

Harry Harris

I received my bursary during my second year of study at Queen Margaret University, during which time I undertook practice-based learning at a state secondary school in Edinburgh. This experience was challenging, as I had to set up the service, manage referrals, and plan sessions for a number of young people, but an incredibly rich and rewarding experience. I was empowered to use whatever musical tools I felt were necessary, and so ended up utilising music technology across sessions, including iPads, MIDI controllers, and DAW software. This then informed my dissertation, which focused on the use of music technology in music therapy. I received a first for this project, good feedback from practice-based learning, and passed with distinction overall.

The music therapy bursary took a huge amount of financial pressure off my final year of study. I received support from SAAS, but was also working throughout as a freelance writer, which is an unstable profession with fluctuating rates. The bursary simply allowed me to not worry about taking on more work than I needed to, and instead gave me valuable time to focus on my studies, which I think really paid dividends.

I was fortunate enough to get a full-time music therapy position in the NHS straight after graduating. To say this was not what I expected would be an understatement, but I am now three months into that role and working across a range of services. I am particularly enjoying adult acute psychiatric work, and have engaged in further CPD relating to mentalization, which will be useful here and across the board. I am also enjoying care planning, working as part of an MDT, and hope to be able to grow the music therapy service whilst in this role.