

Calum Frame

I received the bursary during my second and final year as a music therapy student at Queen Margaret University. Being a student during a 'cost of living crisis' was a big commitment which brought many stresses, including potential financial strain. The bursary allowed me to mitigate some of this worry, particularly during the final few months of my studies.

Travelling to and from university and my placement was a considerable cost which the bursary helped to support.

My year two placement was in a hospice where I worked with a varied range of people over three departments and integrated within the multi-disciplinary team, advocating for and showing the benefits of music therapy. I presented some of my work to the hospice's board of directors which, alongside my work with patients, resulted in them looking for funding to make music therapy a permanent feature of their care. All things going well, I will be able to continue the work from my placement and set up the music therapy service at the hospice on a permanent basis once funding has been received.

As my studies came to an end and I worked towards a professional career in music therapy, there were some books I was able to buy which I had found particularly helpful during my studies and had free access to from the library. With the support of the bursary, I was able to purchase some of these books and continue to improve my practice as a working music therapist. I was also able to contribute towards a laptop which I use each day and makes notetaking and reflection so much more convenient when travelling between workplaces. I am currently working in four different schools, one of which being where I completed my year one placement.

I became a trustee for the Scottish Music Therapy Trust during year two at Queen Margaret and have continued that work. I was also recently invited to speak to new year ones about my experience of long arm supervision in year one and the benefits and opportunities I found in that experience.