

I was extremely grateful to have been awarded this bursary from the Music Therapy Charity. It truly helped me throughout my final year of study at USW. Receiving this bursary has helped prepare me for my future career as a music therapist and helped ease the financial pressures often associated with being a student.

During my final year placement, it was important for me to bring my own guitar to the setting. I realised at the beginning of the year that the guitar I owned was not suitable, as it was quite old and fairly cheap sounding. The bursary helped me towards the purchase of a new guitar that sounded more professional, providing me with greater confidence in the sessions and ultimately improving the quality of the sessions that I provided. With guitar not being my first instrument (I am a drummer by trade) there were some areas that I needed to improve on for me to competently provide music therapy sessions in this setting. The bursary contributed towards some guitar lessons that were especially useful in taking me above beginner level, resulting in a more competent delivery.

I was also able to attend a music therapy and autism conference that was held at my university. The Bursary covered the cost of my ticket along with earnings that I might have lost due to cancellation of music lessons throughout the day, as the conference fell on a Saturday. The conference was very informative, and I found it beneficial as this is an area I am particularly interested in.

Throughout my studies I found it hard to juggle work, my university placement and academic work. Working as a teaching assistant in a school three days a week followed by placement and university two days a week whilst performing in a function band and teaching on evenings and weekends was starting to take its toll, particularly in my final year of studies. I came to an agreement with my employer where I could work two days a week and the bursary helped ease the financial pressures of this, allowing me time to do my final year research proposal and some much needed respite at what could have been quite a stressful time.

I would like to say thank you to the Music Therapy Charity for helping me throughout my studies and for contributing to my goal of becoming a music therapist. I am excited for the career ahead of me and the bursary helped so much in me being able to achieve this.

Michael Goodman