and positive behaviour support.

Working pattern

36 hours per week during term time:

- Monday – 8:30am – 4pm
- Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am – 4:15pm
- Friday: 8:30am – 3:45pm
- Plus 30 minutes worked flexibly

Why St Joseph's?

- A £1,000 retention bonus (£250 after 1 month, £250 after 1 year, £500 after 18 months)
- A unique opportunity to gain hands-on therapy experience in a specialist setting
- Structured training and mentoring, ideal for early career development
- Funded CPD opportunities and career progression support
- Free hot lunch during term time
- Life insurance and medical cash plan
- Employee assistance programme (24/7 wellbeing support)
- Free on-site parking
- Beautiful 23-acre site on the edge of the Surrey Hills

Interested?

Our Director of Therapies would be happy to discuss the role and career pathways – please contact our Recruitment Team and we will arrange a call.

How to apply

Shortlisting is based on a fully completed application form in line with safer recruitment guidelines. To request an application pack or for further information contact recruitment@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk or 01483 272 449.

We will interview suitable candidates as applications are received.

Please note: we are unable to offer sponsorship for overseas applicants

St Joseph's Specialist Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position requires an enhanced DBS disclosure and take up of references.