

End of year MTC Bursary Report

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Receiving the MTC Bursary has again been valuable to my learning and development as a future music therapist.

I was placed in a setting this year whose only prior music therapy provision had been the student placed there just before me, and therefore had only a few small and worn instruments in the activity room. With this bursary, I was able to purchase two new instruments to start my own collection of music therapy instruments to use with clients in the future, as well as with my clients on placement this year. The steel tongue-drum this bursary funded was especially beloved in my placement setting this year, not only by my clients, but by the nursing staff and multidisciplinary team, who found it soothing to play during an especially stressful year. These positive experiences with the instruments I had purchased inspired the MDT to seek funding for a permanent set of instruments for the patients in the ward.

With the support of this bursary, I was also able to attend the online BAMT conference, where I observed and participated in a full weekend of lectures, workshops, round table discussions, and networking opportunities. Attending this conference not only contributed to my learning, but allowed me to experience first-hand, the wider music therapy community throughout the UK.

The bursary from the MTC has helped start my collection of music therapy instruments; it has afforded opportunities for me to witness the powerful sense of community that exists in the music therapy world, not only in the UK but internationally; and it has contributed to my sense of belonging within that music therapy community.

Being from a country that does not have universal healthcare, I have a high regard for the NHS and its values and would love to work as a music therapist in some capacity within the NHS. I hope to become a well-rounded music therapist, continuously learning from various client groups and care settings. I would also like to contribute actively to the growth of music therapy through research, presenting, writing, and advocating not only for music therapy, but for the people I hope to share therapeutic relationships with in the future.