**Bursary Report**

The bursary has helped significantly with course fees, travel expenses and costs of counseling in particular. As the course does not qualify for a Postgraduate Student Loan through Student Finance, I have had to take out a Professional and Career Development Loan to pay for course fees. In order to ensure that I am able to meet loan repayments upon qualification, as well as the aforementioned costs, I was working two jobs alongside my studies. This bursary has alleviated some of this financial pressure by allowing me to leave one of those jobs. The impact of this has been enormous, as it has allowed me more time to focus on my training to become the best music therapist that I can be!

The course has been the most educating, challenging and rewarding experience of my life thus far. I have learnt more about music and its inherently powerful communicative properties than I did during three years at university. My placement experiences have been a steep learning curve but I now feel comfortable working alone in my second placement, and the feedback I have had from staff has been very positive. I am currently working with adults with learning disabilities, and I feel enormously privileged to be able to interact and create music with such wonderful people, whose needs are often overlooked by society. Learning from placement experiences is perhaps my favourite part of the course, and it is very important for us to see each other’s work and be able to contribute towards each other’s questions in supervision. We are so lucky to have supervisors with a wealth of experience in a variety of settings to advise on, and workshop, issues brought to supervision.

My plan upon qualification (and hopefully employment!) is to work as a full-time music therapist for Nordoff Robbins. Whilst I am aware that this it is somewhat rare for music therapists to work full-time, it has been my plan from the outset and I could not wish for a more rewarding and fulfilling way to earn my keep, and I consider myself extremely lucky to be training in this profession.