

Following discussion with Health Education England (HEE) the British Association for Music Therapy (BAMT) have agreed the following position statement on Music Therapy training during the current Covid-19 pandemic:

It is very clear from HEE that they want as many new Music Therapists as possible to be properly trained and ready to support the NHS with the outcomes of the current Covid-19 crisis, in particular for the support of those that have been affected by the virus inc: patients, the bereaved and health care professionals.

Consequently, the aim is to keep Music Therapy students as safe as possible and for them to adhere to government guidelines to stay at home as much as possible. NHS clinical placements will not be available for the Summer 2020 term and it is hoped students will benefit from different placement related activities which can be carried out from home, with the academic and clinical support of tutors and in some cases, placement supervisors. This will be reviewed again in time to decide on the Autumn 2020 term. It maybe that some non-NHS clinical placements may continue in some situations e.g: via internet connections, telephone etc. but there will be none within the NHS.

The aim is to have fully competent and confident new Music Therapists that have completed their Masters course. It maybe possible for some flexibility if students have successfully completed all other aspects of their course but are slightly down on their clinical hours, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, that special arrangements can be made to allow them to graduate successfully.

BAMT is delighted that HEE has provided clarity about this and really pleased that HEE acknowledges how important Music Therapy will be in dealing with the aftermath of the epidemic.

It is very important to note that this is specifically professional guidance and that in no way would HEE discourage anyone from volunteering to support the NHS if they want to.

Adrienne Freeman

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